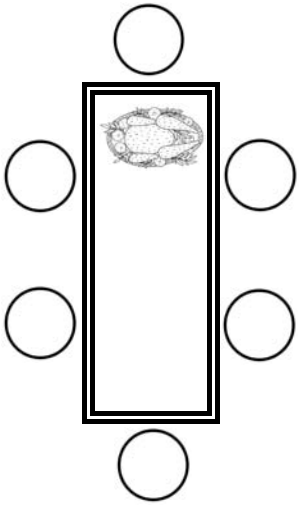
S A V I O U R C V H
M F L E C N N V J E
A R G B J A W O T R
G A L E K T U Z S O
I N O T M I A C H D
T K R H A V N E E F
T I D L S I G L P C
E N D E S T E E H H
S C M H A Y L B E R
T E Y E C G S R R I
I N R M R O V A D S
M S R P E L V T S T
O E H B E D H I L M
N P A U P V O O V A
Y I Y Q D Q L N W S

- ❑ CELEBRATION
- ❑ CHRISTMAS
- ❑ NATIVITY
- ❑ SAVIOUR
- ❑ LORD
- ❑ ANGELS
- ❑ SHEPHERDS
- ❑ TESTIMONY
- ❑ MAGI
- ❑ GOLD
- ❑ FRANKINCENSE
- ❑ MYRRH
- ❑ HEROD
- ❑ MASSACRE
- ❑ BETHLEHEM

Be seated properly for Christmas dinner!

Six friends sit down for Christmas dinner:
Jane is seated at one end of the dinner table, ready to serve the turkey and the vegetables.
Doug sits opposite Chris and beside Leo.
Robert, at the left of Doug, is opposite Jane.
Robert does not enjoy eating vegetables.
Where is Alice sitting?



Name: _____

Comprehending Christmas

Celebrations at Christmas involve God's people giving thanks for Jesus and his birth, while non-believers at least enjoy the holiday and the family time! However, non-believers might wish to consider how the successful nations are connected to Jesus - whose birth is celebrated on each 25th December - or at least to acknowledge the beneficial values, institutions and customs that society owes to the followers of Jesus, and to the Christian worldview.

Christian believers affirm the role of Jesus as *Saviour* - to bring salvation and grace to all who respond personally in faith. But his claims as *Lord* may also be recognised for their key influence to bring transformation to the nations. Christmas provides an excellent opportunity to explore that two-fold role.

The ministry of Jesus as Saviour may be celebrated at Christmas as we note how ill-reputed shepherds received a revelation of God's grace from angels who said: *"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born"* (Luke 2:11). Though shepherds were banned from giving legal testimony, they spoke up: *... they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said* ... (2:17-18).

The work of Christ as Lord of the nations may be honoured during Advent, as we see the foreign pagan Magi journey from the East, bringing homage and expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the King of the Jews - declaring to King Herod: *"we have come to worship him"* (Matthew 2:1-2). Sadly, King Herod stands in stark contrast to the Magi as he rejected Christ, and lied by saying he wanted to honour Jesus but planned instead to kill the newborn king, and commanded the massacre of infant boys in Bethlehem. The pilgrimage of the Magi is a prefigure of the spread of the good news to *"the Gentiles and their kings"* (Acts 9:15). And much like those ancient Magi, *all kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him* (Psalm 72:11).

