

## This is how I dealt with: Is Santa Claus real? Try it on your grandkids

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*Saint Nicholas - Santa Claus*

This is how I dealt with the "Is Santa Claus real?" issue. You could try it on your grandkids.

Santa Claus is not really fake, though we've made up a lot of stories about him. Here is how I explained Santa Claus to my 2nd graders, and to my own kids.

A long time ago, a man named Nicholas was a bishop in a city in Greece. He followed the Bible teaching that said to help children and women and poor people, but to do it secretly.

He heard of a poor man who had three daughters. Nicholas went to their house in the middle of the night and threw three bags of money into their open window, then he ran away before anybody could see him. He did this kind of thing a lot.

He didn't want anybody to know it was him doing it, but people figured it out. Much later, they made him a saint, a person who did very good things. Every saint had a day when people would talk about them, and Saint Nicholas' day was December 25.

People liked what he did so much, that every year on December 25th people do the same thing that he used to do.

They give presents to children and poor and lonely people, but they say that "Santa Claus" did it so that no one will know it was really them giving the gift. It makes people happy to get something they really need and not worry about paying anyone back. And also, there's a special kind of happy feeling when you make someone happy, but they don't know it was you doing it.

So Santa Claus was a real person, who lived a long time ago. Many people dress up as him, and give presents 'from Santa Claus'. When you see someone

dressed up as Santa Claus, they're just a regular person. But they're doing it because there was a very good man a long time ago named Saint Nicholas who gave secret presents. And when you're old enough, you can do it too.