

Teacher's Outline

Christmas, Truth, Tradition, and the Biblical Witness

Teaching Aim

- To help students examine Christmas by the **authority of Scripture** rather than tradition;
- To encourage discernment between **biblical truth** and religious custom;
- To lead students to honour Christ through **obedience**, not ceremony.

Lesson Introduction

Setting the Question

Key teaching points:

- Christmas is widely viewed as a Christian celebration of Christ's birth;
- Many sincere believers participate without questioning its biblical basis;
- The central question is **not motive**, but **Scriptural authority**.

Teacher emphasis:

- Stress that this lesson is about testing practices by the Word of God;
- Remind students that sincerity does not equal truth.

Discussion prompt:

- Why is it important to examine religious practices carefully.

Scripture Above Tradition

God's Standard for Worship

Key teaching points:

- Jesus warned that tradition can make God's Word of none effect;
- Worship becomes **vain** when based on commandments of men;
- True faith rests on **revelation**, not familiarity.

Supporting Scripture:

- **Matthew 15:6–9;**
- **Acts 17:11.**

Teacher emphasis:

- Highlight the Bereans as a model for careful study;
- Encourage students to value Scripture above church culture.

Is Christmas Commanded in Scripture

Examining the New Testament Record

Key teaching points:

- The word Christmas is not found in the Bible;
- There is no command, example, or instruction to keep Christ's birth;
- Apostolic preaching focused on the **death, burial, and resurrection**.

Supporting Scripture:

- **1 Corinthians 15:3–4.**

Teacher emphasis:

- Show where the apostles placed their emphasis;
- Help students see what the gospel message truly centres on.

The Question of the Date

December 25 and Biblical Silence

Key teaching points:

- Scripture gives no date for Christ's birth;
- Luke's account suggests a season other than winter;
- God did not reveal a date or method of observance.

Supporting Scripture:

- **Luke 2:8.**

Teacher emphasis:

- Explain why biblical silence matters;

- Encourage students not to assume God's approval where He has not spoken.

The Focus of God's Plan

From the Manger to the Cross

Key teaching points:

- Scripture emphasises Christ's **death**, not His birth;
- Jesus pointed forward to His sacrifice;
- Redemption was accomplished at the cross.

Supporting Scripture:

- **Luke 22:19**;
- **Galatians 6:14**.

Teacher emphasis:

- Make clear that the birth points to the mission;
- Reinforce the finished work of Christ.

The Spirit Behind Religious Observance

Testing What Is Celebrated

Key teaching points:

- Every religious practice carries a **spirit**;
- The Christmas spirit is often externally produced;
- The Spirit of God flows from the **new birth**.

Supporting Scripture:

- **1 John 4:1**;
- **Romans 14:17**.

Teacher emphasis:

- Contrast emotional atmosphere with spiritual reality;
- Encourage students to test spiritual influences.

Customs and Religious Mixture

Learning Not the Way of the Heathen

Key teaching points:

- Scripture warns against empty customs;
- Religious systems often rename older practices;
- God calls His people to worship in **truth**.

Supporting Scripture:

- **Jeremiah 10:2–3**;
- **Revelation 18:4**.

Teacher emphasis:

- Explain the danger of mixture;
- Emphasise separation as faithfulness, not pride.

How Believers Honour Christ Today

Gospel Day Living

Key teaching points:

- Christ is honoured by **obedience**, not observance;
- Holy living reflects true grace;
- The gospel is proclaimed through word and life.

Supporting Scripture:

- **John 14:15**;
- **Titus 2:11–12**.

Teacher emphasis:

- Reinforce obedience as the expression of love;
- Encourage practical Christian living.

Lesson Conclusion

Choosing Faithfulness Over Tradition

Key teaching points:

- The issue of Christmas is ultimately one of **authority**;
- Scripture alone must shape worship;
- Christ is honoured when lives are transformed.

Closing encouragement:

- Urge students to walk in light with humility and grace;
- Encourage continued personal study of Scripture.

Optional Review Questions

- Why is Scripture the final authority for Christian practice;
- What does the New Testament emphasise as the core of the gospel;
- How can believers honour Christ apart from religious tradition.

Simplified Youth Version

Understanding Christmas Through the Bible

Purpose

This lesson helps young people learn how to:

- check beliefs by the **Bible**;
- understand why not everything called Christian is biblical;
- honour Jesus in daily life.

Simple Teaching Points

Christmas is often called a Christian celebration. Many people enjoy the season and feel happy during it. However, the Bible teaches believers to test everything by **Scripture**.

The Bible tells us about the birth of Jesus, but it does not tell us to celebrate it every year. Jesus and the apostles never commanded a birthday celebration. After Jesus rose from the dead, the message preached was about His **death, burial, and resurrection**.

The Bible also does not give a date for Jesus' birth. God did not tell believers when or how to celebrate it. This teaches us to be careful about following traditions just because they are popular.

The Bible says believers must test spiritual influences. Feelings created by music, lights, and excitement are not the same as the Spirit of God. God's Spirit lives in those who are **born again**, and He produces real change in the heart.

Jesus is honoured when people obey His Word, live holy lives, and share the gospel. Loving Jesus is not shown by a season or holiday, but by **obedience** every day.

Youth Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to check beliefs by the Bible;
- What did the apostles focus on when preaching;
- How can we honour Jesus all year, not just once a year.

Youth Summary Statement

Jesus Christ is honoured when believers live by **Scripture**, walk in truth, and obey His Word. Tradition must never replace the authority of the Bible.

Multi Lesson Teaching Unit

Christmas, Truth, Tradition, and the Biblical Witness

Unit Purpose

This unit is designed to help students:

- test religious practices by **Scripture** alone;
- understand the difference between **biblical truth** and tradition;
- honour Christ through **obedience** and gospel living.

Lesson One

Scripture as the Final Authority

Lesson Aim

To establish the Bible as the only rule for faith and worship.

Key Teaching Points

- God's people are commanded to test all things by His Word;
- Tradition can replace obedience if not examined;
- Sincerity does not guarantee truth.

Core Scripture

Jesus said in **Matthew 15:6–9**:

"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Discussion Questions

- Why can tradition be dangerous;
- How does Scripture protect believers from error.

Summary Statement

True worship must be built on **Scripture**, not religious habit.

Lesson Two

What the Gospel Emphasises

Lesson Aim

To show what the apostles preached as the heart of the gospel.

Key Teaching Points

- The New Testament records Christ's birth, but does not command its celebration;
- Apostolic preaching focused on the **death, burial, and resurrection**;
- The gospel message defines the Church's focus.

Core Scripture

Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15:3–4**:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the apostles focused on the cross;
- What does this teach about true Christianity.

Summary Statement

The Church is built on the **finished work** of Christ.

Lesson Three

Silence of Scripture and the Date Question

Lesson Aim

To help students understand why biblical silence matters.

Key Teaching Points

- Scripture gives no date for Christ's birth;
- God did not command a yearly observance;
- Silence calls for **wisdom** and restraint.

Core Scripture

Luke recorded in **Luke 2:8**:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”

Discussion Questions

- What does this verse suggest about the season;
- How should believers respond when Scripture is silent.

Summary Statement

Believers should not add practices where God has not spoken.

Lesson Four

Testing the Spirit Behind Religious Practice

Lesson Aim

To teach discernment concerning spiritual influence.

Key Teaching Points

- Every religious practice carries a **spirit**;
- Emotional atmosphere is not spiritual life;
- The Spirit of God works through the **new birth**.

Core Scripture

John wrote in **1 John 4:1**:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Paul wrote in **Romans 14:17**:

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Discussion Questions

- How can emotions imitate spirituality;
- How does God’s Spirit produce lasting fruit.

Summary Statement

True spiritual life flows from **Christ within**, not outward observance.

Lesson Five

Honouring Christ in the Gospel Day

Lesson Aim

To show how believers honour Christ today.

Key Teaching Points

- Christ is honoured through **obedience**;
- Holy living reflects true grace;
- The gospel is proclaimed through transformed lives.

Core Scripture

Jesus said in **John 14:15**:

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

Paul wrote in **Titus 2:11–12**:

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Discussion Questions

- What does obedience look like in daily life;
- How can believers honour Christ all year.

Summary Statement

Christ is glorified when believers live in **truth**, not tradition.

Unit Conclusion

Choosing Faithfulness Over Tradition

Key truths to reinforce:

- Scripture alone has authority;
- Tradition must always be tested;
- Christ is honoured through obedience and gospel living.

Final reflection question:

- How will this teaching affect the way you follow Christ.