

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4 YEAR OLDS

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 6

Why Christmas?



Why Christmas?

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To give the students and understanding of why Jesus had to be born.

Key Verses

John 3:16-17

Luke 19:10

1 John 3:5

Memory Verse - Galatians 5:16 (December Memory Verse)

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Hook

Ask the kids, "What are your favorite things about Christmas?" Make a list of all the things students like. (Note: It is not our place to tell students anything, positive or negative, about Santa.)

Now ask, "Why do we celebrate Christmas? What is so special about Jesus coming to the earth?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

This week we will be looking at why Jesus was born. The Bible gives us several reasons why Jesus came to the earth and took on flesh. We will be looking at three separate verses that deal with this. First, we are told in John 3:16-17 that Jesus came to the earth not to condemn the earth, but that the world might be saved through Him. God loved the world, and so He sent His Son into the world so that we wouldn't die in our sins, but have everlasting life. Second, in Luke 19:10, it says that Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. Third, in 1 John 3:5 we see that Jesus came to take away our sin.

Taken together, these three verses present us with a world in trouble. All of humanity was lost in sin and needed to be saved. We had wandered away from God's love and grace and needed to be rescued. Jesus looked at these problems and did not want to leave us to die in our sins, so He entered our world to save us. The Son of God, who was in heaven, came down to earth in order to rescue us. The reason that we celebrate Christmas is as a sign of thanksgiving and respect for the God who humbled himself and stepped into our world.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Christmas is such a fun time. Everyone decorates their houses with beautiful lights and trees. Some people even put strange blow-up reindeer in their front yards. People give each other presents, and everyone gathers together with their family to celebrate. The question is, what exactly are we celebrating?

Christmas is one of the most special times of the year, not because of the presents, but because of the greatest Present the world has ever received. On Christmas, we celebrate Jesus Christ being born. Some people call Christmas, "Jesus' Birthday," but we don't throw a party like we do for other people's birthdays.

We celebrate because it is the moment when God himself became a human baby and started to live in the world. However, we celebrate Christmas not just for Jesus birth, but for everything else that Jesus did while He was here. You see, Jesus came to Earth on a mission. He had a plan that He was going to carry out. Jesus' mission was to forgive sin, find lost people, and then save the world.

LOOK (Continued)

1 John 3:5 says “He appeared so that He might take away our sin.” Jesus came to the world to take away our sin. What is sin? Sin is every thought, word, or act that disobeys or dishonors God. It separates us from Him and prevents us from living the life the God wants us to live. Jesus came to take that all away from us. Luke 19:10 says, “He came to seek and save that which was lost.” Did you know that without Jesus we are lost? The Bible says that if we don’t have Jesus, we are like a sheep that has run away from the herd and is all alone. Jesus came to the earth to find us and take us back where we belong.

Lastly, John 3:16-17 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” Jesus came into the world because He loves us and He didn’t want us to die. He wanted us to have life, He wanted to save us, and not just us but the whole world. We celebrate Christmas because of who Jesus was and what Jesus did. We celebrate the one who loved us, took away our sin, found us when we were lost, and saved us from death giving us eternal life. That is why we celebrate Christmas.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class why we celebrate Christmas. What did Jesus do?

Pray: Thank the Lord for coming into the world for loving us so much that He wanted to save us from death and give us life. Thank Him for His great sacrifice. Ask Him to help us to honor Him this Christmas.

Parent Question: Why did Jesus come to the earth?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 3:16-17, Luke 19:10, and 1 John 3:4-5 By David Guzik

6. ([John 3:16](#)) God's gift of salvation.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

a. **For God so loved the world:** [John 3:16](#) has long been celebrated as a powerful, succinct, declaration of the gospel. Of the 31,102 verses in the Bible, it may be the most popular single verse used in evangelism.

i. We learn the *object* of God's love: **For God so loved the world**. God did not wait for the world to turn to Him before He loved the world. He loved and gave His only begotten Son to the world when it was *still* the **world**!

ii. What Jesus told Nicodemus in [John 3:7](#) (*You must be born again*) refuted the popular Jewish idea regarding the *way* to salvation. Now Jesus refuted the popular Jewish idea regarding the *scope* of salvation: **for God so loved the world**.

iii. The Jews of that day rarely thought that God **loved the world**. Many of them thought that God only loved *Israel*. The universal offer of salvation and life in Jesus was revolutionary.

iv. "The Jew was ready enough to think of God as loving Israel, but no passage appears to be cited in which any Jewish writer maintains that God loved the world. It is a distinctively Christian idea that God's love is wide enough to embrace all mankind." (Morris)

v. Morrison suggested that there are three centers of love:

- *God so loved the world* ([John 3:16](#))
- *Christ also loved the church* ([Ephesians 5:25](#))
- *The Son of God, who loved me* ([Galatians 2:20](#))

b. **He gave His only begotten Son:** This describes both the *expression* and the *gift* of God's love. God's love didn't just *feel* for the plight of a fallen world. God *did* something about it, and He **gave** the most precious thing to give: **His only begotten Son**.

i. **He gave his only begotten Son:** "These words seem to carry a reference to the offering of Isaac; and Nicodemus in that case would at once be reminded by them of the love *there required*, the *substitution there made*, and the *prophecy there uttered to Abraham*." (Alford)

c. **Whoever believes in Him:** This describes the *recipient* of God's love. God loves the world, but the world does not receive or benefit from that love until it **believes in** Jesus, the gift that the Father gave. **Believes in** means much more than intellectual awareness or agreement. It means to *trust in*, to *rely on*, and to *cling to*.

d. **Should not perish:** This describes the *intention* of God's love. God's love *actually saves* man from eternal destruction. God looks at fallen humanity, does not want it to **perish**, and so in His love He extends the gift of

salvation in Jesus Christ.

e. **Everlasting life:** This describes the *duration* of God's love. The love we receive among people may fade or turn, but God's love will never change. He will never stop loving His people, even unto the furthest distance of eternity.

ii. "If there is one sentence more than another which sums up the message of the Fourth Gospel, it is this. The love of God is limitless; it embraces all mankind. No sacrifice was too great to bring its unmeasured intensity home to men and women: the best that God had to give, he gave – his only Son, his well-beloved." (Bruce)

7. ([Jhn 3:17](#)) Sin's condemnation.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

a. **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world:** Jesus revealed the heart of God the Father in sending God the Son; to bring *salvation* – rescue, hope, healing – to the world **through Him**.

i. "Some men will, in fact, be condemned, and that as the result of Christ's coming into the world ([John 3:19](#)). But the purpose of His coming was not this." (Morris)

3. ([Luk 19:10](#)) Zacchaeus renounces his sin and Jesus proclaims his salvation.

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

e. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost:** Jesus explained why He sought and extended friendship to a notorious sinner like Zacchaeus. Jesus came precisely to save people like Zacchaeus.

i. Zacchaeus *really* believed on Jesus. A true **son of Abraham** was not only descended from Abraham genetically, but also had the *faith* in God Abraham had.

ii. Even though Zacchaeus sought Jesus, it turns out that *he* was the one who **was lost**, and *Jesus sought him (has come to seek)*. Zacchaeus was lost to his parents; lost to the religious, lost to his community, lost to whatever friends he might have had – yet in a sense, not lost to God. "As the story of his conversion unfolds, his seeking Jesus ([Luke 19:3](#)) turned out to be the result of Jesus' first seeking him ([Luke 19:10](#))." (Pate)

iii. The entire account with Zacchaeus gives us a remarkable who, what, where, when, why, and how of receiving Jesus.

- *Who* Jesus wants to receive Him: those lost.
- *What* Jesus wants with those who receive Him: relationship.
- *Where* Jesus wants to go: down to Him.
- *When* Jesus wants you to receive Him: immediately, quickly.
- *Why* Jesus wants you to receive Him: to be with Him, to connect with Him in life.
- *How* Jesus wants you to receive Him: joyfully.

1. ([1Jo 3:4-5](#)) The nature of sin and Jesus' work in removing our sin.

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

b. **You know that He was manifested to take away our sins:** John here defined the mission of Jesus Christ at

its most basic root – **to take away our sins**. The angel Gabriel promised Joseph regarding the ministry of Jesus: *you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin* ([Matthew 1:21](#)).

- i. Jesus takes away our sin in the sense of taking the *penalty* of our sin. This is immediately accomplished when one comes by faith to Jesus.
- ii. Jesus takes away our sin in the sense of taking the *power* of sin away. This is an ongoing work in the lives of those who walk after Jesus.
- iii. Jesus takes away our sin in the sense of taking the *presence* of sin away. This is a work that will be completed when we pass into eternity and are glorified with Jesus.

c. **He was manifested to take away our sins**: This is the work of Jesus in our life. It is a work we must respond to, but it is *His* work in us.

- i. We cannot **take away** the *penalty* of our own sin. It is impossible to cleanse ourselves in this way. We must instead receive the work of Jesus in taking away our sin.
 - ii. We cannot **take away** the *power* of sin in our lives. This is His work in us, and we respond to that work. Someone who comes to Jesus does not have to clean himself up first, but he must be willing to have Him **take away** his sin.
 - iii. We cannot **take away** the *presence* of sin in our lives. This is His work in us, ultimately accomplished when we will be glorified with Him.
- d. **In Him there is no sin**: Jesus had no sin to take away; therefore, He could take away our sin, taking it upon Himself.