

# THE GREATEST

# gift



Youth Ministry  
December 22, 2013

## Lesson:

This week, we continued our discussion about Christmas.

We reviewed the meaning of Christmas from last week about God’s Unconditional Love for us and about God’s saving Grace.

We discussed the phrase “Keep Christ in Christmas” and the reasons why people would feel the need to say it. We talked more about how over commercializing Christmas can cause us to lose focus on what the true meaning is.

We brought up how some people say that Christ was really never “IN” Christmas, Jesus wasn’t really born on December 25th, or even that we shouldn’t celebrate Christmas at all because it is a Pagan Holiday. We also learned that a Pagan religion is one which worships more than one God. We learned that Christmas truly is and always has been about the birth of Jesus and was never a Pagan holiday.

We talked about how many of the Christmas traditions that we celebrate began as Pagan rituals celebrating the Winter solstice and how the early Church took these rituals and created new Christian meanings for them. This made it easier for early Christians to refrain from celebrating the formerly Pagan rituals. We learned that rituals and traditions are nothing more than “things” that people attach meaning to. The early Church was able to take the Pagan rituals and change the meaning to apply to Christmas.

Since nobody knows for sure when Jesus was actually born, the date of December 25th was likely chosen for the same reason. Therefore, Christmas is not about celebrating the day that Jesus was born but rather it is a day of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

We talked about other Christmas rituals and traditions and the meanings attached to them as well. We concluded that the world has come up with many fun things to celebrate Christmas and that while there is nothing wrong with them, we need to remember to not let these things distract us and keep our focus on the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

What could be more worthy of celebration than the unique point in history when the creator entered his creation, the Word became flesh and when God became man? What better story to continue to share from generation to generation?

Share the good news of Jesus’ birth with everyone, everywhere and allow them to see God’s love shining in you. Merry Christmas!

## Bible Verse: Luke 2:1-20

Look these verses up in your Bible.

## Bible Verse: John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## Bible Verse: Matthew 1:22-23

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

## Bible Verse: Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

God Bless,  
Chris & Michelle