

Missions Lesson
Christianity: What do Christians believe?

June, Week 1

By Joy Bolton

Objective: Children will learn that Christianity is more than just a religion, it is a relationship with Jesus Christ and thus different from all other world religions.

Materials:

Sign with the words Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism
(printed from web site)

Globe, Bible, nativity set

Belief keywords sin, death, repent, Savior, sacrifice, resurrection,
heaven (printed from web site and cut apart. Hide around the
room.)

Small crosses made from craft sticks OR purchased from a crafts
store (that can be decorated for optional activity)

Optional: Supplies to decorate crosses

Lesson:

Show the sign with the names of some world religions. Say: This sign has the names of some religions that exist in the world. Each of these religions have things they believe, yet they are very different. Our church is a Christian church. But being a Christian is more than just belonging to a particular religious group. Christianity is different because of our relationship to Christ.

Let's talk about some things that Christians believe.

Show the **globe**. Say: Christians believe that God created the world and everything in it, including you and me.

Show the **Bible**. Say: Christians believe that the Bible is God's Holy Word. It contains information about God. It tells us about creation; how sin entered the world; God's plan to save us from sin; the story of Jesus life, death, and resurrection; the start of the early church;

and the promise of heaven. When we read the Bible and pray, we find that God speaks to us through the Bible.

Say: To help us learn some things that Christians believe, some important words have been hidden around the room. (Ask children to look for words. Be sure all have been found.)

Say: When I say your word, please hold it up for everyone to see.
Based on the Bible, Christians believe:

- **SIN:** Everyone has sinned. The story of how sin entered the world is told in Genesis. Every person since then is a sinner and needs God's forgiveness. (Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.)
- **DEATH:** The result of sin is death. Someday every person will die but God has a great promise for those who believe in Him. (Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.)
- **REPENT:** To be forgiven of sin, God requires that we repent of our sin, confess our sin to Him, and that a sacrifice for our sin be made to Him. In the Old Testament, people made animal sacrifices to God to demonstrate their repentance and seek His forgiveness.
- **SAVIOR:** God promised that one day He would send a Savior to pay the penalty of sin for all people. God fulfilled that promise when He sent His Son, Jesus. What holiday do we celebrate to remember the coming of Jesus? (Christmas. Show **nativity set** and briefly discuss the Christmas story.)
- **SACRIFICE:** The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up just like you and me. When He was about 30 years old He began to teach people about God. Not everyone liked His teachings and He was crucified on a cross. The Bible tells us that this was God's plan for Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. Give out small **crosses** and ask: Who knows John 3:16? Let's say that verse together.
- **RESURRECTION:** The Bible tells us that after Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb which was a cave with a big rock that covered the opening. On the third day, Jesus rose

from the dead and showed through His resurrection that He is God's Son and that He has the power to conquer death. What holiday do we celebrate to remember Jesus' resurrection? (Easter)

- HEAVEN: Christians believe that after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended to heaven and then sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. Now, when we pray, confess our sins to God, ask Him to forgive us and be our Savior, we have a promise that when we die, we will spend eternity in heaven with Him.

No other religion teaches that God sent a Savior. Christianity is not just a religion about God. Christianity is about a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus. There is just one God, but we can know Him in three ways, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

One other thing that makes Christianity different from every other religion: Christians believe that each person must pray, ask for God's forgiveness, and ask Jesus to be their Savior. You are not a Christian just because you come to church. You are not a Christian by doing good things, though that is an important way we can be obedient to God.

Show globe again. Say: The message of Christianity is for everyone in the whole world. What did John 3:16 say? (For God so loved the world.) This is why we send missionaries around the world. God loves everyone in the whole world and wants them to repent of their sins and ask Jesus to be their Savior. But not everyone in the world knows about Jesus, so we send missionaries to tell them.

Ask: What are some ways we can help send missionaries? (Ask for responses. Be sure to cover: Pray for the missionaries and for people to hear about Jesus. Give to our church offering which helps to support missionaries through the Cooperative Program. Give to special missions offerings like the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, and to our state missions offering [Eliza Broadus Offering in Kentucky]).

There are also people right here in our community who do not know about Jesus. You can be a missionary and tell them! Close in prayer for the missionaries and for the boys and girls to tell their friends about Jesus.

OPTIONAL: Let children decorate the crosses.



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