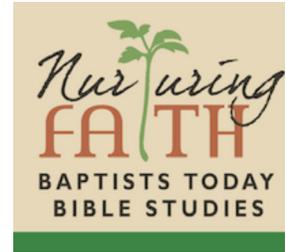


Youth Teaching Resources

December 25, 2016



Season of Advent

(November 27-December 25)

Psalm 122 – “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

Matthew 3:1-12 – “Starving for Hope”

Matthew 11:2-11 – “The Real McCoy”

Matthew 1:18-25 – “The Invisible Man”

Season of Christmas

(December 25 – January 1)

Titus 3:4-7 – “Why Christmas Matters”

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Subscribe to *Nurturing Faith* to access the core Bible content for this lesson. Find links and videos related to this lesson.

Why Christmas Matters

Titus 3:4-7

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

The meaning of Christmas story has become lost in the commercialization of Christmas. Christmas decorations seemed to go on sale after the back-to-school sales ended and there will be post-Christmas sales until Valentine's Day. The pinnacle of Christmas no longer seems to be Christmas Day, but when the shopping and wrapping for Christmas is over. The meaning behind Christmas Day seems to be as pushed back and away as Joseph and Mary were when they were sent to be with the animals. So how can we recapture the meaning of Christmas? Maybe it is as simple as going to worship before opening your gifts on Christmas morning so that you can receive the greatest gift before you exchange your own. Whatever the way, live out the meaning of Christmas past this Christmas morning into every morning of your life.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

- 1) What was your favorite part of this scene? Explain.
- 2) How did the elves determine how much to fill the stockings?
- 3) What does the elf do when the scanner turns up naughty?
How is this a representation of grace?
- 4) What gifts were left for you under that tree this year?
- 5) What non-material gifts have you received this year?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Titus 3:3-8a. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How does Paul begin his letter? Why does he begin this way?
- 2) Why does Paul rejoice after giving this news to start his letter?
- 3) How does Paul describe the nature of God to the hearers of his letter?
- 4) How are we saved according to Paul in these verses?
- 5) How does the relationally of the Trinity come out in verse 6? What does this mean for us?
- 6) What does it mean to be made right with God? What then are we supposed to do when we are made in this way?

If you group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Who is this Titus that Paul is writing to?
- 2) What does loving kindness mean?
- 3) What does Paul mean by "The saying is sure...?"

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": How should we understand the relationship between "rebirth" and "renewal"?

Transformation

Conclude your session by distributing index cards and writing utensils. As you distribute the items, challenge the group to write on their card what Christmas means for them on one side, and how they are going to live out the meaning of Christmas on the other side. Allow them time to write down their ideas. When they have had time to write, ask for volunteers to share what they have written and then close with a prayer. Center the prayer around thanking God for the gift of Jesus Christ and the strength to live out the meaning of this gift on a daily basis.