

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...?

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS

Celebrating Holidays Study Guide and Worksheet

Series: *What Does the Bible Say About...?*

Session 1: *What Does the Bible Say About Celebrating Holidays?*

1. Big Idea

As Christians, we are called to honor Jesus in **whatever we do**—including how we handle holidays. The Bible doesn't give a list of "approved" or "forbidden" modern holidays, but it gives **clear principles**:

- Do everything **for the glory of God**.
- Act with a **clear conscience, unto the Lord**.
- Use your freedom in a way that **loves others** and does not cause them to stumble.

2. Key Scriptures

1 Corinthians 10:24–31

"No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ... So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Colossians 3:17, 23

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

Romans 14:5–6

"One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord..."

Helpful Cross-References (for later personal study):

- Colossians 2:16–17 – Don't let anyone judge you regarding a festival or holy day.
- Deuteronomy 16:12 – Remember God's redemption when you celebrate.
- Psalm 95:6 – Worship and reverence.
- Acts 2:42–47 – Community and shared life.

- Jeremiah 10:2–3 – Don't adopt pagan customs.

3. Key Truths About Holidays

A. God's Purpose for Special Days

From the Bible's feasts and holy days, we learn that special days are meant for:

- **Remembrance** – of God's salvation and faithfulness.
- **Worship & reverence** – focusing on God, not idols or self.
- **Community & fellowship** – gathering with God's people.
- **Rest & holiness** – stepping away from busyness to seek the Lord.

Reflection:

- In my own holiday habits, which of these purposes are **strongest**?
- Which are **weakest** or most easily forgotten?

Notes:

B. Freedom, Conscience, and Unity

- Some believers treat certain days as **special**; others treat all days the **same**.
- Each believer should be **fully convinced** in their own mind and live **unto the Lord**.
- We must **not judge** or **look down on** others over disputable matters.
- Christian freedom is real, but it is guided by **love** and the **good of others**.

Group Discussion:

1. What are some holidays Christians disagree on (whether or how to celebrate)?
 - Examples: Halloween, Valentine's Day, patriotic holidays, how to observe Christmas/Easter, cultural festivals.
2. How can we show love and maintain unity when sincere Christians differ on holidays?

Notes:

C. Engaging Secular Holidays Wisely

The Bible doesn't name our modern secular holidays, but it gives **principles**:

- **Avoid pagan practices and idolatry.**
- **Use holidays as opportunities** for gratitude, witness, and doing good.
- **Do not violate your conscience**, and don't lead others into sin or confusion.

Discussion Exercise:

Choose **one** secular holiday (e.g., Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, Mother's/Father's Day, a national or cultural day).

1. Dangers:

- How might our culture celebrate this holiday in a way that is unhealthy or unbiblical (idolatry, immorality, greed, etc.)?

2. Opportunities:

- How could a Christian/family/church use this same holiday to:
 - Point people to Christ?
 - Practice thankfulness?
 - Serve or include others?

Notes:

4. Personal Reflection & Application

1. Personal Conviction:

Is there **one holiday** you feel God is calling you to approach differently this year?

- Which holiday? _____
- One practice I may need to **limit or drop**:

- One practice I may need to **start or strengthen** (prayer, Scripture, hospitality, serving, witnessing, etc.):

2. Group Challenge (Weekly Action Step):

As a group, we will choose **one upcoming holiday** and:

- **One practice to remove or reduce** (something that distracts from Christ or encourages worldliness):

- **One new practice to add** (pointing to Christ, serving others, or sharing the gospel):
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(Your leader may write the group's commitment here, or you can jot it for yourself.)

Notes:

5. Memory Verse

“So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do**, do it all for the glory of God.”
—1 Corinthians 10:31

Suggestions to memorize:

- Write it on a card and keep it where you'll see it daily.
- Say it out loud once in the morning and once at night.
- Before the next holiday you celebrate, **pray** this verse and ask, “How can I do this **for the glory of God?**”

6. Prayer Focus

As you pray this week, consider:

- Thanking God for:
 - The freedom you have in Christ.
 - The good gifts He gives through seasons, family, church, and rest.
- Asking God to:
 - Shape your convictions about holidays by His Word and Spirit.
 - Help you love other believers who see things differently.
 - Show you how to turn upcoming holidays into **opportunities** for worship, witness, and serving.

Notes (Prayer Requests / Things God Is Showing Me):