



God and Government

Lesson 1: Is America a Christian Nation?

INTRODUCTION

1. Why would a church want to talk about “Government” in a Bible study?
2. What are a few things we should watch out for?

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Lesson 1: Is America a Christian Nation?

Lesson 2: Do We Really Need Government?

Lesson 3: Does God Really Say the Government Can Do *That*?

Lesson 4: What Does It Mean to Be a Christian American?

Lesson 5: One Hot-Button Issue: What about Immigration?

Lesson 6: How Do I Decide Whom to Vote For?

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?: The Founding Fathers

The First Amendment of the Constitution: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”*

3. What does “freedom of religion” mean? Why is it a good thing?

The Thomas Jefferson Bible: *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*

4. Was Thomas Jefferson a Christian? Explain.



5. Agree/Disagree: America is a Christian nation because our Founding Fathers established this country on the truths of the Bible.

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?: The Ten Commandments

6. List the Ten Commandments:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.

7. Circle the number of each commandment that is actually a law in the United States today. Put a box around the number of each commandment that has *ever* been a law in the United States. What do you notice?

8. Agree/Disagree: America is a Christian nation because our laws are based on the Ten Commandments.

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?: What makes a Christian?

9. When people in America think of Christians, what is often the first thing that comes to mind?



Read Romans 10:9 and 1 Samuel 16:7.

10. What is God's definition of a Christian? How is it different from what we mentioned above?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

11. If America were truly a Christian nation, or if there were really a "Christian" political party, what would you expect their platform to be?

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?: What is God's goal for government?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-14 and Romans 13:3-4.

12. God has given government a goal, just like he gives a goal to his church. How is a government's goal for its citizens different than God's goal for his people?

13. The phrase "separation of church and state" doesn't come from the Bible, but it does reflect the biblical idea that Christians are citizens of two different kingdoms. What does that mean?



14. Give an example of a sad result of Christians governing outward behavior.

Give an example of a sad result of governments governing inward beliefs.

15. Why might it actually be a bad thing if America were a "Christian nation"?

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?: Starting with proper expectations.

16. Evaluate: America is not a Christian nation. America is a nation in which many Christians live.

17. What is the best thing our church can do to make America a better place?

