

Grade 12 Catechism Lesson Plan

Chapter 11: Christian Contributions

Duration: 45–60 minutes

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify major areas in which Christians have contributed to society, especially in Kerala and India.
- Explain Christian contributions to agriculture and related economic development in Kerala, using examples from the chapter.
- Recognise how Christian values such as service, dignity, justice and concern for the poor can contribute to nation-building today.

2. Introduction

“Who helped shape the place we live in?” (5 minutes)

Ask students to think beyond famous personalities and consider the institutions and community efforts that shape everyday life. Invite quick responses to these questions:

- Which school, hospital, charitable service, farm, co-operative or community initiative has made a difference in your neighborhood?
- What changes when education, healthcare or opportunities reach people who were previously left out?

Link their responses to the chapter: Christian contributions have not been limited to preaching; they have also influenced education, healthcare, social reform, culture and economic life. Explain that the class will examine these contributions critically, with special attention to agriculture and industry in Kerala.

3. Presentation of the Lesson

A. Christian contributions across society

- Moral and social spheres: promoting human dignity, justice, peace and concern for the vulnerable.
- Nation-building: Christians participated in India's freedom struggle and public life.
- Education and charity: schools, women's education, hospitals, shelters and support for people in need.
- Language, literature and arts: contributions to Malayalam grammar, dictionaries, literature, music, architecture and traditional art forms.
- Science and healthcare: research, medical service and care for the sick.

B. Agriculture and related economic development in Kerala

- Tharisappalli copper plates: an example of the historical presence and privileges of Syrian Christian communities in Kerala's social and economic life.
- Thachil Mathu Tharakan: remembered in the chapter for his role in the development of Alappuzha and its commercial landscape.
- Joseph Murikkan: known for reclaiming parts of the Vembanad backwaters for paddy cultivation, demonstrating innovation in farming.
- High-range migration: Christian families were among those who migrated to the Malabar high ranges, cleared and cultivated land, and contributed to agricultural production and settlement.
- Church-linked community practices: local systems such as chitty and kurikal are cited in the chapter as examples of community-based financial organisation that supported economic activity.

Emphasise that these examples show different kinds of contribution: cultivation and land development, local commerce, settlement, community organisation and support for livelihoods. Encourage students to distinguish between the contribution of individuals, communities and institutions.

4. Choose any Activity

Objective: To help students recognise Christian contributions in their own city and understand how service, faith and social responsibility can contribute to society.

Procedure: I.

1. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group one area:

- Education: Christian schools and colleges in Mumbai.
- Healthcare: Christian hospitals and medical services.
- Social service: Organisations serving the poor, homeless, elderly or differently abled.
- Nation-building and social reform: Christian individuals who contributed to India's freedom struggle or social progress.

2. Each group discusses:

- What contribution have Christians made in this area?
- How has this contribution benefited people beyond the Christian community?
- What can young people learn from these examples?

3. Each group presents its findings in one minute, highlighting one contribution and its impact.

Teacher's conclusion: Christian contributions are not limited to one region or one field. Just as Christians contributed to Kerala's development, Christian institutions and individuals have also served Mumbai and the wider nation. The real measure of these contributions is how they uphold human dignity and improve people's lives "The Witness Lab: Choose, Justify, Act"

Teacher's conclusion: Christian contributions are not limited to one region or one field. Just as Christians contributed to Kerala's development, Christian institutions and individuals have also served Mumbai and the wider nation. The real measure of these contributions is how they uphold human dignity and improve people's lives.

Activity 2 **“If Jesus were to address one problem in Mumbai today, which problem would He choose, and what practical action would He take through us?”**

Ask groups to choose a real issue—food insecurity, loneliness among senior citizens, unequal access to education, care for the sick or environmental neglect—and propose one realistic action inspired by Christian values.

5. Bible Verse

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – Matthew 25:40

6. Practical Application

Ask students to choose one realistic action they can take this month to contribute to the common good, such as:

- ✚ Avoid wasting food and learn about the people involved in producing it.
- ✚ Support a local food, clothing or book collection drive responsibly.
- ✚ Interview an older family or community member about a local initiative that improved people’s lives.
- ✚ Share verified information about a charitable or community service and encourage respectful participation.

Students write one action they will take and briefly state whom it may benefit.

7. Small Conclusion

Christian contributions can be seen in many dimensions of public life—from education and healthcare to literature, agriculture and community development. The examples in Kerala show how faith-inspired service, initiative and cooperation can support social and economic progress. Invite students to remember that the lasting value of any contribution lies in how it serves people and strengthens the common good..