

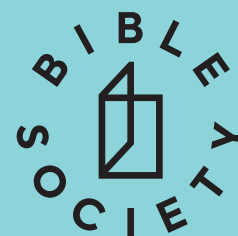
FOR AQA

GCSE RELIGIOUS
STUDIES A (8062):

Christianity

Sources of Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR 9-1
GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



This workbook is designed to support you through your GCSE studies by guiding you through how the Bible has shaped Christian theology and beliefs. The Bible is central to Christianity, and any study of this religion requires a study of the Bible. This does not mean the reader must accept Christian beliefs, but Christianity cannot be understood without a working knowledge of the theology, history and principles found in the Bible's pages.

Each passage in this book is relevant to your GCSE Christianity course. When you look back on your completed workbook you will have more than a handy revision resource, you will have survived a crash course in the poetry, literature, philosophy and spirituality of one of the world's most influential and widely-read books.

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An overview of the Bible

Why is the Bible a 'Source of Wisdom'?

All religious texts are seen as in some way inspired by a divine being, or as holding deep and important truths. The Christian Bible is no exception.

For Christians, the Bible is where they can read the word of God. All Christians share the belief that the Bible was written by human authors who were inspired by God to write what they did. They believe that the Bible has God's authority, and that it reveals what God is like and how people can live the good life which they believe God intends for them. However, as we will see, not all Christians interpret the Bible in the same way.

The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is then divided up into books (which were originally written as separate books, then put together to form the Bible).

Not all Bibles have the same number of books. All Christians share the same 66 books of the Bible. Most Protestants accept only these 66, whereas Catholics have an extra seven books, bringing their Bible to 73 books. This shows that different Christian traditions sometimes have different ideas about which writings belong in the Bible.

There are 40 biblical authors, including a fisherman, a tax collector, a doctor and a king. The biblical authors wrote in different times, using different styles and languages and for different purposes, but Christians believe that they were all inspired by their experience of God.

*Ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy **Scriptures**, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All scripture is inspired by God** and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting fault and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed.*

2 Timothy chapter 3 verses 15-17

Scripture = a religious text. For Christians, 'scripture' means the Bible.

To do...

This passage comes from a letter attributed to the early Christian leader Paul, written in about 63 CE. Paul assures his readers that they can trust the Bible because it is inspired by God. Another way of translating this from its original Greek into English is to say that 'All scripture is breathed out by God'.

 What does Paul say about **why** Christians should use the Bible?

 What do you think Paul would say about **how** Christians should use the Bible?

Reading the Bible is not always easy or straightforward. Christians do not just pick it up and find their life planned out for them, and they differ in how they interpret the Bible's meaning for themselves.

A **literal** reading of the Bible holds that it reports actual events with the accuracy of history. Biblical events and timespans occurred exactly as the Bible describes.

A **non-literal** reading of the Bible accepts that some work may be needed to interpret it for modern times. The Bible was written by authors from particular times and cultures, and modern audiences may need to interpret what these authors meant before it can be applied to their lives. Some passages might not be considered as historically true, but all of the Bible is still seen as being the word of God and containing spiritual truths.

Christians might use the Bible in a range of contexts, including hearing it read in church, and studying it either as part of a small group or privately by themselves. Many try to follow a daily or weekly routine in which they set aside a specific time for Bible study.

The books of the Old Testament are also considered scripture by Jews. In Judaism these books are called the Tanakh.

To do...



Why might Christians describe the Bible as containing wisdom and having authority?

While it is the main source of wisdom for many Protestant churches, in the Catholic Church the Bible's wisdom stands alongside that of the 'magisterium'. This describes the authority the church is believed to have in interpreting and teaching Christian truths. In addition, Catholics regard the Pope's teachings as authoritative.

The Orthodox Church also recognises other forms of authority alongside the Bible, including the 'Holy Tradition', the collected teachings of the Patriarchs (senior church leaders) over hundreds of years.

In the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and some Protestant churches, the writings of early Christian leaders (often known as the Church Fathers) are important because they established traditions which are still followed today.

Christians are also guided by their own conscience, and they develop their own moral sense through prayer.

To do...



For Christians, is the Bible like...?

A mirror

A gateway

A revolving door

A cloak

A guidebook

A bag of Lego

A packet of seeds

The internet

The Old Testament	The first five books are the Law, also known as the Torah ('law' in Hebrew) or Pentateuch ('five scrolls' in Greek). They tell the story of creation and of how God made the Israelites his chosen people and gave them instructions about how to live as God's people.	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
	The Old Testament Historical books continue the story of the Israelites, during which they were ruled by kings (including King David) and built the Temple in Jerusalem. They were conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians and sent into exile. After some time, they were allowed to return home and they rebuilt the Temple.	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther
	The Wisdom literature asks the 'big questions' about God, humanity, suffering, what the world is like and why it is like it. Some of the wisdom books are written as poetry, and the Psalms are hymns.	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs
	The books of Prophecy tell the stories of the prophets, ordinary people who were chosen to be messengers of God. Their prophecies often warned the Israelites that there would be consequences for disobeying God. Christians believe that many of their prophecies foretold the life of Jesus.	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
	The Deuterocanonical books (sometimes called the apocrypha) are included in Roman Catholic Bibles, but not in all Protestant Bibles. Therefore they represent Catholic but not always Protestant teaching, reflecting the diversity in ways the Bible can be read by different denominations.	Tobit Judith Wisdom of Solomon Sirach Baruch 1 Maccabees 2 Maccabees Additions to Daniel and Esther
The New Testament	The four Gospels tell the story of the life of Jesus. 'Gospel' means 'good news', referring to the 'good news' that Jesus' life symbolises for Christians. The first three share much of the same content and are known as the synoptic Gospels. John tells the same story, but in a more symbolic way.	Matthew Mark Luke John
	Acts of the Apostles (often known as just 'Acts'), tells the story of the early Christians. It was written by the same author as Luke's Gospel.	Acts
	The epistles ('letters' in Greek) are letters which were written by early Christian leaders to other Christians in the first century CE. They explain Christian beliefs and give instructions and guidance on how to live as a Christian.	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude
	The only apocalyptic book in the New Testament is Revelation. The word 'apocalypse' means a revelation or unveiling of future events.	Revelation

Creation

Do all Christians believe the same things about the creation of the world?

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible. 'Genesis' means 'beginning'. The first chapter of Genesis tells the story of creation. It describes how, over the course of six days, God first created the universe, and then the world and everything in it. For Christians, this shows God's infinite creativity and power.

Christians believe in one God. This is called monotheism.

To do...

 Highlight a reference to 'the Spirit of God'

Some translations of the Bible say 'an expanse' instead of 'a dome'.

To do...

 At the end of each day, how does God feel about creation?

The story of Creation

1st day

In the beginning, when **God** created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

2nd day

Then God commanded, "Let there be a **dome** to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places"—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. He named the dome "Sky." Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

3rd day

Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear"—and it was done. He named the land "Earth," and the water which had come together he named "Sea." And God was pleased with what he saw. Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit"—and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

4th day

Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was done. So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.

Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-19

In verses 1–19 of the creation story, God creates the world. In the second half of the story, God populates it with animals and people.

5th day

Then God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds." So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce, and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small"—and it was done. So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

6th day

Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small." So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food"—and it was done. God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

7th day

And so the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. *He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day*, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. And that is how the universe was created.

Genesis chapter 1 verse 20 – chapter 2 verse 4

To do...

 Highlight where God appears to be plural – 'we' and 'us'. You'll come back to this and the reference to the Spirit of God on page 24.

God spends six days creating the world, and rests on the seventh day. This is the basis for having a day of rest on the Sabbath for Jews (on Saturday) and Christians (on Sunday).

To do...

 At each stage of the story, God makes creation happen by commanding it to happen. List all of God's commands in order:

1. Let there be light
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Genesis is an ancient book. Traditionally, Moses was thought to be its author. However, most Bible experts argue that Genesis was the work of a number of writers over a long period of time, and that it was passed on as an oral story for generations before it was written down.

There are some disagreements, including among Christians, about whether or not Genesis chapter 1 should be understood as a literally true, historically accurate account. Here are two different ways to understand Genesis 1, as well as some beliefs about God and creation that all Christians have in common:

Literal understanding Some Christians believe that the creation story in Genesis is literally true, and can be understood as an historical account of how the world was created in six days of 24 hours.	Non-literal understanding Some Christians do not believe that the creation story in Genesis is literally true. They might see it more as a poem or myth, a story which isn't intended to be literally true – its purpose was to explain some important religious truths. It might matter less for them how the world was created than that it was created by God. They might accept scientific explanations of creation but see them as being caused by God. They might understand a 'day' as meaning a period of time rather than literally 24 hours.
Shared understanding All Christians find truth about God and the world in Genesis, whether they read it literally or non-literally. For example, all Christians believe God created the world.  Which lines from Genesis chapter 1 describe these beliefs which all Christians hold in common? a) Creation was initiated by God b) God is supremely powerful c) God is pleased with his creation	

Choose three adjectives to describe what Christians can learn about what God is like from the creation story.



The Garden of Eden

What does the Bible say about how humans were created?

The second chapter of Genesis tells the story of how God created humans. God created man and woman, and planted a garden for them to live in.

As for the first chapter of Genesis, there are literal and non-literal ways of understanding this passage.

When the Lord God made the universe, there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground.

Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. He said to him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day."

Genesis chapter 2 verses 4-9 and 15-17

To do...

-  How does God make the man?
-  What role does God give the man?
-  What does God forbid the man to do?

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him." So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

*Then the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. Then the man said,
"At last, here is one of my own kind—
Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh.
'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man."
That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.*

The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.

Genesis chapter 2 verses 18-25

To do...



What does God say about why two humans are created?



How does God create the woman?

'The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.'

The man and woman's nakedness represents their innocence. At this point in the unfolding story, they were living in paradise, they would never die and they did not know how to do wrong.

The Fall of Mankind

What went wrong?

At the end of Genesis chapter 2, the man and the woman were living in a close relationship to God. By the end of chapter 3, they have been banished from the Garden of Eden as the result of a very bad choice. The events in this chapter are often called 'The Fall of man'. As with chapters 1 and 2, this story is understood literally by some Christians and non-literally by others.

Human disobedience

Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the Lord God had made. The snake asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"

"We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden," the woman answered, "except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die."

The snake replied, "That's not true; you will not die. God said that, because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad."

The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it.

Genesis chapter 3 verses 1-6

To do...

 What role does the snake play in Genesis 3?

 Highlight the ways in which the snake tempts Eve to eat the fruit.

To do...

Before they committed the first sin by eating the fruit, the man and the woman had a close relationship with God, who is described as walking in the garden and talking to them.

 How does this next part of the story show that the relationship has been damaged?

As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves. That evening they heard the Lord God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. But the Lord God called out to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked."

"Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?"

The man answered, "The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

The Lord God asked the woman, "Why did you do this?" She replied, "The snake tricked me into eating it."

Genesis chapter 3 verses 7-13

God pronounces judgement

Then the Lord God said to the snake, "You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: from now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel."

And he said to the woman, "I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him."

And he said to the man, "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil again."

Adam named his wife *Eve*, because she was the mother of all human beings. And the *Lord God made clothes* out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.

Adam and Eve are sent out of the Garden

Then the Lord God said, "Now the man has become like one of us and has knowledge of what is good and what is bad. He must not be allowed to take fruit from the tree that gives life, eat it, and live for ever." So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden and made him cultivate the soil from which he had been formed. Then at the east side of the garden he put living creatures and a flaming sword which turned in all directions. This was to keep anyone from coming near the tree that gives life.

Genesis chapter 3 verses 14-24

To do...

 Christians believe that sin has consequences – highlight the ways in which Adam and Eve are punished for eating the fruit.

Adam means 'man' in Hebrew, and is a very similar word to that for 'earth'. Eve comes from 'hava', which means 'source of life'.

Even in his anger, God still makes clothes for Adam and Eve.

To do...

The story of the fall of man ends with Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden. Life will be hard for them, and they will die. The rest of the Bible is seen by Christians as being about God's attempts to bring mankind back into a close relationship with him.

Which of these would you say are evidence of human sin?

 Highlight to show your answers.

Inequality

War

Earthquakes

Disobedience

Bullying

Drought

Climate change

Racism

To do...



Create a storyboard telling the story of the first humans from their creation to the Fall. Use Genesis 1 to 3. Choose six passages that tell the story and write them in the text areas below, designing an image to represent each passage. Give your storyboard a title.

Title:



Photography by iStock/fotoVoyager



Photography by iStock/fotoVoyager

The Nature of God and Jesus

What do Christians believe God and Jesus are like?

Jesus is the central figure of Christianity. He was born in Israel in about 6 BCE, and lived until about 30 CE. The last three years of his life were spent as a wandering preacher. His story is told in the four Gospel books of the New Testament, which describe him as a healer and miracle-worker as well as a religious teacher. They state that he was executed by being crucified, but that he rose from the dead three days after his death, and that he was the Son of God. Jesus was Jewish, and his life led to the foundation of Christianity.

This verse sums up the central message of Christianity.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

John chapter 3 verses 16-17

John chapter 3 verse 16 is probably the most famous Bible verse of all, and it is the most widely quoted Bible verse. It is from the Gospel of John, which was written in about 90 CE, 60 years after the lifetime of Jesus.

To do...

-  Highlight what the first verse says about how God feels about the world. In a different colour, highlight what it says he gave. In a third colour, highlight what is required of people to ensure that they get eternal life.

The Christian belief that God is always kind and loving towards humanity is sometimes known as 'omnibenevolence'.

To do...

-  How could the two verses on this page from John's Gospel be used as an example of God's omnibenevolence?
-  Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about God's omnibenevolence, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

'The Father and I are one.'

John chapter 10 verse 30

To do...

 Who is 'I' in this passage?

Christians believe that Jesus and God are indivisible – Jesus was God, but he became human and lived on earth.

 Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about this, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

The next passage comes towards the end of John's Gospel. In it, Jesus is preparing his followers, the disciples, for his imminent death by execution.

*Jesus answered him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.** Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him."*

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need."

*Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe, Philip, that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me?** The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do."*

John chapter 14 verses 6-11

To do...

 Jesus' phrase 'I am the way, the truth and the life' refers to specific ways his followers believe they can trust in him. Match these headers and footers.

The way	Jesus' teachings come from God and are totally reliable
The truth	Jesus offers a new future and a new hope for humanity
The life	Jesus represents the only path that leads to God

To do...

 Who does Jesus mean by 'the Father'?

Philip was one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

To do...

'I am in the father and the Father is in me'

 What line from John 10 is echoed here?

The Story of Job

The book of Job (pronounced 'Jobe') is from the Old Testament. It is named after its central character, but it is as much about God as it is about him. For Christians this book goes to the heart of the 'problem of evil'; how can there be evil and suffering in the world when God is all-powerful and always does good?

This is the story of Job.

1 <i>Job was a wealthy and successful man with a large family. He lived a blameless life and was a loyal servant of God.</i>	2 <i>Satan suggested to God that Job was only faithful because he was wealthy and successful.</i>	
3 <i>"Did you notice my servant Job?" the Lord asked. "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil."</i> <i>Satan replied, "Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it? You have always protected him and his family and everything he owns. You bless everything he does, and you have given him enough cattle to fill the whole country. But now suppose you take away everything he has—he will curse you to your face!"</i> <i>"All right," the Lord said to Satan, "everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself." So Satan left.</i> Job chapter 1 verses 8-12		
4 <i>Job lost everything. First, Satan took away Job's wealth. He followed that with the deaths of all his children and household, and then destroyed Job's health in an outbreak of hideous boils.</i> <i>Job continued to praise God, even though his life was in ruins.</i>	5 <i>Job's three friends tried to persuade him that his suffering was a punishment for wickedness. They argued that God would not let an innocent man suffer so greatly.</i> <i>Job did not agree, because he knew that he was blameless even though his friends wouldn't believe him.</i>	8
6 <i>Job called out to God for an explanation about why he had allowed such misfortune to happen to him. After all, he was innocent and had been faithful to God.</i>	7 <i>God replied from a whirlwind, not answering the charge, but reminding Job that he was a mere human without the vast knowledge of the creator God.</i>	



Photography by © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk.

The book of Job belongs to a type of biblical writing known as wisdom literature. Most of it is written in the form of poetry. It looks at some of the big questions of human life, such as, why do bad things happen to good people? Why do good things happen to bad people? How can a good person cope when bad things happen to him or her?

To do...



Highlight where the answers to these questions can be found in the story of Job:

Who suggested to God that Job was only faithful because he was wealthy? (box 2)

Did God recognise that Job was a faithful and good man? (box 3)

What was Satan trying to get Job to do? (box 3)

What did Job lose? (box 4)

What did Job's friends say about why God allowed him to suffer? (box 5)

What did Job ask God for? (box 6)

How did God respond to Job's question? (box 7)

To do...



Box 8, the end of the story, has been left blank.

You will find out how Job answered God on the next page.

For now, fill in the box with your thoughts on what Job might say.

What might he have learned about why suffering happens in the world?

How might his suffering have changed him or his beliefs?

What questions might he still have?

Ignorant =
lacking in
knowledge

marvels =
wonderful
things

repent = to
be sorry for
wrongdoing

This is how the book of Job actually ends.

*Then Job answered the Lord.
I know, Lord, that you are all-powerful;
that you can do everything you want.
You ask how I dare question your wisdom
when I am so very **ignorant**.
I talked about things I did not understand,
about **marvels** too great for me to know.
You told me to listen while you spoke
and to try to answer your questions.
In the past I knew only what others had told me,
but now I have seen you with my own eyes.
So I am ashamed of all I have said
and **repent** in dust and ashes.*

Job chapter 42 verses 1-6

God rebukes Job's friends for misleading him, and he restores Job's wealth and family.

To do...



What does Job say he now knows?



What does Job say about being 'ashamed'?

To do...



Which question does the book of Job provide a better answer to – why suffering happens, or how to cope with suffering when it happens to you?

The Ten Commandments

Exodus is the second book of the Bible. It tells the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to a land of their own, enabled at every step by God. Chapter 20 describes how God gave them ten rules they should live by, the 'Ten Commandments'.

To do...

-  Number the commandments 1 to 10.
-  Highlight in one colour information about God, in the 1st to 4th commandments.
-  Highlight in another colour information about how humans should behave, in the 5th to 10th commandments.

God spoke, and these were his words: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves.

"Worship no god but me.

"Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. *Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals. I bring punishment on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation. But I show my love to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my laws.*

"Do not use my name for evil purposes, *for I, the Lord your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name.*

"Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. *You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. On that day no one is to work—neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, the Lord, made the earth, the sky, the sea, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the Lord, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.*

"Respect your father and your mother, *so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.*

"Do not commit murder.

"Do not commit adultery.

"Do not steal.

"Do not accuse anyone falsely.

"Do not desire another man's house; *do not desire his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his donkeys, or anything else that he owns."*

Exodus chapter 20 verses 1-17

The day of rest on the Sabbath is observed by Jews (on Saturday) and by Christians (on Sunday).

Christians believe that God allows people to choose how they live their lives (free will). However, they also believe that people need guidance on how to live their lives in the way God wants them to.

On the dotted line below, mark where you think the Ten Commandments fit best:

Total freedom Some guidance Lots of help Total obedience

.....

Incarnation

What do the stories about Jesus' birth tell us about what he was like?

This account, from Luke's Gospel, describes the announcement to Mary about Jesus and his forthcoming birth. It sets the scene for Jesus' extraordinary life and points to some important things about what Jesus would be like.

Prophecies in the Old Testament foretell the coming of a saviour known as the Messiah. They include that he would be a descendant of the Old Testament hero King David, and that he would be a saviour for God's people. One of the central beliefs in Christianity is that Jesus was the Messiah, and that he fulfilled those prophecies.

The Greek translation of Messiah is 'Christos', which is why Jesus is known as Christ.

The birth of Jesus is announced

The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

*Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. **You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end!"*

Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God."

Luke chapter 1 verses 28-35

A census is an official count or survey of the population.

Judea was the southern area of Israel, where the capital city of Jerusalem was located.

The birth of Jesus

*At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a **census** to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.*

*Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in **Judea**, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.*

Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

To do...

-  Highlight a passage in Luke chapter 1 which explains God's relationship to Jesus.
-  Highlight lines that show God's plans for Jesus.
-  Highlight the lines that show that Jesus was a descendant of King David.
-  Which sections of these passages show that Jesus' birth was:
 - a) miraculous?

b) humble?

c) royal?

To do...

-  For Christians this birth story affirms that Jesus was God Incarnate. Define 'Incarnate' using the Latin roots of the word, below.

In = into, carn = flesh/ body

The word 'Incarnate' means . . .



Photography by Lightstock/Bill Welch

To do...

Christians believe that Jesus was at the same time both divine and human. 'Divine' means that something is holy, sacred, or linked to God.

-  Write one line from either of the passages which shows Jesus was divine.

-  Write one line from either of the passages which shows Jesus was human.

The Word of God

Christians believe that Jesus was 'the Word' – what does that mean?

John's Gospel was probably the last of the four Gospels to be written. John doesn't include the same story of Jesus' birth that Matthew and Luke use. Instead, in this opening passage, John uses the concept of 'the Word' to represent Jesus, and to tell his readers about what Jesus was like and about his relationship to God.

To do...

John wrote his Gospel in Greek, and he used the word 'Logos', which means 'the word', to represent Jesus.

 In the passage below, every time it refers to 'the Word' highlight it and write 'Jesus' next to it.

To do...

 Draw lines to show where the following Christian beliefs about Jesus can be found in John chapter 1.

Jesus had always existed, since before God created the world

Jesus took part in creation

Jesus brings life

Jesus is the light

Jesus became human (incarnation)

*In the beginning the Word already existed; **the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humanity. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.***

The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

***The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us.** We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.*

John chapter 1 verses 1-5 and 10-14

When 'John' is mentioned, it means John the Baptist. He was Jesus' cousin, who had announced to people that Jesus would be coming. He is a different John to the author of the Gospel.

Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels describe how he baptised Jesus at the start of Jesus' ministry (you can learn more about on that on pages 46-47).

John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'"

Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John chapter 1 verses 15-18

To do...



What do verses 15-18 tell us about Jesus?

To do...



In the space below, turn what you have learned about the Word into a diagram to explain:

- a) what the Word is
- b) the Word's relationship with God
- c) what the Word offers to human beings

You could use words, symbols and drawings. Decide on a title for your diagram.

Christians believe in the Holy Trinity. This is a complicated idea, but it is central to understanding Christianity. It says that there is one God, but that the one God has three different 'persons' – God the father, Jesus the son and the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians believe that there are references to the Holy Trinity in the Creation story (pages 4-6), where the 'Spirit of God' moved over the water and God is referred to as 'we'.

To do...

 Match up the part of the creation story on the left with what Christians believe about the Holy Trinity on the right.

Sometimes God is referred to in the plural, as 'we' or 'us'.

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit was part of God from the beginning of time.

God created all things by his 'word'.

Christians believe that Jesus was part of God from the start of time, and that he had a role to play in creation.

The 'Spirit of God' moves over the water at the beginning of creation.

Christians believe that God exists in three 'persons', Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



The Greatest Commandments

What is agape?

In this passage from Mark's Gospel, Jesus is teaching a crowd and answering their questions.

A *teacher of the Law* was there who heard the discussion. He saw that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer, so he came to him with a question: "Which *commandment* is the most important of all?"

Jesus replied, "The most important one is this: 'Listen, Israel! **The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.** The second most important commandment is this: '**Love your neighbour as you love yourself.**' There is no other commandment more important than these two."

Mark chapter 12 verses 28-31

At the time of Jesus, many groups had different ideas about how the Jewish religious laws should be carried out in people's lives.

To do...

 Highlight where Jesus says that there is only one God.

To do...

-  Write in your own words what Jesus says is the most important commandment.
-  Write in your own words what Jesus says is the second most important commandment.
-  What word is at the heart of both?

'Commandment' is a reference to the Ten Commandments, given to the people by God in the Old Testament (see page 20).

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

The type of love which Jesus refers to in the second most important commandment is known as 'agape' (pronounced ag-a-pay) – love for other people which is completely selfless and asks for nothing in return.

To think about...

Who would a Christian say is their 'neighbour' in today's world, and how might they show agape towards them?

The Last Supper

How does what happened at the Last Supper influence church services today?

Luke's Gospel describes how, in the upstairs room of a house in Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples celebrated the Jewish Passover festival by eating a meal together. Later on the same evening, Jesus would be betrayed and arrested.

On the day after that, he would die.

The Passover festival remembers the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses (Exodus chapter 12).

The cup would have contained wine.

In the Old Testament, God made covenants (promises) with the Israelites, confirming they were his chosen people.

*When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have wanted so much to eat this **Passover** meal with you before I suffer! For I tell you, I will never eat it until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God."*

*Then Jesus took a **cup**, gave thanks to God, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes."*

*Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "**This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.**" In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup is God's new **covenant** sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you."*

"But look! The one who betrays me is here at the table with me! The Son of Man will die as God decided, but how terrible for that man who betrays him!"

Luke chapter 22 verses 14-22

Christians carry out Jesus' instruction to 'Do this in memory of me' by taking part in Holy Communion services (also known as Eucharist, the Lord's Supper or Mass), during which they eat and drink bread and wine which have been consecrated (blessed).

The words Jesus used at the Last Supper are used during Holy Communion services, usually when they are spoken by the priest or minister as he or she blesses the bread and the wine.

To do...

-  Underline the name of the Jewish festival and circle what Jesus and the disciples ate and drank.
-  In a different colour, circle the words 'body' and 'blood'.
-  Draw lines to link them up with the matching food or drink.

There are three main Christian views about the bread and wine during Holy Communion:

- The Catholic church teaching is called transubstantiation – it says that the bread and the wine become the real body and blood of Christ, though they physically remain the same.
- The Real Presence – the bread and the wine are unchanged, but Christ's presence is made spiritually real through them. This is a commonly-held belief in the Church of England.
- The bread and the wine are unchanged and are symbols, representing Christ's body and blood in remembrance of his sacrifice. A Baptist might hold this view.

To do...

 Which words from the passage might a Catholic use to explain why he or she believes in transubstantiation?

 In some more informal Holy Communion services, the bread and wine are passed from one worshipper to another. Which words from the passage might explain why this is done?

To do...

 How could a Christian use this passage to show that Jesus was willing to be a sacrifice? (For an extra challenge, try to use the keyword 'omniscient' in your answer.)

The Arrest of Jesus

Directly after the Last Supper, Jesus led his followers to a hill outside Jerusalem where he wished to pray. There, as he prayed, a series of dramatic events followed. Jesus was betrayed by Judas, one of his disciples, and was arrested and taken away to face a trial. It seemed as if his disturbing predictions were beginning to come true...

The Mount of Olives is a hill just outside Jerusalem.

Judas was one of the 12 disciples, Jesus' closest followers. The Gospels describe how he received 30 silver coins for betraying Jesus to the Jewish leaders.

*Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the **Mount of Olives**; and the disciples went with him. When he arrived at the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."*

*Then he went off from them about the distance of a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed. "Father," he said, "if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. **Not my will, however, but your will be done.**" An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. In great anguish he prayed even more fervently; his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*

Rising from his prayer, he went back to the disciples and found them asleep, worn out by their grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not fall into temptation."

*Jesus was still speaking when a crowd arrived, led by **Judas**, one of the twelve disciples. He came up to Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you betray the Son of Man?"*

When the disciples who were with Jesus saw what was going to happen, they asked, "Shall we use our swords, Lord?" And one of them struck the High Priest's slave and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "Enough of this!" He touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and the elders who had come there to get him, "Did you have to come with swords and clubs, as though I were an outlaw? I was with you in the Temple every day, and you did not try to arrest me. But this is your hour to act, when the power of darkness rules."

Luke chapter 22 verses 39-53

To do...

-  Who is Jesus speaking to when he says 'Father'?
-  God offers Jesus strength. In what form does it come?

To do...

-  Jesus was in 'great anguish', because he knew that he would very soon be arrested and put to death. How does this show his humanity?

To do...

-  The disciples fell asleep because they were 'worn out by their grief'. How might a modern-day Christian find strength or help if he or she is feeling worn out by grief?

Jesus is Put on Trial

Jesus was put on trial before a court made up of experts in Jewish law and religious law.

To do...

-  As you read through these passages, highlight and number each of the accusations made against Jesus. You could use a different colour for each person making the accusations.

'Son of man' was a name which Jesus often used for himself.

Claiming god-like status was a serious crime in Jewish law.

Pontius Pilate was the Roman prefect (governor) of Judea from 26 to 36CE.

Claiming to be a king was a challenge to the Roman emperor's authority, and was a serious crime under Roman law.

Jesus before the Council

When day came, the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law met together, and Jesus was brought before the Council. "Tell us," they said, "are you the Messiah?"

*He answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me; and if I ask you a question, you will not answer. But from now on the **Son of Man** will be **seated on the right of Almighty God**."*

They all said, "Are you, then, the Son of God?"

He answered them, "You say that I am."

And they said, "We don't need any witnesses! We ourselves have heard what he said!"

Luke chapter 22 verses 66-71

Israel was under occupation by the Roman Empire, and the local Jewish courts needed the agreement of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, in order for Jesus to be executed. Ultimately, it was his decision whether Jesus would live or die.

Jesus before Pilate

*The whole group rose up and took Jesus before **Pilate**, where they began to accuse him: "We caught this man misleading our people, telling them not to pay taxes to the Emperor and claiming that he himself is the Messiah, a king."*

*Pilate asked him, "Are you the **king of the Jews**?"*

"So you say," answered Jesus.

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no reason to condemn this man."

But they insisted even more strongly, "With his teaching he is starting a riot among the people all through Judea. He began in Galilee and now has come here."

Luke chapter 23 verses 1-5

Because Jesus was from Galilee, which was ruled by King Herod, Pilate tried to pass the responsibility on by sending Jesus to Herod. Herod questioned Jesus, and then sent him back to Pilate.

Jesus Is Sentenced to Death

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now, I have examined him here in your presence, and I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of. Nor did Herod find him guilty, for he sent him back to us. There is nothing this man has done to deserve death. So I will have him whipped and let him go."

*The whole crowd cried out, "Kill him! Set **Barabbas** free for us!" (Barabbas had been put in prison for a riot that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)*

Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he appealed to the crowd again. But they shouted back, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them the third time, "But what crime has he committed? I cannot find anything he has done to deserve death! I will have him whipped and set him free."

But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus should be crucified, and finally their shouting succeeded. So Pilate passed the sentence on Jesus that they were asking for. He set free the man they wanted, the one who had been put in prison for riot and murder, and he handed Jesus over for them to do as they wished.

Luke chapter 23 verses 13-25

At Passover, the Romans traditionally allowed the Jews to choose a prisoner to be released. Barabbas was a criminal.

To do...

 What decision does the crowd want Pilate to make?

To do...

 What impression do you get about each of the main characters in this story? How far were each of them responsible for Jesus' being sentenced to death? Write your ideas around their names.

**The chief priests,
elders and teachers
of the law**

Pontius Pilate

The crowd

Jesus

To do...

 Why does Pilate not wish to sentence Jesus to death?

The Crucifixion

Following his trial, Jesus was taken to be crucified. Crucifixion was a slow, painful and much dreaded method of execution used by the Romans. Carried out in public, it involved the victim being nailed or tied to a cross by his wrists and feet, and left to hang there until he died. Jesus was crucified at about 9am and died at 3pm, on the day after he was arrested.

The execution of a man believed by his followers to be God lies at the heart of Christianity. This raises many questions for Christians and non-Christians alike. Why did God allow Jesus to go through such suffering? Why was a man beloved as a wise teacher, who had helped so many people and who never used his power for his own benefit, subjected to a humiliating, agonising death?

By 'when the wood is green', Jesus is probably referring to the time when he was alive, and 'when the wood is dry' is after his death.

The place called 'The Skull' is a hill also known as Golgotha, just outside Jerusalem, where executions were carried out.

Jesus Is Crucified

The soldiers led Jesus away, and as they were going, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

*A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, 'How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!' That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Hide us!' For if such things as these are done **when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?**"*

*Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place called "**The Skull**," they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "**Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing.**"*

They divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders jeered at him: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!"

The soldiers also mocked him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!"

Above him were written these words: "This is the King of the Jews."

To do...

-  Highlight what Jesus says to God in this passage.
-  Soldiers and the Jewish leaders taunt Jesus. Highlight the ways Jesus is mocked.

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!"

Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

The Death of Jesus

It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my spirit!" He said this and died.

Luke chapter 23 verses 26-46

To do...



Jesus died in a terribly painful, drawn-out and humiliating way. Christians believe that Jesus was omnipotent. Why didn't he just come down from the cross as the people suggested?

Try to use some of these words in your answer: loving; necessary; salvation.

To do...



Some Christians wear a cross or a crucifix as a symbol of their faith. Explain what it might mean to them.

To think about:

Christians call the day when they remember Jesus' death 'Good Friday'.

If Jesus died, what's so good about 'Good Friday'?

You might want to come back to your answer after you have done the next topic as well.

The Council refers to the Jewish leaders who had put Jesus on trial.

To do...

✍ Joseph of Arimathea made sure that Jesus was buried in accordance with Jewish law, including having him buried on the same day on which he died. Highlight the ways in which Joseph and the women treated his body respectfully.

The Burial of Jesus

*There was a man named Joseph from Arimathea, a town in Judea. He was a good and honourable man, who was waiting for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Although he was a member of **the Council**, he had not agreed with their decision and action. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took the body down, wrapped it in a linen sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been dug out of solid rock and which had never been used. It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin.*

The women who had followed Jesus from Galilee went with Joseph and saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. Then they went back home and prepared the spices and perfumes for the body.

On the Sabbath they rested, as the Law commanded.

Luke chapter 23 verses 50-56

The tomb which Jesus was placed in was probably similar to the one to the right, carved out of rock and with a large stone which could be rolled over to seal the entrance.



Photography by Lightstock/Anthony Harrison



Photography by iStock/PeskyMonkey

The Resurrection and Ascension

Why is the resurrection a key belief in Christianity?

To do...

 In this space, write words and draw emojis to describe how the women were feeling at different points in the story.

Jesus' body had been taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb on Friday evening. Three days later, on Sunday, some of his women followers returned to wash and anoint Jesus' body. Luke's Gospel describes that when they arrived, things were not as they expected...

The Resurrection

*Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found **the stone rolled away** from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly **two men in bright shining clothes** stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "**Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.** Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"*

*Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the **linen wrappings** but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.*

Luke chapter 24 verses 1-12

Tombs were often in caves, and they were sealed by having a huge round stone rolled across the doorway.

Luke doesn't say who the two men in bright clothes were, but it is usually assumed that they were angels.

To do...

 What two things had changed since Jesus' body had been placed in the tomb?

The linen wrappings were what Jesus' body had been wrapped in for burial.

That Jesus had died on the cross and then rose from the dead is one of the key beliefs of Christianity.

Christians believe that:

- the resurrection shows the God has power over death
- Jesus was physically risen from the dead - he was not a ghost or apparition
- because God has power over death, for his followers, death is not the end of their existence. They believe that they will experience resurrection (life after death) as well.

To do...

 How do the events of this passage seem to fulfil this prophecy of Jesus from earlier in his ministry: 'The Son of Man (meaning Jesus) must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life'?

 How does this prophecy show that Jesus was omniscient (all-knowing)?

The moment when Jesus went to heaven is called the 'ascension', which means 'going up'.

To do...

 Luke states Jesus went to heaven. Find this line and highlight it.

To do...

For Christians, the resurrection and ascension give hope for their own future salvation, proof that Jesus was divine and confidence in his power over evil and death.

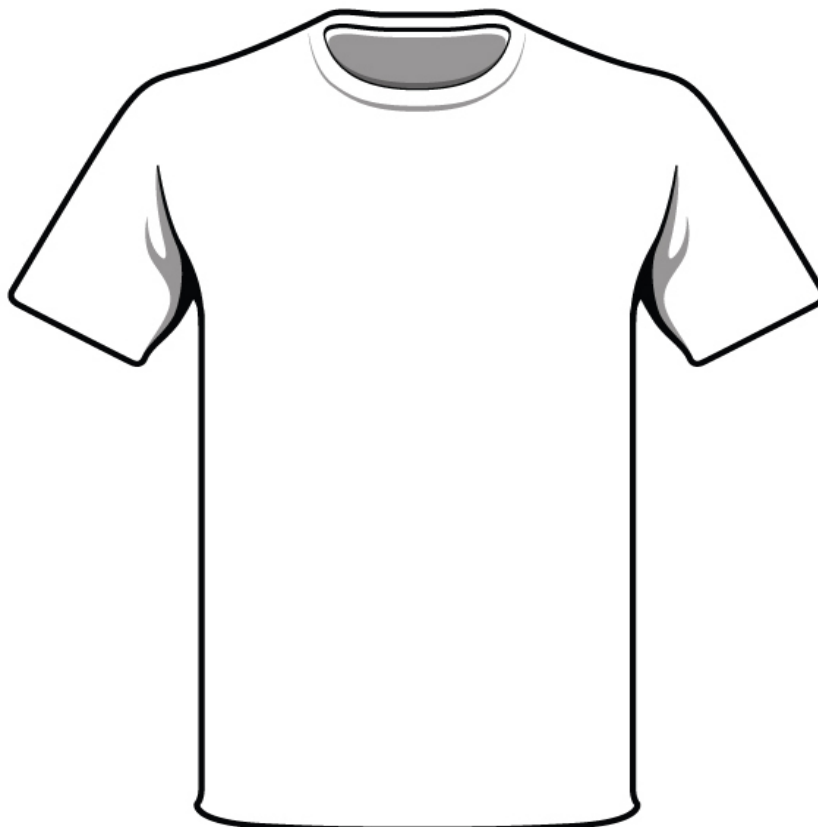
 Design a T-shirt, to be sold at a Christian festival, which expresses the way Christians feel about the resurrection. Use simple designs and few words.

Luke goes on to describe how Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples and his other followers, helping them to understand what had happened and what it meant.

Jesus Is Taken Up to Heaven

Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. They worshipped him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God.

Luke chapter 24 verses 50-53



Salvation and Atonement

Christians believe that Jesus saved them – but how?

Many of the letters (also known as epistles) in the New Testament were written by Paul, an early Christian missionary and preacher. He had been travelling around the Mediterranean world teaching about Jesus and establishing churches for around ten years when he wrote his letter to the Christians in Rome. It was probably written between 55 and 58 CE, about 25 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, and it is the longest letter that Paul wrote. In these verses, he sets out his ideas on what Jesus offers for those who follow him.

What Paul is writing about is an idea known to Christians as **atonement** – this is the idea that people's sins have put them far from God, but Jesus dealt with their punishment for them by dying, so that people who follow him can receive **salvation** and reach heaven.

*Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's **grace** all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free.*

Romans chapter 3 verses 23-24

To do...

-  Highlight where Paul refers to Jesus or a 'free gift'.
-  What two things does Paul describe as 'free gifts'?

For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans chapter 6 verse 23

Paul writes about God's grace. This is a key concept in Christianity, used for the things which God does for people even though they have done wrong. They might describe it as 'God's generosity to us that we don't deserve'.

All Christians believe that Jesus is the saviour of the world, and that his death on the cross atoned for human sinfulness.

Some, like Paul, see salvation as God's free gift to believers.

Others believe that behaving well and living as they believe God wants them to is essential for their salvation.

Some, especially members of the Catholic Church, believe that being baptised and taking part in the sacraments, such as Mass, are important in achieving salvation.

To do...

 Atonement =

 Salvation =

Pentecost

What do Christians believe about the Holy Spirit?

Both of the following Bible passages come from the book of Acts (its full name is the Acts of the Apostles). Acts was written by the same author as Luke's Gospel, and tells the story of what happened to the first Christians after Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven. Chapter 2 includes an account of when the early Christians first encountered the Holy Spirit, ten days after the ascension.

To do...

 Number these parts of the story from Acts chapter 2 verses 1-6 to put them in the correct order:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ touched each person | ☐ noise like wind | ☐ tongues of fire |
| ☐ speaking other languages | ☐ large crowd gathered | ☐ Holy Spirit filled them |

To do...

 Surround the passage below with images of the events, as if you are illustrating a children's Bible.

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers speaking in his or her own language.

Acts chapter 2 verses 1-6

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. They sometimes use fire or a dove as visual images to represent the Holy Spirit.



Photography by Unsplash/Wil Stewart

To do...

Modern-day Christians might also talk about, and ask God for, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Pentecostal churches have a particularly strong emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit. They have an informal and emotionally expressive style of worship, sometimes also known as 'charismatic worship', which can include 'speaking in tongues' (when a worshipper starts to speak in a language they do not know).

 Which parts of Acts chapter 2 verses 1-6 on the opposite page might a member of a Pentecostal church use to explain why they worship in this way?

Acts then describes how Peter and John (two of Jesus' disciples) healed a lame man in the name of Jesus. The Jewish leaders found this disturbing and had them arrested by the temple guards. In this Bible passage, Peter is being questioned by the Jewish leaders and teachers of the law. They asked him, 'How did you do this? What power have you got or whose name did you use?'

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

*This Jesus is **the stone that was rejected by you**, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Acts chapter 4 verses 8-12

To do...

'The stone that was rejected by you'. Peter compares Jesus to a cornerstone, which is the most important stone in a building.

 Is a cornerstone a good way for Christians to represent Jesus? Why?

To do...

'Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...'

 How do you think that being full of the Holy Spirit might have helped Peter to answer the teachers of the law?

To do...

 Peter says that salvation is only to be found through Jesus. Highlight this line in Acts chapter 4.

 How does God, through Jesus or the Holy Spirit, attempt to help humans in Acts chapter 2 and 4?

The Great Commission

After Jesus was resurrected, he spent some time among his followers before ascending to heaven. This passage from the end of Matthew's Gospel is sometimes known as the Great Commission.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew chapter 28 verses 16-20

To do...

-  Highlight the instructions which Jesus gave to his followers.
-  In a different colour, highlight the promise he made to them.

To do...

-  Write out below the four separate parts of the instruction Jesus gave to his followers:

Christians might try to follow Jesus' instructions by carrying out 'evangelism' – spreading the 'good news' about Jesus to other people, hoping that they will become Christians as well. They sometimes refer to this activity as 'mission', and people who carry it out, especially in a foreign country, as 'missionaries'. In the Catholic church the word 'evangelisation' is used for this.

This helps to explain why Christianity has spread from its small origins to a worldwide religion with 2.18 billion followers, 31% of the world's population. The number of Christians in the UK is declining, but in other countries, such as China and Africa, Christianity is growing quickly.

To do...

-  How might modern Christians continue to carry out Jesus' Great Commission through evangelism?

The Sheep and the Goats

What do Christians believe about 'eschatology'?

To do...

 As you read, highlight what the passage says will be done by people who are righteous (on the right) and by the others (on the left), using a different colour for each.

Jesus often referred to himself as 'the Son of Man'.

'Righteous' means behaving in a pure, fair and just way.

By 'members of my family', Jesus probably meant all people, or possibly all Christians, not just his literal family.

In this passage from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses imagery which would have been familiar to people in Israel at the time when he lived, of a shepherd dividing his animals into different types. This passage is about what Christians call 'eschatology', beliefs about the last days of the world. ('Eschaton' means about the last things in ancient Greek.) Like most early Christians, Matthew was sure that the end of the world was very close.

In this passage, it is Jesus who is speaking.

*"When the **Son of Man** comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the **righteous** people on his right and the others on his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.' The righteous will then answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these **members of my family**, you did it for me!'"*

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the **eternal fire** which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.' Then they will answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and would not help you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life."*

Matthew chapter 25 verses 31-46

To do...

 Who do people need to help others in order to be called 'righteous'?

To do...

 What do you think is meant by the 'eternal fire'?

Matthew isn't describing an actual event – this is a passage with symbolic meaning. There are different ways to interpret this story, but Christians usually understand it as meaning that at the end of the world, Jesus will return and everyone who has lived will be judged by him. People who have lived a righteous life will go to heaven and the others, who have been unrighteous, will go to hell.

In addition to heaven and hell, Catholics also believe in purgatory, where souls undergo a time of purification in order to become holy enough to go on to enter heaven.

To do...

 List three actions that Jesus describes as righteous.

 List three actions that Jesus describes as unrighteous.

 What will happen to the righteous people?

 What will happen to the unrighteous people?

 What does this passage tell Christians today about how to treat others?

 How might they put this into practice in their everyday lives? Try to relate your answer to the work done by charities and how Christians could be involved with it.

This passage comes from the second letter which Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, probably in 53 or 54 CE. Like the story of the sheep and goats, this is an 'eschatological' passage – it tries to explain what Christians believe will happen at the end of people's lives. Paul uses a tent as an image to represent his and his readers' human bodies.

To do...

 In this passage, every time it refers to a tent, write 'body' next to it.

For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last for ever. And now we sigh, so great is our desire that our home which comes from heaven should be put on over us; by being clothed with it we shall not be without a body. While we live in this earthly tent, we groan with a feeling of oppression; it is not that we want to get rid of our earthly body, but that we want to have the heavenly one put on over us, so that what is mortal will be transformed by life. God is the one who has prepared us for this change, and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us.

So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord's home. For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord. More than anything else, however, we want to please him, whether in our home here or there. For all of us must appear before Christ, to be judged by him. We will each receive what we deserve, according to everything we have done, good or bad, in our bodily life.

2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 1-10

To do...

 Answer the following questions by drawing lines to the right part(s) of the passage:

What image does Paul use to describe the body?

What image does he use to describe death?

What image does he use to describe heaven?

Where does he recognise that life on earth can be difficult?

Where does he say that the Holy Spirit guarantees what God has in store?

Where does he say that his readers should look forward to being in heaven?

What image does he use to describe what happens after death?

To do...

 Highlight uses of the word 'courage'.

 What does Paul suggest should give his readers courage?

 Highlight the use of the word 'judge' in a different colour.

 Who will judge humans at the end of their lives?

To do...

Paul makes a contrast between people's earthly bodies (represented by the tent) and heaven (represented by the house/home).

 Match these words to tent/house to explore what Paul saw as the differences between what life on earth is like and what heaven will be like.

Tent

fragile

comfortable

House

temporary

permanent



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Baptism

What does the Bible say about Baptism?

This passage from John's Gospel describes a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee (teacher of Jewish law).

Rabbi is a Jewish word for a teacher.

To do...

 Highlight what Jesus says would be needed to 'see the kingdom of God'.

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him."

*Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being **born again**."*

"How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"

"I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit."

John chapter 3 verses 1-6

Another translation for 'born again' is 'born from above'.

To do...

 What do you think is meant by 'above'?

To understand Jesus' reference to being born of water and the Spirit, we need to go back to the start of his ministry, when he was baptised by John the Baptist (see page 23). John the Baptist had been telling people to turn away from their sins, and he baptised them by immersing them in the river Jordan. The people's baptism symbolised their having a new start, leaving their previous sinful lives behind. Jesus was baptised by John. Christians believe that his baptism was unique because Jesus was without sin.

Galilee is the area of northern Israel where Jesus had grown up.

The Baptism of Jesus

*At that time Jesus arrived from **Galilee** and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!"*

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

Matthew chapter 3 verses 13-17

To do...

 Why do you think that John says he ought to be baptised by Jesus, not the other way around?

To do...

Baptism is carried out by Christian churches to welcome new members into the church. It represents their repentance of sin and a new beginning.

-  Which lines from the passages on the opposite page would lead Christians to conclude that they should be baptised?

Many denominations, including the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and the Church of England, carry out infant baptism. The priest makes the sign of a cross on the baby's forehead with water which he or she has blessed. Adults can be baptised in these denominations as well as children.

Baptist churches carry out 'believer's baptism', in which someone who is old enough to make the decision to commit to Christianity for themselves is baptised by being fully immersed in water. This is often carried out in a baptismal pool in church, but sometimes it will be done outdoors in a lake, river or sea.

Some Christians, especially evangelical Christians, might refer to themselves as 'born again' Christians. This refers to their having had a powerful experience of a spiritual transformation of the type which Jesus explained to Nicodemus.

To do...

The stories of Jesus' baptism include some miraculous events.

-  Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of God's presence at Jesus' baptism:

a dove a voice 'my Son' 'I am pleased' heaven opened

-  Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence:

a dove a voice 'my Son' 'I am pleased' heaven opened

-  Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of Jesus' connection with God:

a dove a voice 'my Son' 'I am pleased' heaven opened

Baptism is a sacrament. Sacraments are outward actions which are done to represent an inner religious belief.

The Catholic Church recognises seven sacraments including baptism, marriage and mass. The Church of England and most Protestant churches recognise only two: communion and baptism.

Worship

How can the influence of the Bible be seen in how Christians worship God?



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To do...

 What promise does Jesus make?

Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

**Matthew chapter 18
verse 20**

 Does what Jesus says here mean that worshipping by yourself is unimportant?

 Which of the pictures does this verse match up to?

 How is God described in this passage?

God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is.

**John chapter 4
verse 24**

 In John, what does Jesus say is necessary for worship?

 Which of the pictures does this verse match up to?

 Highlight the instructions Jesus gives about how his followers should remember him.

 Which of the pictures does this passage match up to?

 What event is Paul (author of this letter) referring to in this passage?

For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me."

This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**1 Corinthians chapter 11
verses 23-26**

The Lord's Prayer

Why is the Lord's Prayer so widely used by Christians?

You may have heard of the Lord's Prayer, but did you know that two different Gospels contain different versions? This may be because Jesus told his followers this prayer on two separate occasions. In the account by Matthew, Jesus gives his followers the Lord's Prayer as part of a longer, powerful talk about how they should live their lives. In Luke's account Jesus is directly asked by his followers about how they should pray.

*"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your father already knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven:
May your holy name be honoured;
may your kingdom come;
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.
If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done."*

Matthew chapter 6 verses 5-14

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:
'Father:
May your holy name be honoured;
may your kingdom come.
Give us day by day the food we need.
Forgive us our sins,
for we forgive everyone who does us wrong.
and do not bring us to hard testing.'"*

Luke chapter 11 verses 1-4



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To do...

-  Highlight in one colour lines from both prayers that are identical.
-  Highlight in another colour lines from both prayers that are similar but not identical.
-  In Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer, underline two things that should be avoided when praying.

To do...



Write the words or phrase, from either of the versions of the Lord's Prayer, which match to these meanings:

Christians know they are talking to God	
Christians ask for help to make earth like heaven: just, loving and peaceful	
Christians believe that God loves and cares for them	
Christians ask forgiveness and promise to forgive others	

The Lord's Prayer is often used in church services, by being read aloud by the worshippers together (sometimes using a more formal-sounding translation of the passage than the one we have used here). They might also join in intercession prayers, asking for God's help for themselves and others, and they might pray privately in silence. Some Christians practise meditation as a form of prayer.

To do...



What do you think are the benefits for a Christian of praying using the words of Jesus in the Lord's Prayer, and of praying using their own words?

Notes

