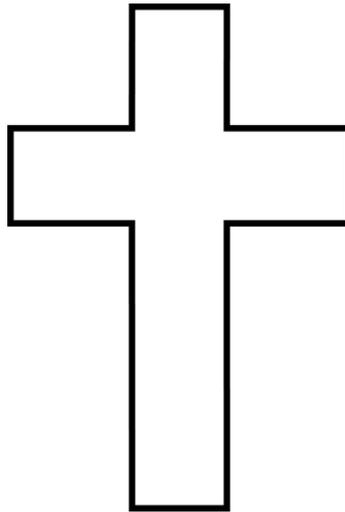


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## Year 7 – Term M1 Topic: The Old Testament



<u>Name:</u>	<u>FG:</u>
<u>Class:</u>	

**Assessment:**

Weekly: Recall tests once a week. This will be on a .....

Fortnightly: Extended piece of writing which will be marked by your teacher and detailed feedback will be provided.

End of topic assessment: .....

.....

## Year 7 – Michaelmas Term- RE – CHRSTIANITY – OLD TESTAMENT

Key Word	Meaning	Key Word	Meaning
Religion	The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.	Anointed	The application of oil in a religious ceremony, usually performed by a religious leader on a person being blessed
Symbol	A thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract	Yaweh	Hebrew name for God
Fact	A fact is verifiable This means that we can determine whether something is true by researching the evidence. This may involve numbers, dates or testimonies.	Nature worship	A religious, spiritual and devotional practices that focus on the worship of the nature spirits.
Opinion	An opinion is a judgment based on facts, an honest attempt to draw a reasonable conclusion from factual evidence. An opinion can change depending on how the evidence is interpreted.	Baal	A god worshipped in many ancient Middle Eastern communities, especially among Canaanites.
Belief	A belief is a conviction based on cultural or personal faith, morality or values. Belief is thinking that something is true without having actual proof or evidence.	Pagan	A person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions
Faith	Faith is a strong belief in the principles of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than scientific proof.	Pilgrimage	Religious journey
Monotheistic	A religion which believes in <b>one</b> God	Successor	A person following (succeeding) another
Denomination	A branch of the Christian Church	Theological	Relating to the study of the nature of God and religious belief
Prophet	A person who speaks in the name of God.	Divinity	The state or quality of being divine (like God)
Sin	Any action <b>against</b> God	Transcendent	Beyond or above normal or physical human experience
Original sin	First sin in the world committed by Adam and Eve which means all humans are born with this in them.	Transfiguration	A complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state
Patriarchs	Biblical figures regarded as fathers of the human race	Repent	feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin.
Gentile	Not Jewish	Omnipotent	All powerful
Covenant	An agreement between two parties	Missionary	A person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country

### **BOX 1 – What is religion and Religious Education?**

Religion is the experience and expression of faith. Religious Education is about finding out about other people's beliefs. Religious Education is about understanding our own thoughts about the world and how we act.

### **Why is it important to learn about religion?**

- It helps us understand the meaning of religious stories, symbols, events and pictures
- It shows us how religion *influences* individuals, families, communities and cultures
- It helps us understand the political and social impact of religion
- It helps us reflect on issues of justice and truth
- It provokes questions about the meaning of life
- It offers opportunities for personal reflection
- It helps us tackle extremism and religious discrimination

It gives you the time to reflect on your own faith and grow and develop your own beliefs and values	90% of the people in the world are still religious, and RE can help us understand what's important to them	R.E can help us answer "BIG" questions about the world
R.E can teach me about self-REspect and REspecting others	The U.K has become a multicultural society, and R.E helps us understand other cultures	R.E can help us understand what it means to be 'British' in the 21st century
R.E is both an academic and 'hands on' subject, with a worthwhile qualification at the end	R.E gives me the opportunity to share my opinions in a meaningful way	R.E can help me understand global issues, and become more involved as a global citizen

### The Bible

- The Christian holy book is the **Bible** and this is the most important **source of authority** for Christians, as it contains the teachings of God and **Jesus Christ**.
- All Christians, regardless of **denomination**, regard the Bible as the starting point for guidance about their faith. For Catholics it contains 73 books and is split into the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**.

### The Old Testament also contains examples of:

- other people that Christians can learn from, eg **Job**
- prayers and songs that are used in worship eg psalms (**Song of Solomon** is a type of love poetry and part of the Wisdom tradition)
- passages that are regarded as **prophecies** of the Messiah, such as **Isaiah** chapter 53

### **BOX 2 – Source of authority**

Most people have *sources of authority* they go to for **help** or **guidance** when making a decision about what to do. The **Christian Bible** is a source of authority for Christians where Christians seek guidance and help.

### Sources of authority - The Bible

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion and for all Christians, the basis of all authority is God. Christian leaders seek guidance from the Bible and their understanding of Biblical teachings which derive from the **word of God**. The Bible is the **most important** source of authority for Christians since it contains the teachings of God and Jesus Christ.

### **BOX 3 - The Old Testament (OT)**

The Old Testament is a collection of books written before the life of Jesus. It contains the rules which Christians should live by. It is believed by most Christians and religious Jews to be the sacred **Word of God**.

### Importance to Christians

- It reveals God, that there is a Creator and that God is in control of everything
- It reveals the character of God, what God is like
- Christians learn that God is a God of love
- The Ten Commandments show Christians how to live God's way. This helps Christians understand how to act according to God's will.
- It reveals that humanity is created in God's image to be like him
- Christians learn that sin brings suffering but also that God is forgiving if we repent and ask for forgiveness
- Christians learn about God's plan, about the coming savior, Jesus, which gives Christians hope.

### **BOX 4 - Why is the Old Testament important to the writers of the New Testament?**

The Old Testament is important to the writers of the New Testament because:

- The New Testament is built on **the foundation of the Old Testament**, they form one complete story, the story of God's deep love for mankind and his plan for humanity.
- Jesus saw his own passion, death and resurrection **predicted** in the Old Testament, he said "everything that is written **by the Prophets** about the Son of man is to come true." (Luke 18:31-32)
- To understand Jesus who was a Jew, we also need to understand his Jewish past.
- The Old Testament was **Jesus' Bible**, the New Testament had not yet been written. Jesus found fuel for his mission, ministry and prayer.
- Jesus prayer book was the book of the **Psalms**. Knowing that the Old Testament was the source for much of Jesus' prayer leads Christian to want to discover the riches of those Scriptures which nourished Jesus spiritually.

**Year 7 – Michaelmas Term - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – CHRISTIANITY –  
OLD TESTAMENT**

**BOX 5 - Creation according to Genesis 1.1-2.3:**

**In the beginning** - God started creation

**Day 1** - light was created

**Day 2** - the sky was created

**Day 3** - dry land, seas, plants and trees were created

**Day 4** - the Sun, Moon and stars were created

**Day 5** - creatures that live in the sea and creatures that fly were created

**Day 6** - animals that live on the land and finally humans, made in the image of God were created

**Day 7** - God finished his work of creation and rested, making the seventh day a special holy day

**BOX 6 - Different Christian beliefs about Creation**

**Literalist** believe that the Genesis story is literally true, that the world was created in 6 24 hour days exactly as it is told in the Bible.

**Non-literalists** don't understand the Creation literally. They believe it was six periods of time – not six 24 hour periods of time. Non-literalists can believe in the Big Bang and Evolution and that God made this happen.

**BOX 7 - Genesis 2** - how God created man, Adam from dust and Eve from Adam's rib. This is an important part of Genesis; this is why Christians recognise man and wife, through Adam and Eve's union: "they shall be one flesh".

**Genesis 3- The Fall** The fall describes how the first man and woman change from innocent obedience to God to a state of guilty disobedience. They were tempted by the Devil to eat the forbidden fruit. This links to the **original sin**, the fall brought sin into the world so all humans are born into original sin, a state from which they cannot attain eternal life without the grace of God.

**BOX 8 – Important people in the Old Testament**

**Noah:** The survivor of God's great flood. Noah is important because he built the large ark that saved the human race and the animal kingdom from destruction. Noah is important because he is the forerunner to Abraham, because Noah represents the first instance of God's attempt to form a covenant with humanity through one person.

**Abraham** - The patriarch of the Hebrew people, traditionally called "Father Abraham" because the Israelite people and their religion descend from him. God established his covenant with Abraham, and God develops an ongoing relationship with the Israelites through Abraham's descendants. Abraham is important because he practiced the monotheistic worship of God, and his resilient faith in God set the pattern for the Israelite religion's view of righteousness.

**Moses** – Moses is important because he is the saviour of Israel in its migration from Egyptian to the promised land. Moses mediates between God and the people, transforming the Israelites from an oppressed ethnic group into a nation founded on religious laws. Moses is the only man ever to know God "face to face."

**David** - The king of Israel and the founder of Jerusalem. David's reign marks the high point of Israel in the Bible. Although David's claim to the throne is threatened by Saul and by David's own son, Absalom, David maintains his power by blending smart political maneuvering with a generous and forgiving treatment of his enemies. David brought the Ark of the Covenant—Israel's symbol of God—to the capital of Jerusalem.

**Elijah**— A prophet who opposed the worship of the god Baal in Israel. After the division of Israel into two kingdoms, Elijah and his successor Elisha represent the last great spiritual heroes before Israel's exile.

**Jonah** - a prophet of the northern kingdom of Israel in about the 8th century BCE. Jonah was an Israelite whom God had called to be a prophet but who refused to accept his divine mission to encourage people of Nineveh to repent their sins. The story teaches Christians about ability to repent and be forgiven by God.

**Isaiah** - a Hebrew prophet born in Jerusalem, Israel who prophesied the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ.

**Year 7 – Michaelmas Term- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – TOPIC:**  
**CHRSTIANITY – NEW TESTAMENT**

**BOX 1 - Christian Beliefs about God.**

1. Christians base their beliefs about God on the Bible, the official teachings of the Church, the views of Christian leaders and their personal experience.
2. Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion which is a belief that there is only one God.
3. Christianity teaches that God is **transcendent** which means that God is above and beyond anything else that exists on Earth.
4. God is seen as a supreme being who has supernatural powers that defy the physical laws of the universe; he is therefor considered **divine**.
5. God is referred to as **holy** and **sacred** which means he is extremely special and set apart from human beings and worthy of upmost respect.
6. Christians believe God has no gender as male and female are human and not divine.

**BOX 2 PART 1 - The Trinity (1)**

7. One of the ways Christians explain the different characteristics and qualities of God is through a teaching known as the **Doctrine of Trinity**. It is unique and fundamental to Christian belief.
8. Christians believe that God has appeared in the world in three ways; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
9. Christians do NOT believe there are three Gods but believe that all three are equal but distinct persons within the **Oneness of one God** which is called the Trinity.

**BOX 2 PART 2 :**

**The Son:**

- God the Son was sent to Earth in human form to save humans. His death on the cross was a sacrifice for the sins of humanity which allows them to be reunited with God. Jesus Christ is the **incarnation** of God on Earth: *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”*

**The Holy Spirit**

- Some of the evidence which suggests Jesus was a **divine** figure comes from the many passages in the Bible where the **Holy Spirit** is connected to Jesus in some way. Christians believe that:
- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit
- the dove at the baptism of Jesus was the Holy Spirit
- Jesus was able to heal through the power of the Holy Spirit

**BOX 3 - The Trinity (2)**

10. Christians believe that each part of the Trinity performs a special function.

- God as the Father created Heaven and Earth.
- God as the Son, Jesus is the saviour of the World. He is believed to be the Messiah promised in Jewish scripture.
- God as the Holy Spirit is an invisible spiritual power, which guides, helps and inspires human beings.

**BOX 4 – The Nicene Creed**

12. Christian belief in the Trinity is set out in a statement or profession of faith called the **Nicene Creed**. The word Creed comes from the Latin credo, which means “I believe”.

13. Christian leaders thought it was important that everyone knew and agreed on the same basic beliefs on which Christianity is founded so during the 4<sup>th</sup> Century that produced the **Nicene Creed** stated this basic beliefs. In some churches the creed is still recited during services. Another way it is recited is through prayer.

**BOX 5 - Sources of Authority.**

*We believe in God,  
The Father, the Almighty,  
Maker if heaven and earth.....  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God.....  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Lord, the giver of life.....  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
Glorified.  
(Nicene Creed)*

*“So God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternallife”*



## 1. The Beginning

God creates the earth. God makes human beings, and all is well. But humankind gives into temptation and so evil comes into the world.

**Genesis 1-2**

## 2. The Flood

God decides to restart humanity as people have become too evil. He chooses **Noah** and his family to be the start of a reset earth.

**Genesis 6-9**

## 3. Abraham and the Israelites

Date: around 1800-1500BC

God chooses **Abraham** as the man to kick-start a new nation, who will be God's representatives on earth. Abraham has Isaac, who has Jacob, who has twelve sons including Joseph. Their descendants are known as the **Israelites**. **Genesis 12-36**

## 4. Egypt and Exodus

Date: around 1500-1400 BC

Through Joseph, the Israelites move to Egypt, but generations later they end up as slaves. Under **Moses'** leadership, the Israelites escape Egypt to pursue the land that God promised Abraham.

**Exodus 1-13**

## 5. Wandering in the desert

Date: around 1400-1300 BC

The journey to the promised land isn't really very long, but the Israelites get lost because of their disobedience to God. From Exodus to the book of Joshua, we see how the Israelites live in the desert. **Exodus 14 to Joshua**

## 6. The Promised Land and the Time of the Judges

Date: from around 1300 BC

With Joshua in command, the Israelites conquer the promised land, but they are still a mess – forgetting about God and disobeying his commands. So God sends a series of leaders called judges, to rescue them from their enemies and remind them of the God they serve.

**Joshua and Judges**

## 7. David and the Time of the Kings

Date: up to around 930 BC

The Israelites call out for a king, and so, reluctantly, God appoints Saul. Saul starts well but then begins to disobey God, so **David** is chosen instead. When Saul dies, David becomes king and does a great job! After David, King Solomon reigns and builds the temple of God. During this time, many of the Psalms and Proverbs may have been written. **1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9**

## 8. A divided kingdom

Date: up to around 850 BC

Solomon's son Rehoboam becomes king, but he is cruel and so the northern tribes of Israel revolt against him, choosing another man, Jeroboam, to be their king. Therefore, the nation splits into two – Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

**1 Kings 12-13, 2 Chronicles 10-12**

## 9. The time of the Prophets and Exile

Date: around 850-400 BC

Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, we see a series of (mostly) evil kings taking God's people further away from him. So God sends prophets to warn and encourage his people. But eventually both Israel and Judah are captured and sent into exile. The people of Judah are allowed to return home from around 535 BC, though still under foreign rule. Ezra and Nehemiah lead the rebuilding of the temple and city walls. **2 Kings to Malachi**

## 10. Silence!

Date: around 400-6 BC

Malachi is the last prophet in the Old Testament, writing around 450-420 BC. Between then and the New Testament, we have no more prophecies – but God's people are waiting for a promised saviour. **Nowhere**



This is a generic writing frame for your 'evaluate the statement' extended writing tasks. Make sure to follow this and to refer to religious teachings to back up the points you are making.

### Writing frame

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agree</p>	<p><b><u>Who would AGREE with the statement?</u></b>                  Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that... because...                  This means that / For example...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disagree</p>	<p><b><u>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</u></b>                  In contrast, some Christians might disagree and say that... because...                  This means that / For example ...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b><u>Who would AGREE with the statement?</u></b>                  Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that... because...                  This means that / For example...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason                  This argument is strong/weak/convincing because...</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disagree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b><u>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</u></b>                  On the other hand Christians might disagree and say that... because...                  This means that / For example ...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason                  This argument is strong/weak/convincing because...</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conclusion</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b>  <b>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not</b>                  In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing argument is... because...                   Some people such as.... might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because...</p>

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# Lesson 1 - Title: What do we know about RE?

**LO:** To reflect on our prior knowledge within RE and to analyse how images link to particular religions

**Key Questions:** What do we already know about RE? How do images link to different religions?

**Keywords:**

**Religion:** the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

**Symbol:** a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract

**Think, pair, share...**

**Think to yourself;** What do I know about religion? What do you think we will learn about? What words come to mind when you hear Religious Education? What kind of questions do you think we will look at?

**Share your answers with your table partner...**

What did you have in common? What was different? Did anything surprise you?

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1. Circle any religious things you can see in the image.

2. Reflections  
Can you give any item in the image it's proper name?  
Write them here:  
(Eg. 'In this picture I can see a cross.')



Describe how these things are linked to religion:  
(Eg. 'The cross is the symbol of Christianity...')

3. Why might belief in a higher power (God or gods) be important for a person? (Try to give multiple reasons and always explain why!)

**Peer Assessment**  
WWW:  
  
HTI:

**Self Assessment/Target Setting** (how will you know you have achieved your target?)

## Lesson 2 - Title: What is Religious Education?

**LO:** To understand why RE is important and to reflect on the importance of RE within the world we live in

**Key Question:** Why is it important to study RE?

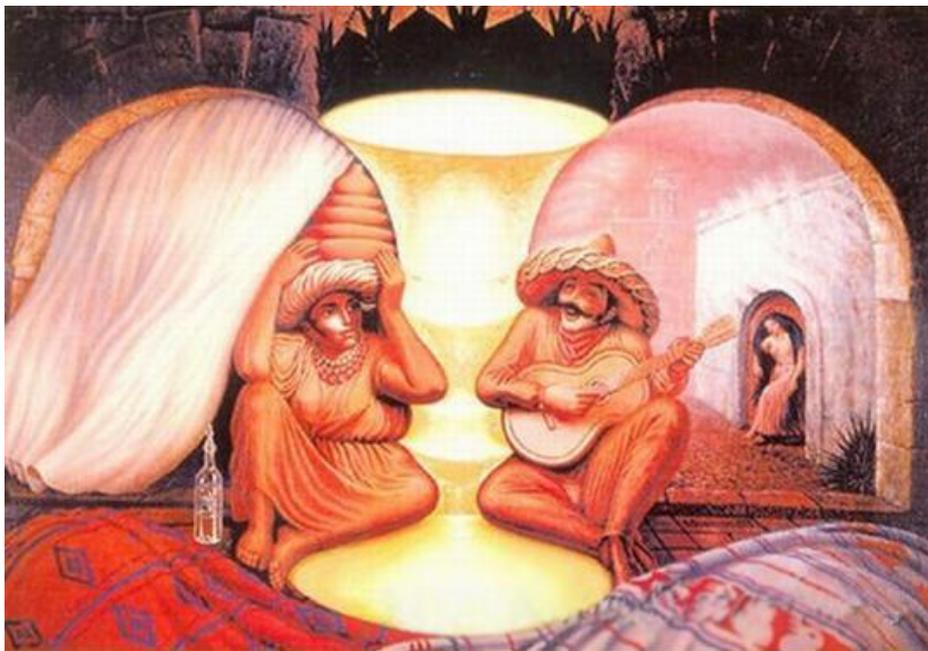
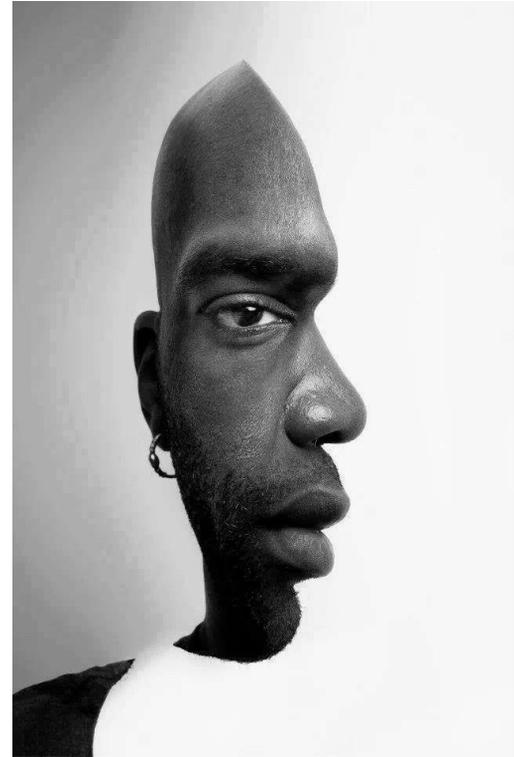
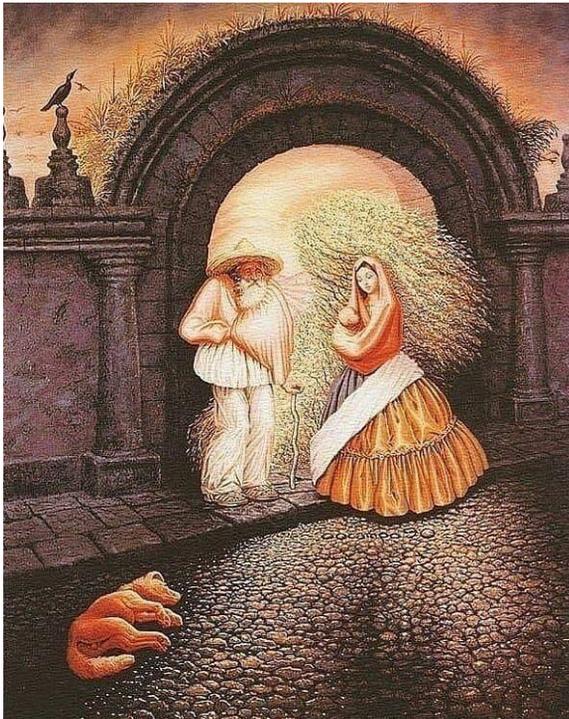
We all see the world differently based on our experiences, temperament, personality and perception.

**Think, pair, share...**

Look at the three images. What do you see?

**With your table partner, share your ideas.** Did you see the same thing? How did you interpret the images differently?

**Consider the following questions:** Are either of you right or wrong? Can both of you be right at the same time? Does one view make the other view wrong? How can the images be seen differently?



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# What is Religious Education?

What does a religious person look like?

**Think, pair, share...**

Study the first picture. Can you decide what religion each person belongs to? How do you know?

**With your table partner, share your ideas.**

Did you think the same thing? How did you interpret the image differently?



**Think, pair, share...**

Study the second picture. Can you decide what religion each person belongs to? How do you know?  
Who do you think belongs to a religion and which religion do they belong to?

**With your table partner, share your ideas.**

Did you think the same thing? How did you interpret the image differently?

**Consider the following questions:** Can we decide what religion we may or may not belong to based on the way we look? Why might it be dangerous to do so?



## What is Religious Education?

### What is religion and religious education?

Religion is the experience and expression of faith. Religious Education is not going to make you become a priest or a nun. It's about finding out about other people's beliefs and practices and understanding the world around us. Religious Education is also about understanding our own thoughts about the world and how we act.

### Important key words to remember:

**Fact:** a fact is verifiable. This means that we can determine whether something is true by researching the evidence. This may involve numbers, dates or testimonies.

**Opinion:** an opinion is a judgment based on facts, an honest attempt to draw a reasonable conclusion from factual evidence. An opinion can change depending on how the evidence is interpreted. When we learn new things we may change opinion.

**Belief:** a belief is a conviction based on cultural or personal faith, morality or values. Belief is thinking that something is true without having actual proof or evidence.

**Faith:** Faith is a strong belief in the principles of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than scientific proof (facts).



CHRISTIANITY  
LATIN CROSS



ISLAM  
CRESCENT AND STAR



HINDUISM  
AUM LETTER



BUDDHISM  
DHARMACHAKRA



TAOISM  
YIN AND YANG



SHINTO  
TORII GATE



JUDAISM  
STAR OF DAVID



SIKHISM  
KHANDA

### **Tasks:**

1. What are the differences between facts, opinion, belief and faith?
2. Which of the symbols to the left do you recognise?
3. What can you tell about them?
4. **AT2:** How may seeing these symbols influence someone (make someone think, feel or act)?

**Challenge:** Explain the difference between faith and religion

### Why is it important to learn about religion?

It is important to study religions and beliefs because we learn how religions and beliefs effect individuals, cultures, behaviour and national life. Most religions and beliefs offer answers to life's deepest questions; What is the purpose of life? What happens when we die? How do we measure life? Why are we here? Is there a God?

Learning about religion and learning from religion are important because it:

- Helps us understand the meaning of religious stories, symbols, events and pictures
- Teaches us about different beliefs
- Shows us how religion *influences* individuals, families, communities and cultures
- Helps us understand the political and social impact of religion
- Helps us reflect on issues of justice and truth
- Helps us develop positive attitudes towards others and respecting their beliefs and experiences
- Provokes questions about the meaning of life
- Offers opportunities for personal reflection
- Helps us tackle extremism and religious discrimination

Issues of religion and belief frequently top the news agenda and learning about religions helps make sense of them. Religious Education allows all of us living in a *diverse* society to understand the views and opinions of people whose beliefs and values differ from our own.

### **Tasks:**

1. Which of the words below do you think best describes the importance of learning about religions. Explain your choice: **Awareness, reflection, influence, respect, truth, God, questions, impact, culture**
2. Write a paragraph to explain why it is important to study Religious Education. Give at least three reasons.

**Sentence starters:** *It is important to study Religious Education because... Another reasons is... Some people believe it is important to study religion because...*

**Challenge: AT2:** In America it is illegal for schools to teach about religion. What reasons do you think there might be for this policy?

### Lesson 3 - Title: What is a source of authority?

**LO:** To analyse why Christians believe that the Bible reveals God's authority

**Key Question:** Why is the Bible a source of authority?

Most people have various *sources of authority* they can go to for help when trying to find out or understand something, or when making decisions about what to do. The Christian holy book is the Bible and is a source of authority for Christians. The Qur'an is the holy book for Muslims and the source of authority in Islam.



#### Source of authority include:

- friends
- family
- personal experience
- rational thinking
- conscience

Religious people also have other sources of guidance and help including:

- sacred texts
- founders of the faith
- religious principles or rules
- faith community leaders
- religious tradition
- other people in the faith community

#### Tasks:

1. What is a source of authority? *A source of authority is... This means that...*
2. **AT2:** Study the image above. Which source of authority do you think most influence people in their decision making? (how people act, think and feel) Explain why.
3. **AT2:** Which source of authority do you trust the most? The least? Why?
4. **AT2:** How do you think sources of authority may be influenced by beliefs, opinions, facts and/or faith?

**Challenge:** How do you think sources of authority differ between people in the same community? In the world?

## What is a source of authority?

### Sources of authority - The Bible

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion and for all Christians, the basis of all authority is God. Christian leaders seek guidance from the Bible and their understanding of Biblical teachings which derive from the word of God. Therefore, the Bible is the most important source of authority for Christians since it contains the teachings of God and Jesus Christ. All Christians, regardless of **denomination**, see the Bible as the starting point for guidance about their faith. It contains 66 different books and is split into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament is a collection of books that were written before the life of Jesus. It contains the rules which Christians should live by, contained in the Ten Commandments in the book of Exodus.

The New Testament is a collection of books beginning with the birth of Jesus. They were written after Jesus died and rose from the dead.

### Key words

**Monotheistic:** A religion which believes in one God  
**Denomination:** a branch of the Christian Church



### Tasks:

1. What is meant by the two key words *monotheistic?* *Denomination?*
2. Why is the Bible the most important source of authority for Christians? **Sentence starter:** *The Bible is the most important source of authority for Christians because...*
3. What is the main difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?

**Challenge task:** Create three questions you would have liked to ask authors contributing to writing the Bible.

## Translating the Bible - problems

a. The Bible is a collection of ancient writings; the New Testament in Greek, the Old Testament in Hebrew and Aramaic.

c. No two languages are identical so there can be no fully exact translations. The translation may be reasonably close to the original, but there can be no identity in detail.

d. With an imperfect knowledge of ancient cultures it is not always possible to understand references of various kinds. Bible scholars are continually learning things about ancient Israel and the Near East that can help us understand the historical and cultural context out of which the Bible emerged.

f. The Bible represent a greater variety of literary styles than any other piece of literature; historical narrative, prophecy, poetry, instructions and exhortation etc.

b. The Bible is written for a huge variety of people, e.g. theologians, adults, children, believers and non-believers. This means it is very difficult for a translator to translate the Bible since he must 'reproduce' an equivalent text in the Target Language, which can be 'used' for the same purposes as that of the Source Language.

e. The Bible is written in ancient languages. No one who spoke those languages is around to tell us what they mean. All languages change over time, some is added and some is lost.

g. Some passages of the Old Testament span over many cultures and more than a thousand years.

h. We do not have the original manuscript of the Bible, only copies of copies of copies.

### Tasks:

1. Study the problems above. Choose two and explain why they are problems.
2. Choose one problem and discuss how you think it may be possible to overcome.
3. **AT2:** How may the different problems influence how a believer interprets and trust the texts in the Bible?

**Challenge task:** Choose one of the tasks below and answer:

- a. **AT2:** Why do you think there is still a need to continue with new translations of the Bible in the future?
- b. Do the problems of translating the Bible apply equally to all texts in the Bible?

## Lesson 4 - Title: What is the Old Testament?

**LO:** To understand what the Old Testament is

**Key Question:** What books are in the Old Testament? Who wrote the books in the Old Testament?

### The Bible

The Bible is a diverse piece of literature which is one of the secrets of its continuing popularity through the centuries. Its is relevant to the issues that people struggle with in daily life. It holds something for all moods and many different cultures.

The Bible is not just one book, but an entire library, with stories, songs, poetry, letters and history, as well as literature that might more obviously qualify as 'religious'. The Christian Bible has two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the original Hebrew Bible, the sacred scriptures of the Jewish faith, written at different times between about 1200 and 165 BC. The New Testament books were written by Christians in the first century AD.

### **Key word:**

**Prophet:** a person who speaks in the name of God. The true test of a prophet was first given by Moses: *"when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken."* (Deuteronomy 18:22)

### **Tasks:**

1. When was the Bible written?
2. What two main sections do we find in the Bible?

**Challenge:** Why do you think the Bible has continued to be popular through the centuries?

### The Old Testament

The **Old Testament** is the first part of the Bible based on the books of the Hebrew Bible. It is a collection of ancient religious Hebrew writings by the Israelites believed by most **Christians** and religious **Jews** to be the sacred **Word of God**. By Jews, it is considered to be **The Law**, written over a long period of time, and is the literary archive of the ancient nation of Israel.

The first five books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) is the Hebrew Torah (law). It's not the law in a modern sense but more guidance offering everyday examples of how people were meant to live as well as legal requirements of the time.

The Prophets is the largest section of the Hebrew Bible. Here we find sayings and stories of religious and political activists ('prophets') reminding people of the social values that would follow the character of God.

The Writings include the *Psalms* (songs, prayers and worship), *Proverbs* (sayings of wisdom), Job (a drama that explores the nature of suffering), and the Five Scrolls. The Writings also includes the last books of the Hebrew Bible: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles (all history books), and Daniel (visions of a better world). The writings are believed to have been written under divine inspiration but have slightly less authority than that of The Prophets.

Reading the Bible – The Old Testament!

**Tasks:** The Bible has many books, each book several chapters and each chapter many verses.

1. Find Genesis **Chapter 1, verse 1** (Genesis 1:1). In your book write a brief summary of what it tells you.
2. Find Job, 1:1. Write down the following:
  - a. Who is this verse about?
  - b. What does this verse tell you about this man's character – what is he like?
  - c. How do you know – what words tell you this (evidence)?
  - d. **AT2:** How might this story impact on your life?
3. Find Exodus 20:3. What is the first of the Ten Commandments? What does this commandment tell you?
4. Find Jeremiah 29:11. Write the verse into your book. What does this verse tell you about God?
5. Find Proverbs 3:6. Write it into your book. Explain what this Proverb tells you. **Sentence starter:** *This proverb tells me that...*

**Challenge:** Go to the Psalms and look at the headings. Find a heading you like the sound of. Read that psalm. Write down the heading of the Psalm and a brief summary of what it is about.

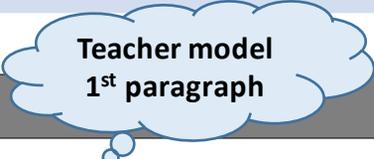
**Extended writing "Religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are equally important sources of authority"**

**'Religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are equally important sources of authority.'** Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer.

**Agree:** yes, religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are equally important.

**Disagree:** no, religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are not equally important.

Agree	Disagree
Religious leaders are following Jesus' teachings and the word of God so they should be equally important	Jesus' teachings are more important because he is the Son of God and is above religious leaders
Jesus himself did interpret the word of God as written in the Old Testament	Religious leaders are interpreting the word of God and Jesus teaching – is their interpretation accurate (written a long time ago/language has changed/cultural setting)
Can you add another argument?	Can you add another argument?



Writing frame	
<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p>Agree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are equally important because...</i>  <i>This means that/ For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <p>Disagree</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>In contrast, some Christians would disagree with the statement and say that religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are not equally important because...</i>  <i>For example ...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are equally important because...</i>  <i>This means that/ For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4</b></p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would disagree with the statement and say that religious leaders' and Jesus' teachings are not equally important because...For example ...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 5</b></p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b>  <b>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not</b>  <i>In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing argument is... because...</i></p> <p><i>Some people such as.... might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because...</i></p>

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## Lesson 5 - Title: Why is the Old Testament important to Christians?

**LO:** To understand the importance of the Old Testament

**Key Question:** How does the Old Testament influence Christians today?

### **Why is the Old Testament important to Christians?**

The Old Testament is important to Christians because it reveals **God**; that there is a **Creator**, that the world didn't just happen and that **God is in control** over everything at all times. In the Old Testament we learn that God is a **God of love** who is deeply concerned about every person who has ever lived. We learn that God's love is defined by his **laws**; 'Love God with all your heart, soul and mind' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. The **Ten Commandments**, statutes and judgments based on those commandments show Christians how to live God's way. This helps Christians understand how to act according to God's will in different situations. The Old testament also tells Christians that humanity is created in **God's image** and created to be like him.

The Old Testament is the Word of God and in 2 Timothy 3:16 we read that 'All Scripture is inspired by God.' This means that God guided the human authors to teach truths of God, that God gave the authors **inspiration** and they put it into their own words. Since the Old Testament is inspired by God, we come to know the character of God. This means that Christians learn about God's character, what God is like. The Old Testament reveals that **sin brings suffering**, when we sin there is penalty. On the other hand, if an individual **repents** of sin and asks God for **forgiveness**, God is ready and willing to forgive. Knowing that God is forgiving influences Christians to be forgiving. Christians also learn about **God's plan**; that God has a plan for all of us, that there would be a **Saviour** who would pay the death penalty for our sins and that there would be a resurrection of the dead to eternal life. This gives Christians hope, knowing that death is not the end.

### **Tasks:**

1. In the two paragraphs above, what **five key words** best describes the importance of the Old Testament.
2. List the main reasons why you think the Old Testament is important to Christians. Explain your choices..  
*... is the main reason the Old Testament is important to Christians because...*
3. **AT2:** How might knowing God's character (what God is like) influence Christians today? (Hint: role model)

**Challenge:** What do you think is meant by 'All Scripture is *inspired* by God.'?

"Anyone who does not *love* does not know God, because God is love.. So we have come to know and to believe the *love* that God has for us. God is *love*, and whoever abides in *love* abides in God, and God abides in him"

**1 John 4:8,16**





**Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and **everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.** <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; (Luke 18:31-32)

**Why is the Old Testament important to the writers of the New Testament?**

The New Testament is built on **the foundation of the Old Testament**. Together they form one complete story, the story of God's deep love for mankind and his plan for humanity. The Old Testament prophesied the coming of **Messiah**, Jesus. When we read part of the Old Testament as referring forward to Jesus, the authors at the time did not know their writing had this second meaning. Christians in the early Church scoured the Old Testament for references to Jesus, and read the Old Testament as implicitly referring to Jesus. Jesus himself saw the Old Testament referring to himself and being fulfilled in him. Jesus saw his passion, death and resurrection **predicted** in the Old Testament, "*everything that is written **by the Prophets** about the Son of man will be fulfilled.*" (Luke 18:31-32)

To understand Jesus who was a **Jew** we also need to understand his **Jewish past** and his Scriptures. We find this in the Old Testament. What Bible did Jesus read? When Jesus read the Bible in the synagogue in Nazareth obviously he could not read from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts or Paul or any other New Testament writing since they were not yet written. What we call the Old Testament was not the Old Testament for Jesus, for Jesus it was the **Bible**. In those Scriptures Jesus found fuel for his mission, ministry and prayer. Jesus prayer book was the book of the **Psalms**. Here Jesus could resort to a Psalm to suit his needs in prayer from joy to fear, from despair to thanksgiving. Knowing that the Old Testament was the source for much of Jesus' prayer leads Christian to want to discover the riches of those Scriptures which nourished Jesus spiritually.

We cannot see every event in the Old Testament anticipating Jesus, but the New Testament writers saw Jesus written in many pages of the Old Testament.

**Tasks:**

1. How does the Old Testament help us to understand Jesus?
2. Explain how the Old Testament is important to the New Testament. You must include the following key words; **foundation, Messiah, predicted, prophets, Bible, Jesus, prayer book**

**Challenge: AT2:** Imagine that you live in a country where RE is not taught in schools and you wish to persuade people that the subject should be introduced. How would you try and persuade them?

## Lesson 6 - Title: What is the story of Creation?

**LO:** To understand how the story of Creation can be viewed differently

**Key Question:** What is the story of Creation? How can the story of Creation be understood?

According to Christian belief, God created the universe. There are two stories of how God created it which are found at the beginning of the book of Genesis in the Bible. Some Christians regard Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 as two totally separate myths that have a similar meaning. Others see the two chapters as part of one continuous story.

### Key words:

**Sin:** Any action against God.

**Original Sin:** first sin in the world committed by Adam and Eve which means all humans are born with this in them.

**Genesis 1:** This account goes on to describe the seven days of creation:

**In the beginning** - God started creation

**Day 1** - light was created

**Day 2** - the sky was created

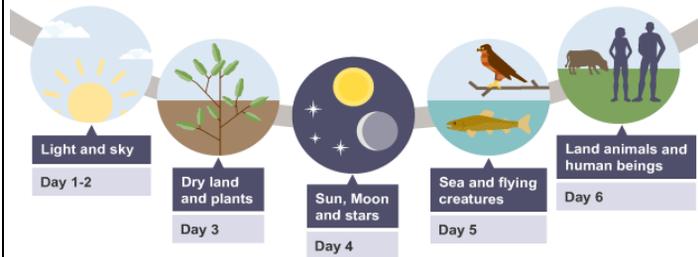
**Day 3** - dry land, seas, plants and trees were created

**Day 4** - the Sun, Moon and stars were created

**Day 5** - creatures that live in the sea and creatures that fly were created

**Day 6** - animals that live on the land and finally humans, made in the image of God were created

**Day 7** - God finished his work of creation and rested, making the seventh day a special holy day.



### Task:

1. How many days did the Creation take?
2. What did God do on the 7<sup>th</sup> day? Why do you think that is?

**Challenge:** Which day of the Creation do you think was the most important? Explain why.

### Literal and non-literal understanding of the Bible

The story of Creation can be understood in two different ways. **Literalist** believe that the Genesis story is literally true, that the world was created in 6 24 hour days exactly as it is told in the Bible.

**Non-literalists** don't understand the Creation literally. They believe it was six periods of time – not six 24 hour periods of time. Non-literalists can believe in the Big Bang and Evolution and that God made this happen.

Literalists and non-literalists do agree on some things. They both agree that God made the worlds and that he made the world good. They also agree that the Creation of the world was not an accident and that it was made for a purpose.

**Genesis 2** - Genesis 2 tells us how God created man. Adam was the first human created on Earth, out of the dust. God gave him the breath of life, he gave Adam a soul. God created the Garden of Eden where he placed a special tree, which Adam was forbidden to eat from. God realised that Adam shouldn't live alone. He took one of Adam's ribs, and created Eve. This is an important part of Genesis; this is why most Christians recognise man and wife, through Adam and Eve's union: "they shall be one flesh".

**Genesis 3 - The Fall** The fall describes how the first man and woman change from innocent obedience to God to a state of guilty disobedience. At first, Adam and Eve lived with God in the Garden of Eden, but the serpent (Devil) tempted them into eating the fruit from the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil. After doing so, they became ashamed of their nakedness and God banned them from the Garden of Eden, they were exiled, to prevent them from eating from the tree of life and becoming immortal. For many Christian denominations, the fall is closely related to that of **original sin**. They believe that the fall brought sin into the world and causing all humans to be born into original sin, a state from which they cannot attain eternal life without the grace of God.

### Task:

1. Describe how God created the first humans in no more than 30 words.
2. In three bullet points, explain what happened in the Fall.
3. Explain why the Fall is important to Christians.
4. **AT2:** How may the story of the Fall influence you and your daily life? If at all

**EXTENDED WRITING:** 'All humans are born into sin.' Do you agree? Who might disagree with you? (writing frame on next page)

## Extended writing "All humans are born into sin."

'All humans are born into sin'. Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer.

**Agree:** yes, all humans are born into sin.

**Disagree:** no, humans are not born into sin.

Agree	Disagree
Since the original sin (by Adam and Eve) all humans are born into sin	Babies have not yet committed sin of their own
Jesus died so that people have the opportunity to have salvation through him.	God is believed to be omnibenevolent so some might say why would he place sin on someone without just cause.
<b>Can you add another argument?</b>	<b>Can you add another argument?</b>

### Writing frame

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p>Agree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that all humans are born into sin because...</i>  <i>This means that / For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b>  <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <p>Disagree</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>In contrast, some Christians might disagree and say that not all humans are born into sin because...</i>  <i>This means that / For example ...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible.</b>  <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4a86e8; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; background-color: #d9e1f2;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Teachers model second paragraph</b></p> </div>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that all humans are born into sin because...</i>  <i>This means that / For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4</b></p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians might disagree and say that not all humans are born into sin because...</i>  <i>This means that / For example ...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</p>
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**LO:** To understand who Noah was?

**Key Question:** Why is Noah important to Christians?

**Descendants of Adam – Human Wickedness**

In Genesis 5 we read that Adam 'died at the age of 930.' During his life he had three children whom in turn had children grandchildren and great grandchildren of their own, the descendants of Adam.

**Tasks:** Read Genesis 6:1-8.

1. What does the passage tell you about what had happened to the human race?
2. How did God feel?
3. What did God do?

**The Flood**

Noah was a good man. He loved and obeyed God. And God loved Noah very much. God actually loved all the people as much as He loved Noah - but at the time, only Noah was listening to God. During Noah's lifetime, people were acting very wickedly and were not listening to God. This made God unhappy. It made Him sad because people seemed to be thinking more about themselves than about God.

God told Noah to build an ark, a big boat. So Noah followed God's plan and built a boat that was one-and-a-half football fields long. Noah's neighbours were laughing at him because there wasn't any water in the desert where they lived. But God told Noah that a great flood was coming. Noah tried to warn the people to change their ways so that they could hear God too. But they wouldn't listen. They just kept on with their selfish lives.

God asked Noah to collect two of all the creatures of the earth and bring them into the ark. He also told the animals to find Noah, so it wasn't hard for Noah to gather them together. Pairs of each kind of animal were put safely inside the ark. Noah's wife, and his three sons, and their wives were also safe on the boat. When everyone was aboard, God shut the door.

Noah and his family and the animals lived in the ark for seven days before the first rain fell and it rained for forty days and forty nights. Soon the earth was covered with water. After it stopped raining, the water continued to rise for 150 days. The ark landed in the mountain range of Ararat during the seventh month of the flood. God sent a big wind and the waters began to evaporate. Everyone had to stay in the ark for several more months while the earth slowly dried out.

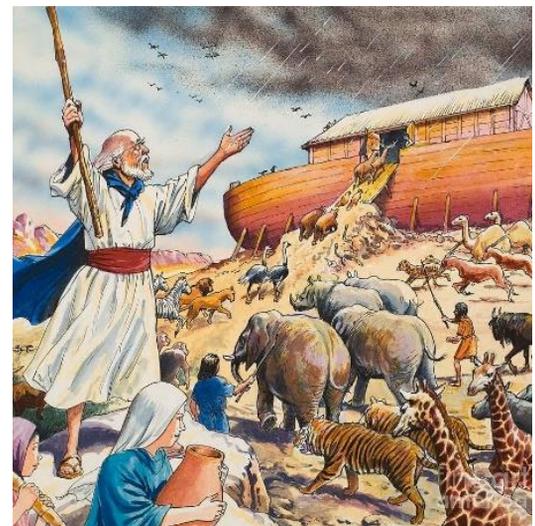
Finally, Noah sent a raven out of the ark's window to look for land. The raven never returned. Noah waited another week for the water level to go down and then sent a dove to do the same thing. The dove couldn't find a place to rest, so it returned to the ark. Another week passed, and then Noah sent the dove out again. This time it came back with an olive branch. Noah now knew that the water was low enough for a tree branch to show! When Noah sent off the dove a week later, it didn't return. The dove had found a place to live on dry land.

Noah and his family and the animals lived on the ark for 1 year, 1 month, and 27 days. It was now time for all the creatures and Noah's family to move off the ark. Noah and his family and the animals needed to start life over again.

**Tasks:**

1. Write down the top five key words that you think best describe Noah.
2. In no more than 30 words, write a summary of the story of Noah.
3. How do you think Noah and his family felt being on the Ark for such a long time?
4. **AT2:** How would you have felt if you were present at the time?

**Challenge: The God of mercy or the God of wrath** - God is known by Christians to be forgiving. Do you think it was right of God to 'clean the earth' of everyone that were acting wickedly and not following God's word? Why? Why not?



## God's covenant with Noah – Genesis 9

God blessed Noah and his sons and said, 'Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth. All the animals, birds and fish will live in fear of you. They are all placed under your power. God said to Noah and his sons, 'I am now making my **covenant** with you and with your descendants, and with all living beings, everything that came out of the boat with you. I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood, never again will the earth be destroyed by a flood. As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world. Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, I will remember my promise to you and all the animals. That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings.

### Key word:

**Covenant:** an agreement between two parties

### Tasks:

1. What did God promise?
2. What sign did he say would remind him of his promise?

**Challenge:** God said 'never again will I destroy the earth with a flood.' Could there be other ways God decides to destroy the earth?



### Importance of Noah

1. **It doesn't matter what others think:** Noah lived in a time of corruption and sin and he never gave into it. Had Noah given in to what others thought, he would have perished in the flood. God saw his unwillingness to follow the wicked which allowed God to choose Noah.
2. **Be faithful to God:** Noah was faithful to God and did not give in to sin. He was faithful enough to be able to complete the difficult task set him.
3. **Trust in God to guide you:** God gave Noah directions just as Christians believe God gives them directions to fulfil his purpose.
4. **Take your strength from God:** Noah persevered and remained focused on God's plan and God gave him the strength to do so.

### Tasks:

Look at the importance of the story of Noah. How may be story influence Christians in their daily life?

**AT2** Is the story of Noah important to you? Why?/Why not?

**Option for teacher assessed work:** Explain two reasons why Noah is important to Christians. (4)

**Challenge:** Which point do you think is most important? Why?

**LO: To understand who Job was?**

**Key Question: Why is Job important to Christians?**

**Task:**

1. What different characters do you meet in the story of Job? What do you learn about them?
2. What five key words best describe the story of Job?
3. **AT2** What message did you learn from the story?

**Challenge:** *'The Book of Job can be considered as fiction.'* Do you agree? Why? Why not?



Job lived in a country called Uz. He had three daughters, seven sons, even more servant and thousands of cattle. Job was considered a rich man. Job was also a Godly man and did things that pleased God. He regularly prayed and asked God to bless him and forgive him for his sins. He built altars and made offerings to God. When Job's sons grew up, they would have large feasts. The morning after each feast, Job would place offerings on the altar for all of his children.

Satan knew that God loved Job, and that Job loved God. God blessed Job with many friends, with wealth, and with happiness. Satan did not like this. He complained to God one day about Job. Satan said that Job only served him because he was blessing him. Satan also said that if Job had a lot of trouble, he would turn away from God. Even though God knew that Satan was wrong, he allowed Satan to send Job a lot of trouble.

And Job's troubles began. As Job's children were having a feast, a messenger brought bad news to Job. The messenger told Job that people had come and stole all his donkeys and oxen and killed all the servants. He was the only one that got away. Just then another servant came to tell Job some more bad news. He told Job that lightning had killed his sheep and even more servants. He too had barely escaped. Along came another servant to tell Job more bad news. He told Job that some other people stole his camels and killed the servants. Then another servant came and told Job that a great wind blew down the house that his children were in and that they all had died.

Job was very upset with all of this bad news. He tore his clothes and fell down on his face. Even though he was very upset, he didn't turn away from God like Satan thought he would. Since all of these bad things did not make Job turn away from God, Satan made life even more miserable for Job. Satan thought that if he made life even harder for Job, then he would surely turn away from God.

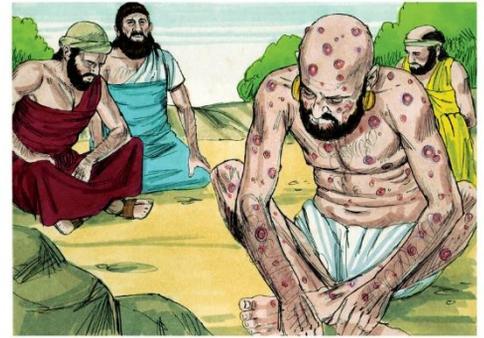
Back when Job lived, people believed that bad things happened to people because God was punishing them for their sins. Satan thought that Job believed this too, so he caused ugly sores to break out on Job's body. Everyone was horrified; including his wife. She even told Job to curse God and die. Job had three friends that came over to help him feel better. Even they thought that Job must have done something wrong. They thought God was punishing Job.

Then one day God spoke to Job. God told Job that he was upset with his three friends because they were wrong. Job had not done anything wrong. Job was not being punished by God. God began to bless Job again. His sores went away. He grew richer than he was before. In fact, he soon had twice as much! God gave Job more children, servants, and animals. Even when times were bad, Job trusted God.

Importance of the story of Job for Christians

The story of Job teaches Christians many things;

- 1. We don't all have the answers:** Job's friends were sure that his sins had caused his suffering and they were certain they were right. But after God intervened, he rebuked the friends for speaking falsely about him and the situation. And Job didn't have all the answers either and did not understand why he was suffering. The story of Job teaches Christians that sometime we don't know why God allows certain things to happen but that they should trust in him.
- 2. Comfort those who suffer:** Job called his friends "miserable comforters" (Job 16:2). Instead of comforting, they added more grief to his situation. What he needed was friends who would increase his faith in God's, pray with him and encourage him to hang in there.
- 3. God's unlimited power cannot be fully understood:** Why some things happen is beyond human understanding. This helps some Christians explain why there is suffering in the world. Job never learns why he has suffered but appreciates that God's unlimited power cannot be fully understood by human beings.
- 4. Have faith in God:** God restores Job's health and gives him twice as much property as before, more children, and a very long and prosperous life.



**Tasks:**

Study the four points under *The importance of the story of Job*. For each point explain how the story of Job influences Christians in their daily life.

*1. Knowing and accepting that we don't always have all the answers helps Christians to...*

*2. Learning that the Bible teaches Christians to comfort those who suffers helps Christians to...*

*3. Understanding that God has unlimited power that cannot be fully understood helps Christians to...*

*4. The story of Job teaches Christians to have faith in God. This helps them to...*

**AT2** Considering the book of Job, do you think people should be scared of God? Why? Why not?

**Challenge:**

How may the book of Job relate to ideas of suffering?

# Suffering?



**LO:** To understand who Abraham was

**Key Question:** Why is Abraham important to Christians?

Abraham is the common patriarch of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Jews regard Abraham as the first **Patriarch** of the Jewish people and the founding father of the **Covenant**, the special relationship between the Hebrews and God. Abraham was the **first person to teach the idea that there was only one God**; before then, people believed in many gods. In Christianity, he is the role model of all believers, Jewish or Gentile. Many Christians believe that they are descendants of Abraham (Galatians 3.29).

**Key words:**

**Patriarchs:** biblical figures regarded as fathers of the human race

**Gentile:** not Jewish

**Covenant:** an agreement between two parties

**Tasks:**

1. What was Abraham the first person to do?
2. Why is this important to Christians?

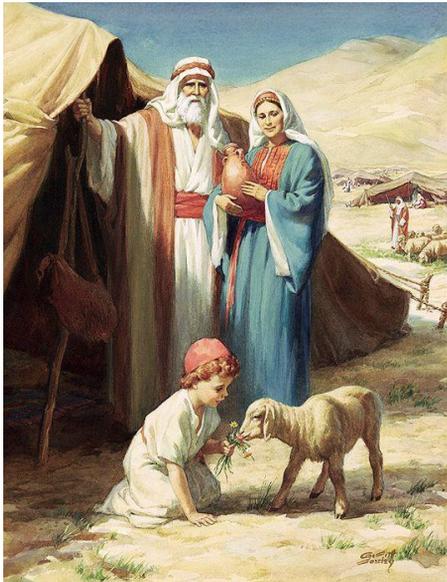


**God's promise to Abraham**

God created man in his image in order that man might represent him on earth. By Abraham's time, humanity had turned completely away from God, been destroyed by the Flood and were once again turning away from God. God began fulfilling this part of his plan of salvation by calling Abram, as he was known then, to leave his hometown of Ur and travel to a new land that God would show him.

Abraham's name was originally "Abram", which means 'the father is exalted'. His name was changed to "Abraham", which means 'father of a multitude', when God initiated his **covenant** with him. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many people. However, Abraham was 99 years old and his childless wife Sarah was 90. They were past the normal age for having children so it would clearly be a miracle of God were they to have any. Nevertheless, Abraham trusted God and believed God could accomplish what he had promised.

God had promised that Abraham would have children. When this did not take place as quickly as Abraham thought it should, he became impatient with God and took matters into his own control. Sarah, Abraham's wife, was still childless, so she told Abraham to sleep with her handmaid, so that they might get a child from the union. A son was born from this union; his name was Ishmael. However, this was not God's plan. God's promise was for the offspring of Abraham and Sarah's union. Isaac was the name of the son that came from the union of Abraham and Sarah and it would be through Isaac that the nations would be blessed.



**Tasks:**

1. What did God promise Abraham?
2. Why did Abraham become impatient?
3. Write five true or false questions about God's promise to Abraham. For example: *Abraham's name was originally Arahm.* – true or false?
4. **AT2** How may this scripture impact your own life?

**Challenge:**

- Underline the three most important pieces of information in the text **God's promise to Abraham**. Explain why they are the most important.



**God tests Abraham**

Abraham and Sarah were very happy with their new son, Isaac; however, God had a test for Abraham. God told Abraham, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Genesis 22:2 ESV). This would have been a tremendous shock to any parent; to be blessed by a long-awaited child, only to have God tell you to sacrifice that child.

Nevertheless, the Bible does not say that Abraham hesitated for a moment. In fact, there are certain passages that indicate Abraham's strong faith that God would not take his son at all. Abraham believed God would raise Isaac back to life if the sacrifice actually did take place. Abraham took his son up to a mountain, lay him down, and prepared to kill him in obedience to God's command. However, God intervened by stopping Abraham from killing his son and by providing a sacrifice in the form of a ram caught in the nearby brush. Abraham's faith had been tested, and proved, by his obedience to God.

**Tasks:**

1. How did God test Abraham? Include the following key words in your answer: **God, offer, sacrifice, faith, raise, tested, obedience**
2. How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice his son? How would you have felt?

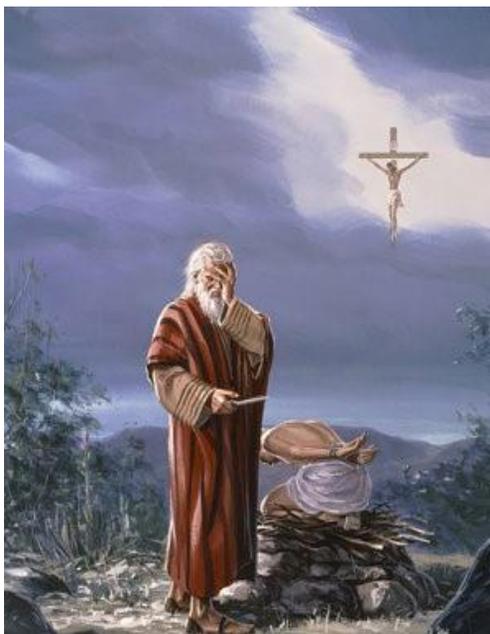
**Challenge:** What pieces of information in the text to the right is evidence for Abraham's **trust** in God? Is this strong/weak evidence for Abraham's trust? Explain why.

**Why the story of Abraham is important to Christians**

God had promised Abraham, "...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 22:18). How could one man's children be responsible for the entire earth being blessed? The answer lies in the fact that one of Abraham's descendants would be the Savior of the world. Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. The apostle Paul explains this clearly, "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring". It does not say, "And to offspringS," referring to many, but referring to **ONE**, "And to your offspring," who is **Christ**" (Galatians 3:16). God's plan was at work the entire time; moving toward the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Abraham's sacrifice of his son is important to Christians because it is a prophecy of God's sacrifice of his own son, Jesus.

Abraham was not a perfect man; however, the overall direction of his life was towards God. Christians believe that just as God was with Abraham even when he struggled, God loves them and will forgive them if they fail. It also shows Christians to have faith and trust in God.

The New Testament presents Abraham as a model of faithful life; a life that believes the truths of God and lives out those truths in day-to-day living. This is the kind of faith Christians seek to duplicate; and with the help of the Holy Spirit, they believe they are able to do so.



**Tasks:**

1. How may the story of Abraham influence Christians today?
2. Explain the link between Abraham's sacrifice and the New Testament.
3. **AT2** What part of the story of Abraham do you think is most important? Why?

**Option for teacher assessed work:** Explain two reasons why Abraham is important to Christians. Refer to scripture or sacred writing in your answer. (5)

**Challenge:** Create three questions and answers on the importance of Abraham.

**LO:** To understand who Moses was?

**Key Question:** Why is Moses important to Christians?

One of the greatest figures in the Bible is the man called Moses. The first five books of the Bible are traditionally ascribed to him. Moses is the channel between God and the Hebrews, through whom the Hebrews received a basic charter for living as God's people. Moses, or Musa, is also an important prophet in Islam.

**The story of Moses - 1300 BCE**

According to the Bible, the descendants of Jacob (Abraham's grandson) had lived in Egypt for more than 450 years, during which time they grew into a nation: the nation of Israel. The Egyptians began to see them as a threat and tightened their control on them, forcing them to work as slaves. This was over thousand years after Abraham. Eventually, in an attempt to reduce their numbers, newborn Israelite babies were drowned in the River Nile. The Bible says that the Israelites asked God for help and that he sent them a leader: Moses. In order to escape death, Moses' mother placed him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile. She left his fate up to God's will. The infant Moses was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in the palace as a royal prince.



**Tasks:**

1. How might Moses' mother have felt when she had to abandon her child in order to save him?
2. How does Moses' mother's action show trust in God?

**Challenge:** Are there any similarities to situations happening in today's world?

As an adult, Moses reacted against the unfair treatment of his own people and killed an Egyptian guard. Moses was forced to flee from the wrath of the Pharaoh. He was driven into exile in the land of Midian. He married Zipporah, the daughter of the Priest of Midian, and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God speaking to him through a bush which flamed but did not burn. God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses was at first reluctant, thinking that the Israelites would not believe he had heard the word of God. God then gave Moses special powers and inspired by this, Moses returned to Egypt and demanded freedom for his people. At first, the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave, then God unleashed 10 plagues on the Egyptians. It was the tenth plague - the plague of the firstborn - which eventually persuaded the Pharaoh to let them go. It was announced that the first-born sons in every household would die, but the sons of the Israelites would be saved if they marked their door posts with the blood of a lamb killed in sacrifice. They had to cook the lamb and eat it that night with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. These are the origins of the Jewish Festival: **Passover** and Jews remember the escape from Egypt in this festival every year.

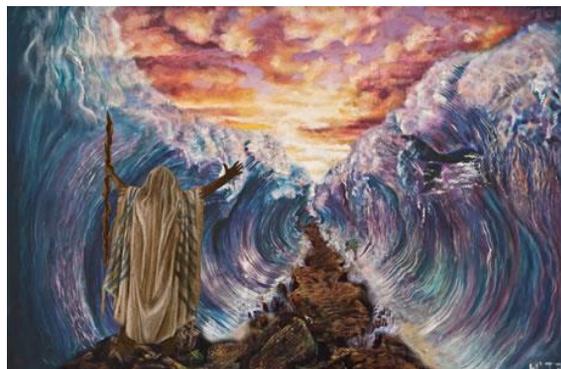


The Pharaoh changed his mind, and sent his army in pursuit of the Israelites. 600 chariots pursued them, but famously, the waters of the Red Sea parted; the Israelites walked through, then the waters returned and destroyed the Pharaoh's army.

**Tasks:**

1. What gave Moses courage to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?
2. **AT2** What might someone non-religious think about the story Moses?
3. What is the Jewish Festival of the Passover?
4. Why is it celebrated?

**Challenge:** God saved the Israelites after having walked through the parting of the Red Sea. After, he destroyed Pharaoh's army. Thinking about God being merciful, do you agree with this? Why? Why not?



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Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and led them to the Holy Land that God had promised them. The Jews were helped on their journey by God; the same God who'd promised Abraham that he would look after the Jews. After travelling through the desert for nearly three months they reached Mount Sinai, in present day Egypt. Here God spoke to Moses high on the mountain slopes and made a covenant with the Jews that renewed the one he had made with Abraham. At the same time, God gave the Jews a set of rules that they should live by. God declared that the Israelites were his own people and that they must listen to God and obey His laws. On behalf of Israel, Moses received the *Torah (The Law)*, the authoritative teaching, instruction, or guidance of God. The most famous of these are the Ten Commandments. But there are actually 613 commandments covering every aspect of life including law, family, and personal hygiene and diet.

**The Ten Commandments**

In the Ten Commandments, Moses outlined a basis for morality which has lasted over 3,000 years and been embraced by two-thirds of the world's population. The most common form of the Ten Commandments is given in Exodus chapter 20 and Deuteronomy chapter 5.

- You shall have no other Gods but me.
- You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.
- Respect your father and mother.
- You must not commit murder.
- You must not commit adultery.
- You must not steal.
- You must not give false evidence against your neighbour.
- You must not be envious of your neighbour's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Moses influence continues to be felt in religious life, moral concerns and social ethics of Western civilization as well as through Christian, Jewish and Islamic religious life.

**Tasks:**

1. What do each of the Ten Commandment means. Example: **'You shall have no other Gods but me'** means to only have one God, which is God.
2. Rank the 10 Commandments from most to least important. Explain your top and bottom choices.
3. **AT2** Which of the Ten Commandments do you think has most impact on your life, if any?

**Challenge:** Study the Ten Commandments. Are they all relevant to today's society? May any of them be outdated? Why?



**EXTENDED WRITING:** *'Respecting your father and mother.'* is the most important of the Ten Commandments'. Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer. **WRITING FRAME ON NEXT PAGE**

'Respecting your father and mother.' is the most important of the Ten Commandments'. Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer.

**Agree:** yes, the most important of the Ten Commandments it 'Respecting your father and mother'.

**Disagree:** no, 'Respecting your father and mother is not the most important of the Ten Commandments. X is more important because....

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Writing frame

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p>Agree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that respecting your father and mother is the most important of the Ten Commandments because...                  This means that/ For example...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <p>Disagree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>In contrast, some Christians would disagree with the statement and say that Respecting your father and mother is not the most important of the Ten Commandments because...                  This means that/ For example...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>On the other hand, some Christians would agree with the statement because...                  This means that/ For example...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4</b></p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would disagree with the statement because...                  For example/ This means that...                  Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p> <p><b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 5</b></p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b>  <b>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not</b>  <i>In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing argument is... because...</i></p> <p><i>Some people such as.... might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because...</i></p>

Teachers model third paragraph

**LO:** To understand who David was?

**Key Question:** Why is David important to Christians?

**Think, pair, share...**

What kind of personality characteristics makes a good leader?

**Task:** As we read through the information on the next two pages, highlight any information that tells you about what kind of person David was.

**Key words –**

**Anointed:** The application of oil in a religious ceremony, usually performed by a religious leader on a person being blessed

**Divine grace:** God’s power and presence.

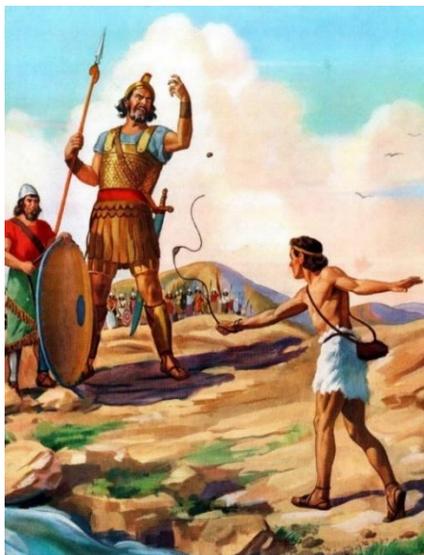
King David was God’s anointed representative on Earth. He was faithful to God throughout his life and God blessed him in many ways.

**David’s Early Life**

David was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, 907 BCE. He was the youngest of seven sons, a red-cheeked, bright-eyed and handsome young man, used to tend to the sheep of his father, Jesse. Now, the people had recently anointed King Saul as the first king of Israel, but Saul soon sinned and fell from divine grace. It was then that the prophet Samuel (as directed by God) anointed David as king of Israel. And so his ascension to the throne began.

**David and Saul**

King Saul and David’s first encounter occurred when an evil spirit gripped King Saul. His advisors suggested he bring in a skilled musician who would play for the king to ease his mind. One of the attendants present recommended that the king bring in young David, whom he knew to be a skilled performer. Little did Saul know that the young lad who was playing before him was destined to be his successor.



**David and Goliath**

King Saul was battling the Philistines, longtime enemies of Israel. In the valley of Elah, the two armies were poised for battle, with nothing but a hill separating them. The Philistines vastly outnumbered Saul’s army. A Philistine giant, Goliath, appeared on the hill, and his words came roaring down like thunder: *“Why should you come out to engage in battle? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul’s servants. Choose one of your men and let him come down against me. If he overcomes me in combat and kills me, we will become your slaves; but if I best him and kill him, you shall be our slaves and serve us.”*

The sight of the fierce giant, a towering figure on the hill, clad in armour, iron and brass from head to foot, filled the Jews with great terror. There was not a single man in the Israelite camp who dared accept the challenge. Day after day, for 40 days, this mighty giant appeared on the hill to repeat his challenge, morning and evening. Then, young David, filled with courage, approached the giant with just a staff, a slingshot and five stones. And with one shot, he slew the giant where he stood. He proceeded to cut off his head and presented it to King Saul. The Philistines witnessing this event fled in fear. And David was a national hero.

**Tasks:**

1. How is the story of David and Goliath important to Christians?
2. How may the story influence Christian in their daily life?
3. **AT2** How does the story of David make you feel?

**Challenge:** Think about the symbolism of ‘the Giant’. What might it mean to ‘overcome our giants’?

**Task:** Remember to highlight any information that tells you about what kind of person David was.

### King Saul vs. David

God continued to grant David much success in battle. King Saul started to fear that David's fame and power would one day help him get to the throne. This led to a war between the two men. King Saul took hold of a spear and threw it at David. By Divine intervention, David managed to escape. David fled to hide and the King Saul embarked on a quest to hunt down and kill him. Twice during this hunt King Saul was at the mercy of David, and instead of taking advantage of the situation and killing the king, David spared his life, as he dared not to lay his hand upon God's anointed one. It was only after David spared his life for the second time that King Saul finally retreated and let David be.

### Death of Saul and Jonathan

King Saul and his son Jonathan died in battle in the war against the Philistines. David sincerely mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan and the defeat of Israel. He now saw that the time had come for him to emerge from exile and take over the leadership of his people. He went to Judah where the people gathered and anointed him king. In the prime of his life (he was 30 years old), David was wise in council, prompt in action, God-fearing and earnest, and the people recognised him as the most suitable candidate for the throne.

### **Key words –**

**Rebuke:** express strong disapproval

**Penance:** punishment inflicted on oneself as an outward expression of repentance for wrongdoing.



"So David reigned over all Israel, and he administered justice and equity to all his people." 1 Chronicles 18:14

"And the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations." 1 Chronicles 14: 17

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### **Task:**

1. Study the Bible quotes above. What do they tell you about David?
2. Why do you think David was chosen as king?
3. **AT2** Imagine if you were in King David's shoes how would this make you, feel, act?

**Challenge:** Create three questions with answers about David.

### King David and Bathsheba

Sometime after David was anointed king he met a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. She was married to a soldier named Uriah. David's passion for Bathsheba was strong and he wished to marry her. He sent Uriah to the front lines of battle, knowing full well that he was giving him a death sentence. When news of Uriah's death reached David, he took Bathsheba as his wife. God was displeased with David's actions and sent the prophet Nathan to rebuke the king. Knowing that he sinned, David sat in penance until God forgave him.

### **Task:**

1. From what you now know about David, write a paragraph describing what kind of person David was.
2. Explain why many people thought David was a good king.
3. How may the story of David influence Christians today?

**Challenge:** Explain why some people may think that David wasn't a good king.

**Importance to Christians:** David was a great king - *the* greatest king in Israel's history - despite what he did rather than because of what he did. His greatness is shown through his humanity, through his weakness, through his vulnerability. It also shows that even though he was a king, he came before God, just as a human being, and said "sorry". The story of Bathsheba also shows Christians that anyone is vulnerable to temptation and that sin can distort and destroy. It also shows Christians that God is forgiving. The story of David also shows that fall leads to exile but it is possible to return to God.

**LO:** To understand who Elijah was?

**Key Question:** Why is Elijah important to Christians?

**Elijah** was a Hebrew prophet that flourished in the 9th century BCE. He was a very important person and ranks with Moses in saving the religion of Christianity from being corrupted by the **nature worship** of **Baal**. The story of his prophetic career in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Ahab and Ahaziah is told in 1 Kings 17–19 and 2 Kings 1–2 in the Bible. Elijah claimed that there was no reality except the God of Israel, stressing **monotheism** to the people.

**Key words:**

**Nature worship** is religious, spiritual and devotional practices that focus on the worship of the nature spirits.

**Baal:** a god worshipped in many ancient Middle Eastern communities, especially among Canaanites.

**Pagan:** a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions

**Pilgrimage:** religious journey

**Successor:** a person following (succeeding) another.

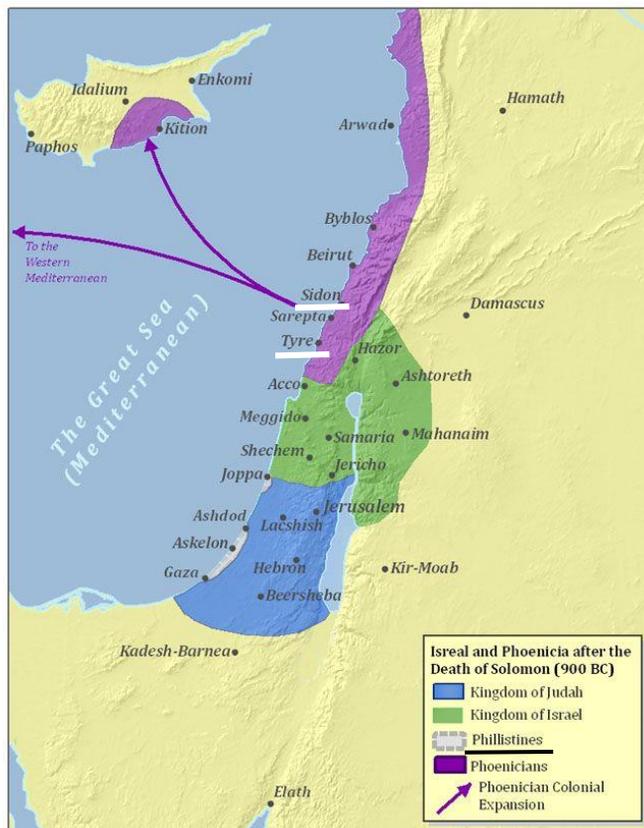
**Tasks:**

1. Thinking back to the Ten Commandments, which of the Ten Commandments did the people go against?
2. What part of the text or key words are evidence for this? How do you know?

**Historical Setting of the time of Elijah**

The Israelite king Omri had allied himself with the Phoenician (mainly today's Lebanon) cities of the coast. His son Ahab was married to Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Tyre and Sidon (two Phoenician city regions). Jezebel, with her Tyrian courtiers and a large contingent of pagan priests and prophets, promoting her native religion in a sanctuary built for **Baal**. This meant that the Israelites accepted both **Baal** and God, putting God equal with a nature-god. Jezebel's spreading the religion of Baal contaminated the religion of God.

Elijah was from Tishbe in Gilead (present day Jordan). The Bible tells us how he suddenly appears during Ahab's reign to announce a drought in punishment of worshipping Baal instead of God. Elijah meets 450 prophets of Baal in a contest of strength on Mount Carmel to determine which deity (God) is the true God of Israel. Sacrifices are placed on one altar to Baal and one to God. The Baal prophets' appeals to Baal to burn the wood on his altar are unsuccessful, but Elijah's prayers to God are answered and the altar burns. This is proof to the Israelites, who slay the priests and prophets of Baal under Elijah's direction. Rain start to fall and he drought ends. Elijah must flee the wrath of the vengeful Jezebel by undertaking a **pilgrimage** to Mount Horeb (Sinai), where he is at first disheartened in his struggle and then miraculously renewed.



King Ahab has a man named Naboth condemned to death so that Ahab can get Naboth's vineyard. Ahab's murder of Naboth and confiscation of his vineyard was legally allowed at this time. But Elijah questions the actions of Ahab and Elijah promotes the moral law of God. Elijah accuses Ahab for his crimes and asserts that **all men are equal** under the law of God. Later Ahab's son, King Azariah, appeals to Baal to heal him of illness, and Elijah once more defends the exclusive rights of God to perform miracles *by bringing down "fire from heaven."* After presenting his mantle on his **successor**, Elisha, the prophet Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

**Tasks:**

1. What do you learn about the people of the time? What are they like?
2. What challenges were Elijah facing?
3. How did he overcome them?
4. **AT2** How do you think you would have felt and acted if you in the area at the time of Elijah?

**Challenge:**

Change the most serious problem Elisha faced into an image, no words allowed.

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## Importance of the Elijah

One of the most important moments in the history of **monotheism** is the height of Elijah's struggle with Baalism. His important words, *"If Yahweh is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him"* and the prayer *"Hear me, Yahweh, that this people may know that you, Yahweh, are God"* shows his fight for the true God. Elijah's words declare that there is no reality except the God of Israel, there are no other beings entitled to the name of **divinity**. The people calling, *"Yahweh, he is God"* expresses a fully conscious monotheism.

Elijah's most important prophetic experience takes place on his pilgrimage to Horeb, where he learns that God is not in the storm, the earthquake, or the lightning. Nature is not the body of God, is not even a symbol of God. Instead he learns that God is invisible and spiritual. This is one of the earliest expressions about God being **transcendent**.

Elijah's story is also the first time we learn that salvation is given only by those purified by God's judgment.

Elijah also teaches Christians that morality and the unity of law and religion are above the tyrannical cruelty of a king influenced by a pagan wife.

## Key words:

**Yaweh:** Hebrew name for God

**Theological:** relating to the study of the nature of God and religious belief

**Divinity:** the state or quality of being divine (like God)

**Transcendent:** beyond or above the normal or physical human experience.

**Transfiguration:** a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state

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## The transfiguration of Jesus

The transfiguration of Jesus is a story told in the New Testament when Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain (the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called "Son" by a voice in the sky, assumed to be God the Father. The event is one of many proofs in the Bible showing Christians that Jesus is the Son of God.

Many Christian traditions, including the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, commemorate the event in the Feast of the Transfiguration, a major festival.

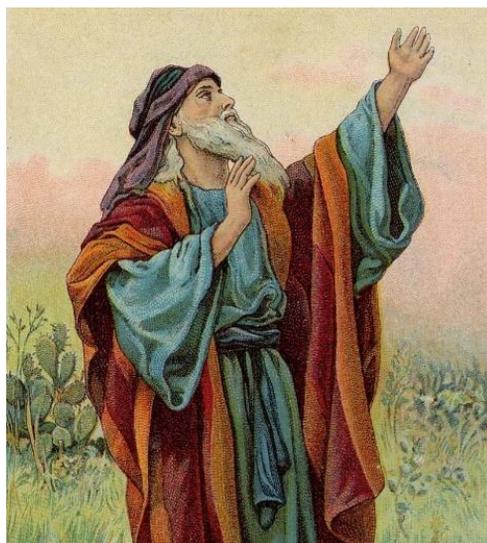
## Tasks:

1. Give three reasons why Elijah is important to Christians. You must include the following key words in your answer: **monotheistic, divine, invisible, transcendent, salvation, law**
2. Describe the transfiguration of Jesus.
3. Explain why the transfiguration is important to Christians.
4. **AT2** Do you believe the transfiguration of Jesus happened? Why?/Why not?

**Challenge:** From what you now know about Elijah, what kind of person do you think he was? How would you describe him as a person?

**LO:** To understand who Isaiah was?

**Key Question:** Why is Isaiah important to Christians?



Isaiah is a prophet of God and prophesied from 739–681 BC to a nation that had turned a deaf ear to God. Instead of serving God with humility and offering love to their neighbours, the nation of Judah (one of the 12 tribes of Israel) offered meaningless sacrifices in God's temple at Jerusalem and committed injustices throughout the nation. The people of Judah turned their backs on God and alienated themselves from him. Isaiah pronounced the coming of God's judgment hoping that God's chosen people would return to God. The name Isaiah means 'the Lord is salvation' and Isaiah prophesied the coming of Messiah, Jesus Christ.

**Tasks:**

1. What does it mean 'To turn a deaf ear to God'? What were the people doing?
2. From the information above, why do you think Isaiah is important to Christians?

**Challenge:** What main link can you make between Isaiah found in the Old Testament and what you know about the New Testament?

Isaiah is the name of a book in the Old Testament of the Bible, which tells the story of the Israelites in Isaiah's time. According to Christianity, Isaiah predicted in this book, the birth and death of Jesus, hundreds of years before it actually happened. The Book of Isaiah is quoted many times by New Testament writers. Many of those references are about Jesus, how he will suffer and die to save humanity from their sins, be buried in a rich man's tomb, and be a light to the Gentiles. The Gospel of John says that Isaiah "*saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.*"

The book of Isaiah provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament. It includes the full scope of his life: the announcement of his coming, Mary's virgin birth, his proclamation of the good news, his sacrificial death, and his return to claim his own. Because of these and numerous other texts referring to Jesus in Isaiah, the book stands as a testament of hope in God and Jesus who saves his people from themselves.

**Tasks:**

1. In no more than 30 words, explain why Isaiah is important to Christians according to the text above.
2. Which of the options below is correct? How do you know? (three are correct)
3. **AT2** Isaiah made important prophecies, how does that make you feel?

**Challenge:** Isaiah is the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ. Why is this essential to the Christianity as a religion?



- a. The story of Isaiah is found in the New Testament.
- b. The Story of Isaiah tells about the Israelites in Abraham's time.
- c. Isaiah lived during Jesus' time
- d. The Book of Isaiah is quoted many times in the New Testament.
- e. The Gospel of Matthew says that Isaiah "*saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.*"
- f. The books of Isaiah only mentions the birth of Jesus.
- g. The book of Isaiah is the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus.
- h. The book of Isaiah is important to Christians because it proves and gives hope in God and Jesus who saves his people from themselves.

**Exile in Babylon**

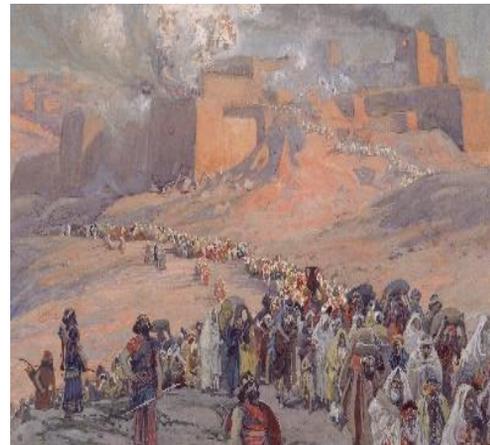
After the failure of Adam, the people of Israel became the new Adam, whose task was to exemplify how to live in relationship with God. But Israel was continually living with the effects of the Fall and failing to keep the agreement made between God and the people of Israel. The history of Israel shows a cycle of disobedience, warning, judgement and restoration. The Prophets are the voice of warning and judgement. When Israel is ignoring God, the prophets warn them of the day of judgement.

The Book of Isaiah tells us about how God had had enough. Israel had had plenty of warnings. The covenant with God included rules for living and made it pretty clear what the consequences would be if Israel failed to keep them. Prophets had warned for hundreds of years but the people had disobeyed God's rules and never thought he would actually do what he had said. In 586 BCE Jerusalem was invaded by the army of Babylon. The invaders defeated the Israelites, destroyed their temple and took many Israelites captive. The captives were taken away to exile in Babylon. Their holy city, Jerusalem was closed to them. The reaction of the Israelites varied. Some abandoned their faith in the God of Israel, others recognised their responsibility ; why hadn't they listened before! For some there was a renewed desire to return and reform, to follow God more faithfully. This period in Jewish history could be seen as a repeat of the exile of Adam and Eve from Eden.

**Task:**

1. Why had God had enough?
2. Why were prophets warning the people of Israel?
3. How did the exile to Babylon influence the Israelites? How did it make them act or feel?
4. **AT2** Write a paragraph explaining how you might have acted and felt if you been part of the Babylon exile.

**Challenge:** Why do you think the Israelites reacted so differently?



**Idea about the Messiah before the exile in Babylon**

Before the Exile in Babylon, Isaiah prophesied of the coming of Messiah. Before the exile, Jewish people thought God's Chosen One would be like this:

From the family of King David will come a descendant. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of respect for the Lord – and he will delight the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or hears with his ears. Instead he will judge the needy with righteousness. He will help the poor with justice. He will be powerful and will slay the wicked. He will do right and will be faithful.

**Idea about the Messiah 500 years after the exile in Babylon**

After 500 years of occupation by their enemies, the Jewish people were looking for someone like this:

Behold, O Lord, and raise up their king, the son of David. Strengthen him so that he can smash wicked kings. With massive strength he will break them to pieces, he will destroy the pagan nations of the earth. He will gather together all the holy people (the Jews). The foreign nations will serve him. He will be a righteous king, taught by God. There will be no wickedness amidst the people while he is king.

**Tasks:**

1. Note three similarities between the expectations before (from Isaiah) and the later expectation from the Psalms of Solomon.
2. Explain why things have changed.

**Challenge:** "Isaiah should be considered the most important person to Christians compared to Abraham." Evaluate the statement.

LO: To understand who Jonah was?

Key Question: Why is Jonah important to Christians?



**Key words:**

**Repent:** feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin.

**Merciful:** forgiving



**The story of Jonah**

God commands Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to prophesy against it "for their great wickedness is come up before me," but Jonah instead attempts to flee from "the presence of the Lord" by sailing to Tarshish. He does not want to go to Nineveh because they are enemies of his country, Israel. A huge storm arises and the sailors, realising that it is no ordinary storm, discover that Jonah is to blame. Jonah admits this and states that if he is thrown overboard, the storm will cease. The sailors refuse to do this and continue rowing, but all their efforts fail and they are eventually forced to throw Jonah overboard. As a result, the storm calms. Jonah is saved from drowning by being swallowed by a large fish, in whose belly he spends three days and three nights. While in the great fish, Jonah prays to God and commits to thanksgiving and to paying what he has vowed. God then commands the fish to vomit Jonah out.

God again commands Jonah to travel to Nineveh and prophesy to its inhabitants. This time Jonah goes and enters the city, crying, "In forty days Nineveh shall be overthrown." After Jonah has walked across Nineveh, the people of Nineveh begin to believe his word and proclaim a fast. The king of Nineveh puts on sackcloth and sits in ashes, and gives orders for everyone to fast, wear sackcloth, pray, and **repent**. God sees the people's repentant hearts and spares the city from destruction at that time. The entire city is humbled.

Since Nineveh's was Jonah's enemies, he is displeased by this and again attempts his earlier travels to Tarshish. Jonah is asserting that since God is **merciful** it was inevitable that God would stop the threat to destroy Nineveh. Jonah then leaves Tarshish and makes himself a shelter, waiting to see whether or not the Nineveh will be destroyed. God causes a vine to grow over Jonah's shelter to give him some shade from the sun. Later, God causes a worm to bite the vine's root and it withers. Jonah, now being exposed to the full force of the sun, becomes faint and pleads for God to kill him. But God says to Jonah: "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" And Jonah said: "I do. I am angry enough to die." But the LORD said: "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight, and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" (Jonah 4:9-11) God's lesson for Jonah was to teach him to be less self-centered and focus more on the common good, especially if it is an advancement for God.

**Tasks:**

1. Reduce the story of Jonah into three main points.
2. What two descriptive words best describes Jonah in the beginning of the story: **courageous, graceless, adventurous, scared, loyal, cowardly, greedy, hateful**
3. What two descriptive words best describes Jonah in the end of the story: **courageous, graceless, adventurous, scared, loyal, cowardly, greedy, hateful**
4. **AT2** Does the way you think about Jonah change throughout the story? How?
5. **AT2** What can you learn from Jonah 4:9-11?

**Challenge:** How could the story of Jonah be similar to situations in everyday life?



### Key words:

**Pharisees:** The Pharisees were a social movement and a school of thought in the Holy Land during the time of Second Temple Judaism. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, Pharisaic beliefs became the foundational, liturgical and ritualistic basis for Rabbinic Judaism.

**Omnipotent:** all powerful

**Missionary:** a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country



### Learning from the story of Jonah – why the story is important to Christians

The story of Jonah represents the teaching of the ability to repent and be forgiven by God. Jonah was more concerned with a plant than with perishing people. God is more concerned with people, and he wants his servants to show this same concern. God is more concerned about compassion than condemnation. Jonah reversed this concern, and had to learn this lesson as God graciously disciplined him.

#### Jonah's story validated by Jesus

First, we should note that this marvelous narrative has suffered the brunt of the critics' barbs for a long while. Because of the incident of Jonah being swallowed by the sea-creature, many modern scholars contend that the document is pure fiction. Jesus, however, did not see it that way. He appealed to the narrative as genuine history. In the New Testament, Jesus calls himself "greater than Jonah" and promises the **Pharisees** "the sign of Jonah", which is his resurrection. Early Christian interpreters viewed Jonah as a type for Jesus.

#### God's omnipotence

The book of Jonah shows us God's power as part of his divine plan. God controlled the elements of weather and he prepared a sea-creature, a vine, and a worm to do his bidding.

#### God's interest in all people

The story of Jonah reveals the international interest of God. Though God was working primarily through the Hebrew nation as an instrument for the sending Jesus his compassion for all people on earth is shown. Sending the "missionary," Jonah, to these Gentile Ninevites was a clear demonstration of this.

#### God is in control

The story of Jonah also shows Christians that God, not humans, is in control of the destiny of nations. Nineveh was given forty days to repent. As a result, the nation was spared destruction for about a century and a half. Later, however, when Assyria degenerated again, she was destroyed and the prophet, Nahum, addresses this very matter. Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 B.C.

#### People can change

Jesus preached that "the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah" (Matthew 12:41). This record reveals the power inherent within the word of God when such comes into contact with honest and good hearts. This shows Christian that people can change.

#### Repentance requires work

Jesus declared that "the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah" (Matthew. 12:41), while the book of Jonah itself informs us that God "saw the people of Nineveh's work, that they turned from their evil way" (Jon. 3:10). Christians may understand this as repentance is not a simple sorrow for sin. Instead, it requires actively turning away from evil behavior.

### Tasks:

1. How does the story of Jonah show God's omnipotence?
2. **AT2** Which lesson from the story of Jonah do you think is most important? Why?
3. **AT2** Which lesson from the story of Jonah do you think is least important? Why?

### Challenge:

- Choose one of the headings. Turn it into an image to represent the meaning of the text.

**EXTENDED WRITING:** 'Abraham is the most important person from the Old Testament'.

Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer.

**WRITING FRAME ON NEXT PAGE**

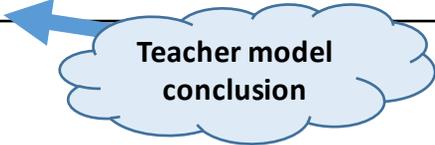
'Abraham is the most important person from the Old Testament'. Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. Refer to Christians teachings in your answer.

**Agree:** yes, Abraham is the most important person from the Old Testament. Think about what Abraham did, how he is important to Christians.

**Disagree:** no, there are other people that are important. Think about what other people did and why they are important to Christians.

Writing frame

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p>Agree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would agree with the statement and say that that Abraham is the most important person in the Old Testament because...</i>  <i>This means that/ For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <p>Disagree</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>In contrast, some Christians would disagree with the statement and say that there are other people who are more important. For example... is more important because...</i>  <i>This means that/ For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would AGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>On the other hand, some Christians would agree with the statement because...</i>  <i>This means that/ For example...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i>  <b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4</b></p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p><b>Who would DISAGREE with the statement?</b>  <i>Some Christians would disagree with the statement because...</i>  <i>For example/ This means that...</i>  <b>Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes from the Bible</b> <i>The Bible supports this by saying that...</i>  <b>Challenge:</b> Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason  <i>This argument is convincing/strong/weak because...</i></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 5</b></p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b>  <b>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not</b>  <i>In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing argument is... because...</i>    <i>Some people such as.... might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because...</i></p>



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**Did you complete everything? Do you know everything? Have you revised everything?**

**The learning audit – the lesson check list**

1. Go through the list which shows the titles of all the lessons we have done on this topic
2. Go through your exercise book and tick to say whether you were here for this lesson and the date the lesson took place.
3. Put a cross if you were not in the lesson – this will help us understand any gaps in your learning

Title of lesson	Date of lesson	Tick/cross
L1 - What do we know about Religious Education?		
L2 – What is Religious Education?		
L3 – What is a source of authority?		
L4 – What is the Old Testament?		
L5 – Why is the Old Testament important to Christians?		
L6 – What is the story of Creation?		
L7 – Who was Noah?		
L8 – Who was Job?		
L9 – Who was Abraham?		
L10 – Who was Moses?		
L11 – Who was David?		
L12 – Who was Elijah?		
L13 – Who was Isaiah?		
L14 – Who was Jonah?		

**Task:** Go through this list of questions and RAG rate yourself – Red (no clue) / Amber (some clue) / Green (Got this):

Question:	RAG
What does <b>fact, opinion, belief, faith</b> mean?	
What is a source of authority?	
What are some problems of translating the Bible?	
What is the Old Testament?	
Why is the Old Testament important to Christians?	
What are the main links between the Old and the New Testaments?	
Why is the Old Testament important to writers of the New Testament?	
Can you define the key concepts of <i>sin</i> and <i>original sin</i> ?	
What is the 'golden rule' in Christianity and who taught it?	
Can you identify the difference between literalists' and non-literalists' understanding of the Creation?	
Can you summarise the story of Creation including the Fall?	
Can you describe who Noah was?	
Can you explain why Noah is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Noah influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who Job was?	
Can you explain why Job is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Job influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who Abraham was?	
Can you explain why Abraham is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Abraham influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who Moses was?	
Can you explain why Moses is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Moses influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who David was?	
Can you explain why David is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of David influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who Elijah was?	
Can you explain why Elijah is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Elijah influences Christians today?	
Can you describe who Isaiah was?	
Can you explain why Isaiah is important to Christians?	
Can you explain how the story of Isaiah influences Christians today?	

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