

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND LIFESTYLE

AT1:

Pupils will:

- *Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the Great Britain and their associated beliefs, experiences and practices.*
- *Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of some of the influences of life experiences, beliefs, values and faith traditions upon individuals, communities, societies and cultures.*

AT2:

Pupils will:

- *Develop awareness of some of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them.*
- *Respond to such questions with reference to the teachings and practises of religions, and to their own understanding and experience.*
- *Reflect on their own beliefs, values, perceptions and experiences in the light of their study of religion.*

Pupils will be enabled to:

- *Consider their own beliefs about God and understand Christian belief and teaching about God.*
- *Know and understand what Christians believe Jesus taught about God's intended way of life, and consider Jesus' teachings in the light of their own rules for living.*
- *Appreciate why Christians take part in charitable deeds, and know something of the kinds of actions Christians are involved with.*
- *Know and understand why Christians worship together and ways in which they serve the community.*

SESSION 1: Worship

1. Explore children's knowledge and understanding about 'worship'.

- *What do children know already?*
- *What do you think about when you hear the word 'God'?*
- *Why do you think it is important that we have whole-school assemblies?*
- *Can you name the various elements of a Christian service? (eg; hymns, songs, music, Bible readings, message, prayer, silence, reflection, psalms, use of light / candles, sermon etc)*
- *Discuss particular festivals and ceremonies that happen in a church – why are they special? Why are they celebrated? What happens during these festivals / ceremonies? Discuss how they are different from normal church services. (eg; funeral, wedding, baptism, Harvest, Easter, Christmas etc).*
- *Discuss what day Christians worship together on.*
- *Look at and discuss some of the Christian artefacts that are used in a church. (eg; Bible, priest's clothing, candles, lectern, cross, communion items, music, incense, use of different colours for different Christian festivals / seasons etc).*

2. Work in pairs and plan an act of Christian worship. Draw and write to explain what you would do / use etc.

SESSION 2: Prayer

1. Discuss the importance of 'prayer' in Christianity.

- *Discuss what people say when they pray, why and when they might pray.*
- *Discuss if you have to be a Christian to pray.*
- *Discuss if you always have to say 'Dear Lord' at the start and 'Amen' at the end of a prayer.*
- *Discuss what 'Amen' means.*
- *Discuss if you always have to shut your eyes and put your hands together to pray.*
- *Discuss if you can only pray when you are in a church service or a school assembly...can you pray (for example) whilst driving in a car?!*
- *Discuss how some prayers thank God for things and some ask God for things. Why is this?*
- *Discuss if prayers are always answered...does what you ask God for, always happen?*

2. Look at the Lord's Prayer

- *What do the words mean?*
- *When do you hear or say the Lord's Prayer?*
- *Look at The Nicene Creed (another important Christian prayer) – what does it mean?*

3. Write a School Prayer.

- *Discuss what you would want as a School Prayer...what would you want to thank God for or ask God for?*
- *Write your own School Prayer and present neatly (a photocopy will go into a whole-school Prayer Book).*

4. Could ask children to see if they can learn the Lord's Prayer, throughout this topic?

SESSION 3: The Trinity

1. Discuss what Christians mean by the word 'trinity'.

- *What do the children think God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit look like?*
- *What is the link between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Where in the Bible / Bible Stories / Life of Jesus, do they fit in?*
- *Why do Christians believe that God is a loving father?*
- *Discuss where they hear the word 'God' mentioned.(eg; Cenotaph, prayers, church notice board, words of hymns and psalms, sermons, radio or TV programmes, National Anthem, newspapers, books etc).*
- *Discuss if it is right that people use God's name 'in vain' eg; when people say "Oh my God!"?*
- *Discuss how God is thought of by different people in society.*
- *Discuss if God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit are valued in other world religions.*

2. Choose an appropriate way to present information about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit – how they are linked and how they are important to Christians.

SESSION 4: Rules and Values

1. Look at the 10 Commandments

- *How do Christians know what is right and wrong?*
- *Where can Christians learn about the Christian rules and values?*
- *What do the 10 commandments mean?*
- *How did Jesus deliver God's message / these commandments?*
- *What can Christians do today, to be more like Jesus?*
- *Do you think it is easy to live by these commandments?*
- *Discuss why we have rules.*
- *Discuss class, school, home and general society rules – are they similar or different to the 10 commandments? Are they easy to live by?*

2. Write (and illustrate) an explanation of what Christianity teaches about how Christians should behave towards others.

- *Could also include an explanation of where the teaching comes from and provide examples of the behaviour being put into practice in the lives of Christians.*

SESSION 5: The Life of Jesus

1. Read the three parables: 'The Sower', 'The Good Samaritan' and 'The Prodigal Son'

- *Discuss what parables are and why Jesus told them.*
- *Discuss what messages Jesus was trying to get across with each parable.*
- *Discuss if the children know any other parables that Jesus told.*
- *Discuss how Christians / they might be able to put the messages from Jesus' parables into their own lives. What difference would it make to their own lives and/or the lives of others?*
- *Do you think Jesus was a good teacher? Why / why not?*

2. Retell one of the parables (written or cartoon strip form) and include an explanation of how it teaches Christians to live their lives.

SESSION 6: What have we learnt?

1. Look back at the work carried out on this topic and discuss what we can learn from Christian beliefs and lifestyle.

- *Discuss who their local church leader is – what do they do?*
- *Discuss how the local church gets involved in the local community. How does this benefit the local community?*
- *Discuss what else they think the local church should do to help the local community.*
- *How do Christian beliefs compare with their own beliefs?*
- *How does belonging to a Christian family influence a Christian's life?*
- *What groups for pupils belong to and what are their roles? How does this compare to Christian lifestyle and roles?*

2. Imagine you are interviewing a Christian child about 'what my faith means to me'.

- *Discuss what you think a Christian child would say – relate to all knowledge learnt about Christian beliefs and lifestyle.*

Write (and illustrate) what answer you think a Christian child would give.

The Lord's Prayer

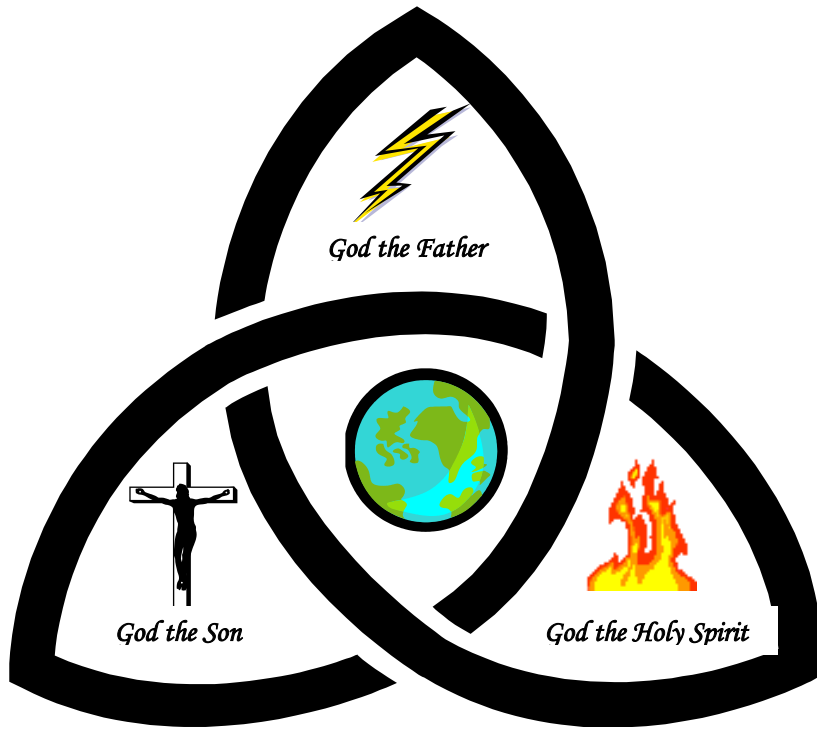
Our father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and for ever
Amen.

THE TRINITY



The Nicene Creed.

We believe in only one God.

He is the Father.

No-one is greater than him.

He made heaven and earth and everything in it.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the only Son of God.

He was there, even at the beginning.

Jesus was not created.

Jesus and God are the same being.

For our sakes and to save us, Jesus came down from heaven.

He was born with the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.

He became a man.

For us, Jesus was crucified by Pontius Pilate's orders.

He suffered a painful death and was buried in a tomb.

On the third day, he rose from the dead –

(That is what the scriptures said would happen).

He went back up to heaven and is sitting next to the Father.

Jesus will return at the end of the world, on Judgement Day.

He will judge the lives of all the people, living and dead.

He will be the King and his kingdom will be eternal.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who was also there, at the beginning.

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are all the same being.

The Holy Spirit was sent out from the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified like the Father and the Son.

When the prophets spoke, it was the voice of the Holy Spirit we could hear.

We believe in one worldwide church.

Our church came from the disciples.

We accept that a baptism will forgive our sins,

- as the water washes our sins away.

We look to the future, to the end of the world,

When all living and dead people will go to heaven.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (Matthew 13: 1-23)

There once was a farmer who was sowing his seed. Some of it fell by the wayside, along the path. The birds came down and ate the seed.

Some of it fell on rocky ground. The plants came up quickly, but there was not much earth so the plants dried up.

Some seed fell on thorny ground and the thorn bushes choked the seed.

Then some seed fell on good ground. Those seed grew into healthy plants and produced a good crop – some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold and some thirtyfold.

Then Jesus said, the seed that was eaten by birds is like the person who hears the message but does not understand it. The evil one comes and takes it away,

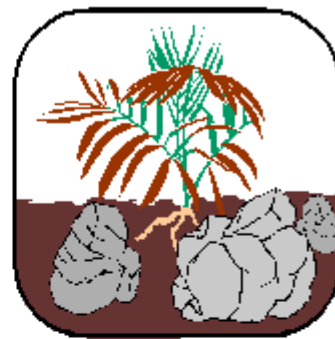
The seed that fell on rocky ground is like the person who receives the word, but falls away when trouble comes.

The seed that fell on the thorny ground is like the person who is worried about life and wealth.

But the seed that fell on the good ground is like people who are honest. When they hear God's word, they remember it and do what God says. These people produce a bountiful crop for the Lord.



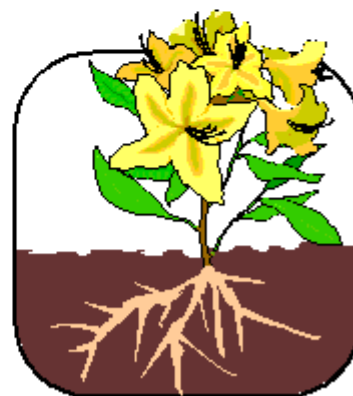
packed soil



stony ground



thorny ground



good soil

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10: 25-37)

A man was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was robbed, beaten and left half dead by the roadside. First a priest came by. When he saw the wounded man, he crossed over the road and passed by without helping him.

Then a Levite came by and he too looked at the helpless man and passed by without helping him.

Then a Samaritan came along. He took care of the hurt man, put him on his donkey and took him to an inn to get better. The Samaritan paid for everything.

Jesus asked “which of the three men was a good neighbour?” When the people answered ‘the Samaritan’, Jesus replied, you must do the same. You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. You must also love your neighbour as yourself.



THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Luke 15: 11-31)

A rich man had two sons whom he loved very much. The younger son asked his father for his inheritance and then left home. The older brother stayed at home and helped his father.

Before long, the younger son had spent all of his money and his so-called friends left him because he was no longer rich. Then a famine came upon the land. The young son was all alone and he even took a job taking care of the pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig's food.

Finally, he decided that the servants in his father's house were better off than he was, so he started the long journey back home.

His father forgave him for spending all his inheritance and welcomed him back into the house. They had a grand feast and a big celebration. The father gave him a robe, a ring and some shoes.

The older brother was very angry, but his father told him to forgive his brother and rejoice that he had come home.

Jesus said 'God loves us just as this father loved his prodigal son.'

NB: Prodigal means wasteful.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS for Kids

1 Love God more than you love anything else.

2 Don't make anything in your life more important than God.

3 Always say God's name with love and respect.

4 Honor the Lord by resting on the seventh day of the week.

5 Love and respect your mom and dad.

6 Never hurt anyone.

7 Always be faithful to your husband or wife.

8 Don't take anything that isn't yours.

9 Always tell the truth.

10 Be happy with what you have. Don't wish for other people's things.

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