

<b>Miracle</b>	A positive event believed to be caused by God
<b>Parable</b>	A story with religious and deeper meaning.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	The Roman method of execution by nailing a person to a cross
<b>Judgement Day</b>	The day on which Christians believe God will judge every person and decide where they spend eternity
<b>Resurrection</b>	Coming back to life
<b>Incarnation</b>	The belief that God became a human being in the form of Jesus Christ
<b>Trinity</b>	The belief that God is One in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
<b>Salvation</b>	Being saved, in a religious sense, from sin and often this means being able to go to heaven.
<b>Gospel</b>	Account of the life of Jesus, this is referred to a Good News.
<b>Messiah</b>	The Jewish word for the leader expected to deliver Jews from their enemies: means 'anointed one'
<b>Omnipotent</b>	The belief that God is all powerful
<b>Benevolent</b>	The belief that God is all loving
<b>Eternal Life</b>	Life with God forever, after death
<b>Forgiveness</b>	To give pardon for a fault/sin
<b>Denomination</b>	Different kinds of church. For example, Church of England, Baptist Church etc.
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	The Christian Church, based in Rome and led by the Pope
<b>Protestant</b>	Refers to the Christian churches which 'protested' about the Catholic church and split away from it (eg Church of England, Methodist Church, Salvation Army etc)

The aim of this unit is to understand Christianity in more depth to year 7 and 8. You will look at who Jesus was and historical evidence for him as well as the impact of the Bible.

**Who was Jesus?**

**Christianity** was founded on the life and teachings of a Jew named Jesus Christ. The English word "Jesus" comes from the Greek form of the Hebrew *Joshua*, a common name which means "saviour."  
**"Christ"** is a title and it comes from the Greek form of the Hebrew *Messiah*, meaning "anointed one." Since the time of the earliest Christians, "Christ" has been used both as a surname and as a name that stands alone.  
*Christians believe*, and the majority of scholars agree, that Jesus was an actual historical figure. The Christian calendar, in use throughout most of the Western world, centres around the birth of Jesus. The abbreviation "AD" stands for the Latin *anno domini*, "in the year of our Lord." Interestingly, Jesus was actually born a few years "Before Christ" (BC) due to a calculation error of the monk who established the Christian calendar in 525 AD.

**Evidence for Jesus:**

- The Jewish historian Josephus wrote about Jesus' life and death along with many other sources
- Josephus wrote "he was crucified by Pilate"
- The Gospels offer eyewitness accounts which have proven amazingly accurate
- Underground caves used to be used as stables; some babies are still born in these
- Astrological evidence suggests that Jupiter shone more brightly around 6BC – the time Jesus was probably born. This could explain the 'star'

**The Bible:**

- The Bible was written over a 1600 year period by approximately 40 men. The time of the writing was from 1500 BC to AD 100.
- While the Bible is 1 book, it contains 66 smaller books. The books of the Old Testament were written before the birth of Jesus Christ and the New Testament covers the life of Christ and beyond.
- The Bible is the only one which claims to be the actual words of God. Those who believe the Bible also believe that God inspired various people through the years to write down His actual words for mankind. The Bible says more than 3,000 times "thus saith the Lord." It claims that the words which follow are quotes from God.
- There are more than 168,000 Bibles either sold or given away per day in the United States.
- The Bible is the most sold book of all time. It is regularly on various best seller lists.
- The Bible has been translated into more than 2,000 languages.

Christians interpret the Bible in different ways:

- Literalist/Conservative: someone who thinks the Bible is the word of God and means exactly what it says. People who interpret the Bible literally believe that all the details are true.
- Liberal: someone who thinks the Bible can be read in many different ways and so wouldn't believe that every word is literally true. Christians who interpret the Bible liberally believe that some stories are made up to teach us about God.

For example, a Literalist may believe that the universe was created in 6 days, as Genesis states. However, a Liberal Christian may believe that the Bible is factual or scientifically accurate but rather shows Christians about God's qualities and how to live morally – in which case, they may believe that God was involved in creation but that the universe was not created in 6 days.

**Life After Death**

Different Christian denominations have different beliefs about what happens when they die. Christians believe that after death God will judge them for the deeds they have done during their lifetime.

Most Christians strongly believe that death is not the end. Instead, they believe in the immortality of the soul and the possibility of life after death, as Jesus explains in the Bible:

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.

— John 11:25

They believe in the resurrection of the body on the Day of Judgement, when God will judge everyone individually and they will be sent to Heaven or Hell, as revealed in the Book of Revelation. Therefore, death is not to be feared for those who have lived morally and done God's will.

**The Trinity**

God can be understood using The Trinity. The Trinity is the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead. The doctrine of the Trinity is considered to be one of the central Christian affirmations about God.

Christians believe in one God and they believe that Jesus Christ was his son who died in order to bring humans salvation from sin. A key belief of most Christians is the belief in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who were all present at the Creation of the world and who all take on different roles.