

Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings.

CORE KNOWLEDGE:

1. What are the four “omni” words that are used to describe God? Where do these ideas come from?

Omnipotence, Omni-benevolence, Omniscience and Omnipresence. They are characteristics of God found in the Bible.

2. What do Christians believe by describing God as ‘Judge’?

God will judge the whole of mankind on the ‘day of judgement’ separating the good (heaven) and bad (hell).

3. What is the Trinity?

The Christian belief that God is three separate persons within One – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4. What does “monotheism” mean?

The belief in one God.

5. What does “incarnate” mean?

The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus.

6. What does “heaven” mean?

Heaven is the eternal destination of those who believe in Jesus as their Lord and saviour. There is no more pain, sorrow or tears.

7. What does “hell” mean?

Hell is the eternal destination of those who do not believe in Jesus as their Lord and saviour. It is the absence of God and subsequently, anything good.

8. Why do Christians refer to Jesus as their saviour?

Christians believe that Jesus died to save humans from death and judgement so he has saved them from an eternity in hell by reconciling them with God. This also refers to salvation.

9. What is “atonement”?

Atonement is what was achieved when Jesus died on the cross (the **Crucifixion**). In this way the broken relationship between God and humanity caused by sin was restored. They are made “at one”.

10. What does the Bible say about the origins of the universe?

According to Genesis, the universe was created by God in 6 days. He rested on day 7.

11. What is the relationship in Christianity between humans and the rest of God’s creation?

Christians believe that humans were made “in the image of God” and were given the “breath of life” to set them apart from and above the rest of the creation. Humans were made to be in relationship with God and were put in charge on earth. They believe it is important to be good stewards of God’s creation.

Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings.

KEYWORDS:

Ascension: The event, 40 days after the resurrection, when Jesus returned to God, the Father, in heaven.

creation: The act by which God brought the universe into being.

Catholic: a branch of Christianity, based in Rome and led by the Pope.

Monotheistic: Belief in only one God.

Omnipotent: Almighty, having unlimited power; a quality of God.

salvation: saving the soul, deliverance from sin and admission to heaven brought about by Jesus.

Orthodox: A branch of Christianity mainly, but not entirely, practised in Eastern Europe

Protestant: A branch of Christianity. Originally called Protestants because they protested against some of the Catholic practices at the time. There are many Protestant denominations, but they agree that the Bible is the only authority for Christians.

Denomination: a distinct group within the Christian faith, with its own organisation and traditions.

Holy: Separate and set apart for a special purpose by God.

Justice: Bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law, or making up for a wrong that has been committed.

Holy Spirit: The third person of the Trinity whom Christians believe is the inspiring presence of God in the world.

Son of God: A title used for Jesus, the second person of the Trinity; denotes the special relationship between Jesus and God the Father.

Crucifixion: (1) Roman method of execution by which criminals were fixed to a cross. (2) the execution and death of Jesus on Good Friday.

Grace: A quality of God which God shows to humans by providing love and support which they do not need to earn.

The Word: Term used at the beginning of John's gospel to refer to God the Son.

benevolent: All-loving, all-good; a quality of God.

Blasphemy: A religious offence which includes claiming to be God.

heaven: A state of eternal happiness in the presence of God; the place of eternal peace ruled over by God.

afterlife: what Christians believe follows life on earth.

Incarnation: Becoming flesh, taking a human form.

Day of Judgement: A time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by God and rewarded or punished.

Hell : The place of eternal suffering or the state of being without God.

Trinity: The belief that there are three persons in the One God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are separate, but are also one being.

Purgatory: The intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to enter heaven.

Satan: Name for the Devil – the power and source of evil

sin: (1) any action or thought that separates humans from God. (2) behaviour which is against God's laws and wishes or against principles of morality.

Original sin: An Augustine Christian doctrine that says that everyone is born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God; and important doctrine within the Catholic church.

Resurrection: (1) rising from the dead. (2) Jesus rising from the dead on Easter Day. An event recorded in all four gospels and the central belief of Christianity.

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BIBLE REFERENCES:

1. "In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth." **Genesis 1:1**
2. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." **John 1:1-3**
3. So God created man ... in the **image of God** ... and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**. **Genesis 1:27; 2:7**
4. The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. **Psalms 24:1**
5. **The Parable of the sheep and goats:** Jesus teaches through the example of sheep and goats that when you die you will be judged by him. If a Christian helps someone in need (eg hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked), they are like sheep (good creatures) because they are actually helping him (Jesus) and they will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven with him. The goats are people who fail to help others in any of these ways, thereby not helping Jesus. These people will be punished with eternal separation from God in hell. **Matthew 25: 31-46**
6. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." **John 11:25-26**
7. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16**
8. Jesus said: "No one is good, except God alone". **Mark 10:18**
9. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst ... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. **Revelation 7:16-17**

Christianity: Practices

CORE KNOWLEDGE:

- 1. What is the difference between liturgical and non-liturgical worship?**
Liturgical follows set patterns and words; non-liturgical does not follow a set text or ritual.
- 2. What is private worship?**
Individuals spend time with God, alone or with close friends / family.
- 3. What is informal worship?**
A type of non-liturgical worship which could be silent (Quakers) or spontaneous (Charismatic churches).
- 4. Why is the Lord's Prayer important to Christians?**
Jesus used it to teach his followers how to pray.
- 5. Which objects might Catholics or Orthodox Christians use to pray?**
Rosary or icons.
- 6. What is the main difference between infant and believers baptism?**
Infant is baptism of a child; believers is when someone chooses to be baptised for themselves, usually as a teenager or adult.
- 7. Apart from baptism which other sacrament is celebrated by most Christians?**
The Eucharist (Holy Communion).
- 8. What are Christians recalling in this sacrament?**
Jesus' last supper when he told the disciples to share bread and wine to remember him and his sacrifice.
- 9. What is a pilgrimage?**
A journey made for religious reasons to a sacred site.
- 10. Name two places that Christians might go to on pilgrimage.**
Lourdes, Iona, Walsingham, Rome, the Holy Land etc.
- 11. Why is Christmas important to Christians?**
It is when they celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- 12. What do Christians do at Easter to remember Christ's resurrection?**
Sing hymns, light the paschal candle to represent the risen Christ, share holy communion, exchange eggs (a symbol of new life), open air sunrise services etc.
- 13. What does the word "church" literally mean?**
An assembly or gathering of Christian people.
- 14. Name 2 things a church could do in the local community to show they are following the teachings of Jesus to "love your neighbour".**
Street pastors, food banks, community groups eg mums and toddlers, financial advice, pray etc.
- 15. What is the Great Commission?**
Jesus' instruction to his followers that they "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 16. What is a Christian missionary?**
A person sent on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in a foreign country through preaching or charitable work.
- 17. What do evangelists believe they should do?**
Share their faith with others through public preaching or personal witness.
- 18. What does reconciliation mean?**

Restoring harmony in relationships after they have broken down.

19. **Give two examples of persecution that Christians around the world may suffer.**

Not being allowed to own a Bible, being forced to pay extra tax, not allowed to have good jobs or build churches, attacks on homes and families, murder, etc.

20. **What is the role of Christian Aid?**

An international relief and development agency who work to help the world's poorest people whatever their religion, nationality or race.

Christianity: Practices

KEYWORDS:

Worship: acts of religious praise, honour or devotion

Liturgical worship: a church service that follows a set structure or ritual

Non-liturgical worship: a service that does not follow a set text or ritual

Informal worship: a type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes spontaneous or charismatic in nature

Private worship: when a believer praises or honours God on his or her own

Prayer: communicating with God, either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or request for God's help or guidance

Set prayers: prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person e.g. the Lord's Prayer

Informal prayer: prayer that is made up by an individual using his or her own words

Nonconformist: an English Protestant he does not conform to the doctrines or practices of the established Church of England

Sacraments: rights and rituals which the believer received a special gift of grace; outward signs of inward grace

Baptism: the ritual through which people become members of the church; baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin

Protestant: branch of Christianity originally Protestants were called by that name because they protested against some of the practices of the Catholic Church

Believer's baptism: initiation into the church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony and

Infant baptism: The rituals through which babies and young children become members of the church with promises of taken on their behalf by adults

Holy communion: a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated using bread and wine; also called Eucharist, mass, the Lord's supper, the breaking of bread, and the Divine Liturgy

Pilgrimage: a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; pilgrimage is itself an act of worship and devotion

Festival: a day or a period of celebration for religious reasons

Christmas: the day commemorating the incarnation the birth of Jesus

Easter: the religious season celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

Church: 1) the holy people of God, also called the body of Christ 2) the building in which Christians worship

Agape: the word used in the bible describes selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love

Mission: the vocation or calling of a religious organisation or individual to go out into the world and spread their faith

The Great Commission: Jesus' instruction to his followers that they should spread his teachings to all the nations in the world

Missionary: a person sent on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in a foreign country through preaching or charitable work

Evangelism: spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness

Convert: someone who has decided to become committed to a religion and change his or her religious faith

Reconciliation: restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down

Persecution: hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race, or political or religious beliefs.

Christianity: Practices

BIBLE REFERENCES:

1. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as 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 forever. Amen." **The Lord's prayer.**
2. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." **Matthew 28:19.**
3. "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'" **1 Corinthians 11:23-25.**

4. "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." **1 John 3:17-18**

5. "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." **James 2:17**