

Topic Title: Christianity – Salvation

Year 2 Spring 2



Background for Teachers:

Taken from *Understanding Christianity*:

Most Christians see the Bible as telling a story about the ongoing relationship between God and Creation, with a particular focus on the bond between God and humanity. The good relationship was damaged very early on in the Bible story, with Adam and Eve eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and bad. This action illustrates a human tendency to go their own way – or to ‘sin’. Called ‘the Fall’ by many Christians, this act also signals a separation and division between humans and their Creator: the idyllic relationship between God and humans no longer exists. God, however, still loves his creation and seeks to bring all people back into friendship. This is the link with the concept of Salvation – of God ‘saving’ humans (and renewing the whole of creation).

For Christians, Jesus’ life, death and resurrection is the culmination of this. Jesus, as God in the flesh (incarnation), shows people what God is like, in his teachings and example. Jesus’ name means ‘he saves’. His death is seen by Christians as a sacrifice, the supreme example of God’s love for people, and the model for Christian living. One way of looking at this is that Jesus’ death and resurrection heals the damage done by sin – so, if people ask for forgiveness, it is freely given, because Jesus has already paid the punishment.

The death and resurrection should not be seen as a complete end to sin, however: sinning still happens and should be taken seriously, but can be forgiven by God through Jesus. This unit focus on Jesus building a bridge to God through his teachings and his example.

Christians use these stories in different ways. Some will prepare for Easter during Lent, reading passages from the Easter story and meditating on Jesus’ experience, perhaps particularly on his suffering. This might remind a Christian to be grateful for Jesus’ sacrifice, and to recognise that sin is still a serious business. Some Christians read the whole of the Passion narrative in John’s Gospel (Chapters 18-20) in a service; others remember it in the Stations of the Cross, saying prayers recalling different events of Holy Week. This is the most significant Christian festival, remembering and celebrating the salvation offered through Jesus.

Previously On ... (Links to Prior Learning):

‘My Easter Lunchbox’ – share enthusiasm at having a chocolate egg, a hot cross bun and a pancake for lunch! What do these have in common? What do they symbolise? Food is the most important thing about Easter for Christians – agree or disagree?

Enquiry Question:

Why does Easter matter to Christians?

Disciplinary Focus:

Theology

Big Questions:

Food is the most important thing about Easter for Christians – agree or disagree?

What are the key events of the Easter Story?

What happened during Holy Week? Why do Christians still remember Holy Week in 2023?

Why is forgiveness important in the Easter story?

Why does Jesus forgive those who put him on the cross?

Why is Jesus dying and then rising from the dead significant for Christians?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 1	LO: to explore what we know about Easter and Holy Week.	<p>Starter: ‘My Easter Lunchbox’ – share enthusiasm at having a chocolate egg, a hot cross bun and a pancake for lunch! What do these have in common? What do they symbolise? Food is the most important thing about Easter for Christians – agree or disagree? Recap how these are all foods that you might eat at Easter – and that soon it will be Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter. What do the children know about Lent?</p> <p>Input: Recap the Easter story and the events of Holy Week – what happened on each day of the week? https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks1-the-christian-story-of-easter/zhgv47h Recap how Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus but how Easter is a celebration, too. It is about celebrating the end of Jesus’ life on earth and the start of his new life in heaven with God.</p>	<p>Task: Children to create an Easter story map or timeline to consolidate their understanding of the sequence of key events – word mat to support as needed.</p>	<p>Plenary: If children had to draw one picture or write one word about Easter, what would it be? What is the most important thing about Easter?</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 2	LO: to explore how Jesus was sent as a saviour.	<p>Starter: What happened during Holy Week? Which days are important? Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Children to work collaboratively in groups to sequence the days.</p> <p>Input: Share a range of emotive words on the board – most interesting, most important, most enjoyable, most upsetting, most puzzling. Which words do they think connect most closely with which day?</p> <p>Why do Christians still remember the events of Holy Week in 2023? Building bridges – Christians believe that Jesus was sent by God to build a bridge between God and humans. Jesus showed people how to live on earth. They believe that Jesus died because he was trying to ‘save’ us from sins and reunite people with God. Discuss bridge visual linked to Jesus.</p>	<p>Task: children to work collaboratively to generate a bank of words that they would use to describe Jesus. Children to choose their favourite word and form a sentence justifying this, linking it to Jesus, the Easter story and Holy Week.</p> <p>For example: ‘giving’ Jesus is very giving because he gave up his life for his people.</p>	<p>Plenary: if you could ask Jesus a question about what happened during Holy Week, what would you ask?</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 3	<p>LO: to understand the meaning of the Hindu festival of Holi.</p> <p>Hinduism Encounter</p>	<p>Starter: What is the children's favourite colour? Invite children to share their favourite colour, explaining their choice. Challenge to link their favourite colour choice to how it makes them feel.</p> <p>Input: Introduce the children to the Hindu festival of Holi: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/articles/z4qgy9q#:~:text=It%20is%20usually%20celebrated%20in,begin%20on%20Friday%202018%20March. Work together as a class to actively retell the story.</p> <p>Explain that Holi is a time for thinking about love, new beginnings and happiness. Invite children to think quietly to themselves about the people they love and the things that make them happy. Sometimes people can be unkind to us, like in the story of Holika and Prahlad, but the festival celebrates love and good triumphing over bad. It shows us that new beginnings are possible.</p>	<p>Task: Children to create a colourful picture to represent Holi and the festival of colours. Challenge to write some emotive words around their picture to capture how Hindus feel.</p>	<p>Plenary: Children to reflect on a new beginning that they'd like to make – and on how they will make it happen. Write a sentence.</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 4	LO: to understand the importance of forgiveness in the Easter story.	<p>Starter: How can Christians be like Jesus?</p> <p>Input: Watch the following film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED7mmi8TZJc In this story, one of the main characters has to forgive another. Stop the film when the turtle is released and ask what both characters should do. At the end of the story, discuss who said sorry, how the brother felt before and after forgiving and what might have happened if he hadn't forgiven his sister.</p> <p>Who has heard of the phrase 'forgive and forget'? Do the children think the brother will really forget what the sister did? Why is it so important to forgive?</p> <p>Ask children to show an angry face as if they are cross with someone, then relax as they might after they have forgiven. How does it feel different?</p> <p>Who betrays Jesus in the Easter story? → Judas, Pontius Pilate, his disciples that fell asleep</p>	<p>Task: Children to write an Easter prayer about forgiveness. What is forgiveness? Who does Jesus forgive? Why do you think he forgives everyone? How can we learn from his example and show forgiveness? This could be written collaboratively as a shared write or scaffolded independently for some children as a challenge.</p>	<p>Plenary: How could you be more forgiving?</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 5	<p>LO: to understand how Christians can follow Jesus' example.</p>	<p>Starter: What do the children do to celebrate Easter? How do they feel? Children to respond inside an egg template – and explain why an egg symbolises Easter for Christians?</p> <p>Input: Last lesson, we discussed how Jesus had to forgive lots of people when he died. Jesus' forgiving nature inspires Christians to forgive others.</p> <p>Sometimes, you might be asked to stand in someone else's shoes to try to understand why they did something – to understand from their perspective. Ask the children to draw round their shoes and write their name at the top, then redistribute these. They are now standing in someone else's shoes. Take a photo, then provide scenarios when they may need to stand in someone else's shoes to help them to show forgiveness.</p> <p>Return to Jesus' words – '<i>Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.</i>' Jesus was able to stand in the shoes of the people he was forgiving.</p>	<p>Task: Children to record some examples of scenarios when they might need to stand in someone else's shoes to help them to show forgiveness around the outside of the 'shoes' they've been given – either in pictures or sentences.</p>	<p>Plenary: What does Jesus' example as a forgiver show us about why the Easter story matters to Christians?</p>

Celebration of knowledge and skills gained (opportunities for assessment):

- Children to create a 'graffiti wall' to show why Easter matters to Christians, using a range of phrases, pictures and words. This could be completed individually on a piece of paper, as a group using a strip of paper or as a whole class using a roll of lining paper or similar.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 6	LO: to show what we now know about why Easter matters to Christians.	<p>Starter: 'Rally Robin' – children to work collaboratively with a partner to 'rally' as many words and phrases as they can about why Easter matters to Christians. Once they have had a minute to 'rally' ideas with a partner, children to 'rally' with a different partner to add to ideas.</p> <p>Input: Invite children to share the ideas that they 'rallied' during the starter – perhaps an idea shared with them by another child that they hadn't thought of themselves.</p> <p>Model using these ideas to generate a 'graffiti wall' showing why Easter matters to Christians – either with a plain piece of paper or a piece of paper with bricks on. These ideas can either be recorded as phrases, pictures or words but should, together, summarise why Easter matters to Christians.</p>	<p>Task: Children to create a 'graffiti wall' showing why Easter matters to Christians. Where pictures have been used, children to explain to an adult what the picture shows.</p> <p>This could be completed individually on a piece of paper, as a group using a strip of paper or as a whole class using a roll of lining paper.</p>	<p>Plenary: Invite children to share an idea – children to have the opportunity to add to their own.</p>

	Skills and Knowledge Add in skills-based from Ruth ...
Some children will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know that Christians believe in life after death. Retell the outline events of the Easter story. Know that Christians believe that Jesus is willing to forgive all people, even those who put him on the cross.
Most children will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall the outline events of the Easter story inc: entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, Jesus' arrest and betrayal, he was put on trial, he was crucified, he came back to life and appeared to Mary Magdalene. Know that Jesus forgave all to build a bridge between man and God. By rising from the dead, he gives Christians a hope in new life
Some children will progress further and will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why Jesus dying and then rising to life is significant for Christians. Give views on why it is important to forgive.