

RELIGIOUS STUDIES · Y3-Y6

# Christianity

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 RE

## Key vocabulary

1

**Christian**

A follower of Jesus Christ. Christianity is the world's largest religion (around 2.4 billion people).

2

**Jesus Christ**

Christians believe Jesus is the son of God and the saviour of humanity. He was born in Bethlehem around 2,000 years ago.

3

**Bible**

The Christian holy book. Has two parts: the Old Testament (shared with Judaism) and the New Testament (about Jesus).

4

**Church**

The Christian place of worship. Also means the community of all Christians.

5

**Trinity**

Christians believe God is one but exists in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

6

**Resurrection**

The Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion.

7

**Disciple**

A follower of Jesus. The twelve closest disciples are called the apostles.



8

**Gospel**

Means 'good news'. The first four books of the New Testament that tell the story of Jesus's life.

## Beliefs and practices

Core elements of Christianity

- Belief in one God (monotheism)
- Jesus is the son of God who died and rose again
- The Bible is the word of God
- Prayer — talking to God, often in the morning, before meals, at bedtime
- Worship — gathering together at church, usually on Sundays
- Baptism — a ceremony welcoming someone into the Christian faith using water
- Communion (Eucharist) — sharing bread and wine to remember Jesus
- The Ten Commandments — moral rules from the Old Testament
- Love for God and love for neighbour — the two great commandments Jesus taught
- Forgiveness — central Christian value

## Festivals and special times

When Christians celebrate

- Advent — four weeks before Christmas, preparing for Jesus's birth
- Christmas (25 December) — celebrating the birth of Jesus
- Lent — 40 days before Easter, often a time of reflection or giving things up
- Palm Sunday — remembering Jesus's entry into Jerusalem
- Good Friday — when Christians remember Jesus's crucifixion
- Easter Sunday — celebrating Jesus's resurrection. The most important Christian festival.



- Pentecost (Whitsun) — celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Different denominations: Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant — different traditions, same core beliefs

## Places of worship and symbols

Most Christians worship in churches, cathedrals, or chapels. Symbols include: the cross (representing Jesus's death and resurrection), the fish (an early Christian symbol), the dove (representing the Holy Spirit and peace), and the candle (representing Jesus as the light of the world). Christianity has many denominations including Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal — each with different traditions but sharing the same core beliefs about Jesus.

