

World Religions | Christianity: Salvation | Years 5 & 6 | Summer Term 2023-24

Key Question

What did Jesus do to save human beings?

Key Concepts

Sacrifice and atonement
Jesus's death was a sacrifice; he gave his life for others as a punishment for their sin. In this way, Christians believe Jesus died to save people – to rescue them from their sins and to bring them back to God.

Stations of the cross
The 14 incidents that tell the series of events on Good Friday, leading up to Jesus's crucifixion.

Holy Communion / Eucharist
A religious ceremony by which Christians remember Jesus's sacrifice, death and resurrection. The bread and wine symbolise Jesus's body and blood (as per the Last Supper).

Key People

Jesus
King of the Jews

Pontius Pilate
Roman governor of Judaea (under the emperor Tiberius who presided at the trial of Jesus and gave the order for his crucifixion).

Judas Iscariot
One of Jesus's twelve disciples who betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Sanhedrin
Assemblies of elders (Jewish courts) appointed to sit as a tribunal in every city in the ancient Land of Israel.

Peter
A Jewish fisherman who was called to be one of Jesus's twelve disciples; the first leader of the early church. After Jesus's arrest, he denied him three times.

Barabbas
A prisoner who was chosen by the crowd, over Jesus, to be released by Pilate in a customary pardon before the feast of Passover.

Key Vocabulary

1	Sin	An immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law.
2	Forgiveness	The act of stopping feeling angry or resentful towards someone for an offence, flaw or mistake.
3	Sacrifice	To give up something valued for the sake of other considerations.
4	Atonement	The action of making amends for a wrong; the reconciliation of God and mankind through Jesus Christ.
5	Crucifixion	An ancient form of execution in which a person was nailed or bound to a cross.
7	Resurrection	Restore to life; the rising of Christ from the dead.

Key Bible Passages (Gospels)

Mark 14	The plot to kill Jesus, the last supper, His predictions of betrayal and Peter's three denials of him.
Mark 15	The bringing of Jesus to Pilate by the Jews, His mockery by the soldiers, His crucifixion and death, and His burial.
Luke 23	The trial of Jesus before Pilate, and His crucifixion, death and burial.
John 19	Describes the crucifixion of Jesus.

Key Learning: What did Jesus do to save human beings?

- 1 The Stations of the Cross.**

Introduce salvation by explaining its significance in the 'big story' – look at the Frieze and its link to our Christian virtues this term. Explain the 'Stations of the Cross' to children as a series of 14 incidents that tell the series of events on Good Friday leading up to Jesus's crucifixion. Retrieve 'main events' from Jesus's life from prior learning. Provide table groups with a copy of each artwork. Read bible verses representing each station of the cross and decide which artwork depicts that verse, then order the 14 incidents chronologically.
- 2 Who was responsible for Jesus's death?**

Recap previous week's lesson and the events leading up to Jesus's death. Discuss: Can you think of a reason as to who was responsible for Jesus's death? Who was involved? Justify suggestions by giving reasons. Complete a 'responsibility pie', colour coding each slice to match with a description of who is responsible, by how much and why.
- 3 Why did Jesus die? (Part 1)**

Discuss: 'Why did Jesus die?' Link ideas to the 'big story' of the bible. One significant reason Christians give is that Jesus died to save people – to rescue them from their sins and to bring them back to God. They explain this in terms of Jesus's death being a sacrifice, giving his life for others, for example, by taking the punishment for sin. Place enlarged copies of four scenarios around the room. Circulate and add comments to answer, "In what way does 'Joshua' (modern-day name equivalent to Jesus) has sacrificed himself and 'save' people in each scenario?"
- 4 Why did Jesus die? (Part 2)**

Discuss 'bearing a burden' and the concepts of sin, guilt and forgiveness. Christians want to be good but they don't always manage it; they believe that Jesus will take the burden away if they ask him for forgiveness. Reflect on situations and feelings when 'Taking someone's place'. How would it feel, to let go of the guilt of all those wrong things? Why might someone be happy with this? Complete grid to explain thoughts.
- 5 What is Holy Communion / the Eucharist?**

Explore the meanings behind communion and its symbolism. Ask: Why do Christians celebrate communion? What do the bread and wine represent? What other aspects are there to the service? Explain that Christians believe that Jesus's death was not the end and that he was resurrected on the Sunday so Eucharist / Holy Communion is also a celebration. Discuss the meaning of the word 'symbol'. Devise a brand-new way for Christians to remember the salvation brought by Jesus – this may take the form of a new religious ceremony. Explain the actions, words, music, activities & symbolism they have chosen to include in relation to what they have studied about Salvation so far.
- 6 Sacrifice: a force for good, or an out-dated concept?**

Display Martin Luther King quote 'If a man has not discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live'. How far do pupils agree? Reflect on what sacrifices they would be prepared to make and in what cause. Discuss that the commandment 'Love your neighbour as you would yourself' will involve some sacrifice. Write a short charter for the school / local community / the world to explain how far the idea of sacrifice is good and necessary for making the world a better place.