



The Messiah	Jesus regarded by Christians as the Saviour of human kind
Salvation	Freeing people from their sins or suffering
Miracle worker	Jesus performed things that were impossible for anyone else
Sacrifice	Jesus gave his life to pay for the sins of mankind.
Sin	Going against God's commands
Resurrection	Jesus coming back to life
Crucifixion	Is a method of capital punishment in which the victim is tied or nailed to a large wooden beam and left to hang
Disciples	Dedicated followers of Jesus
Virgin birth	The doctrine that Jesus was conceived and born by his mother Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit and without a human father.
Jesus	Referred to as <b>Jesus</b> of Nazareth and <b>Jesus</b> Christ, was a first-century Jewish preacher and religious leader.
Incarnation	The belief that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, also known as God the Son "was made flesh" (Jesus)
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.
Miracle	An event not explicable by natural or scientific laws. Such an event may be attributed to a supernatural being.

**Jesus**

- Jesus lived in the first century CE (Common Era) in an area which is now called Israel.
- Jesus and his followers were Jewish.
- There was a long standing rivalry between Jews and Samaritans.
- The religion of Christianity did not develop until after the death of Jesus.
- Christians believe that Jesus is God incarnate (in human flesh).
- Christians believe that Jesus' teachings should be followed when making moral decisions – deciding right from wrong.

**The Life of Jesus (Key Events)**

Mary is told by the angel Gabriel that she is going to have a very special baby. Baby Jesus is born in Bethlehem and placed in a manger as there is no room at the inn.

When Jesus grew up he was BAPTISED in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. Jesus spent 40 days alone in the desert but did not give in to evil as he chose to follow God and do good.

Jesus became a MORAL LEADER and people loved to listen to Jesus' stories and crowds would come to hear his parables. One day a crowd of 5000 people came to listen and Jesus fed them all bread and fish. It was a miracle.

Not everyone liked Jesus. One day he threw the bankers out of the temple which made him unpopular with the Jewish leaders. Jesus knew he had enemies and wanted one last meal with his closest friends, the Disciples. This became known as THE LAST SUPPER. Jesus shared bread and wine with them.

Jesus was put on trial and accused of speaking against God (blasphemy). The Roman Governor found Jesus guilty and said that Jesus should be crucified.

Roman soldiers made Jesus carry his own cross through the streets and put a crown of thorns on his head. This was because Jesus had called himself the KING OF THE JEWS. Jesus was crucified next to two criminals at a place called Skull Hill.

Jesus forgave those who had found him guilty and the criminal next to him who asked for forgiveness. Jesus died and his body was taken to a cave tomb and sealed with stone, ready to be properly buried after the Sabbath.

When people went to the tomb to prepare the body for burial, the tomb was found empty! A week after his death, Thomas saw Jesus and they knew he was alive again and had been resurrected.



**Jesus' Miracles**

A miracle is an extraordinary event that is not explainable by scientific law and is therefore attributed to a God.

Christians believe that Jesus (God incarnate) performed many miracles in his lifetime. Examples of Jesus' miracles recorded in the Bible include:

1. The Calming of the Storm
2. The healing of the Paralysed Man
3. The raising of Lazarus

**Why are miracles important to Christians?**

For Christians Miracles are a sign that God exists because the miraculous event does not seem to be explainable by scientific law.

- For Christians Miracles are a sign of what God is like e.g. all-powerful, caring, all loving and all-knowing.
- It gives Christians reassurance that God will be there to help them when they need it.
- It teaches Christians how they should act in difficult situations e.g. to help others that are ill.

**Arguments for and against miracles**

**For**

- If many people claim to have experienced the same miracle they cannot all be wrong.
- Miracles are still reported today (e.g. Lourdes), they are not just stories from the past.

**Against**

- People could be lying or hallucinating.
- Science can, or will be able to, explain the event being described as a miracle.

