

Key Words:

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| Sin | Something that separates humans from God, bringing lasting punishment. It is something that goes against God. For example, murder, stealing and lying are all sins. |
| Original Sin | Many Christians believe all humans are descended from Adam and Eve, which means that they all have the ability to disobey God. |
| Sacrifice | Christians believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that: God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins. Christians believe Jesus sacrificed himself (died) to save humans from the consequences of their sins. |
| Evil | Morally bad, cruel, or very unpleasant. |
| Vice | Immoral or wicked behaviour. |
| Virtue | A good moral quality in a person. |
| Baptism | The early church understood original sin as fall from grace and believed that baptism washes away the stain of original sin. |
| The Fall | Many Christians believe that evil is the result of Adam and Eve 's disobedience to God. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. God punished Adam and Eve for their actions, and the punishment was to endure suffering in life. This is known as 'the fall'. |
| Free Will | The ability for humans to make their own decisions. |

The aim of this unit is to build upon your knowledge of Christianity. We will look at the beliefs of the faith and make links with the work of CS Lewis' book "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe".

Overview:

Free Will In More Detail:

Christianity teaches that God gave humans free will. This is the ability for humans to make their own decisions. It means that although God made a world and it was good, it is up to humans whether they choose to do good or bad deeds. If we did not have free will we would be like robots, programmed to follow orders with no choice in our actions.

Religious attitudes to creation and sin:

The Fall:
 God originally made a perfect world. He created Adam and put him to live in the Garden of Eden - a blissful place where he had nothing to do but take care of the garden.
 God told Adam that he could do anything he wanted, except eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Later, God created Eve to be Adam's wife. Eve was tricked by the serpent into eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of life and death. She gave some of the fruit to Adam and he ate it too. Adam and Eve realised that they were naked and hid in shame. When God next visited the Garden he realised that they had disobeyed him. God banished them from the Garden of Eden into the harsh world outside. God also banned them from eating the fruit of the tree of life, and so death entered the world.

Christians believe that when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden and turned away from God they brought sin into the world and turned the whole human race away from God. This is referred to as the original sin.
 The story removes God of responsibility for the evils that make our world imperfect by teaching that Adam and Eve introduced evil to a perfect world when they disobeyed him.

Jesus' Sacrifice:
 Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross, he was sacrificed for the sins of humankind. Jesus' death and resurrection were an act of atonement (to show you are sorry for something that you have done) that healed the relationship between God and humanity that had been broken by Original Sin.
 This allowed humans to be reunited with God after death. Christians call this salvation and believe that it is proof of God's omnibenevolent (all loving) nature.
 The idea of sacrificing someone for other people's sins may be quite unfamiliar to the modern world. However, the Old Testament describes how animals, such as lambs or goats, were ritually killed or sent out into the wilderness to make up for the sins of human beings. For example:
 "Aaron ... is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites – all their sins – and put them on the goat's head [ie make the goat symbolise the Israelites' sins]. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness." (Leviticus 16:20–22)
 Jesus is often referred to as the Lamb of God. This is because, like a lamb that would traditionally have been sacrificed, Christians believe that he died to make up for people's sins.

Christianity in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe:

The majority of the book takes place in a fictitious and magical land known as Narnia. Narnia is heavily symbolic of a perfect world, or heaven. At the start of the book an evil queen known as the White Witch has been ruling Narnia for one-hundred years. Upon the reader's introduction to Narnia, one of the first scenes depicted is the White Witch's temptation of Edmund, a young boy and central figure in the story. The scene closely resembles the temptation of Biblical characters Adam and Eve, as well as the temptation of Jesus Christ by Satan. Throughout the book the witch closely resembles the Devil, constantly tempting in a passive way, and rarely outright attacking the characters.

Another early example of symbolism in the novel is Mr. Tumnus who works for the White Witch and betrays his king. He represents many Biblical characters, such as Judas, as he betrays his lord for the enemy. He is also akin to the apostle Paul, as he works for the devil (or Witch) in the beginning of the novel, and then finds his way back to God by the end.

By far the most obvious example of symbolism in the Chronicles of Narnia is Aslan the lion. Aslan represents Jesus Christ or God, and possesses all of the qualities of a deity. He is the symbol for righteousness and peace, and eventually defeats the Witch after his resurrection from his death on the stone table, much like Christ. Overall, almost everything in the Chronicles of Narnia is a symbol for something, and there are countless examples in the series.

The book itself is also symbolic of a Christian's journey toward Christ. In the beginning several characters fall to the temptations of the White Witch. However, all of these characters eventually find redemption by the novels end. This is very reminiscent of the author's own struggle, going from worldly temptation to spiritual freedom and peace. The story also shows that even the servants of evil (or the Witch) who have betrayed their king can eventually be brought back through the love of their God (or Aslan).