

## Year 7 RE Contents Page

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Autumn 2 October - December  Page 5	<b>What is love?</b>  Students study the different types of love in Christianity and how these link to ideas around forgiveness.
Spring 1&2 January - March  Page	<b>Hinduism</b>  Students study the religion of Hinduism and core Hindu concepts such as reincarnation and atman.
Summer 1&2 March - July	<b>Religion and the Media</b>  Students study how religion is portrayed in various forms of media including music, television and film. Students evaluate the problematic nature of stereotypes.

### Key words

**Incarnate** → To take on or embody human form.

**God Incarnate** → The term used to describe God becoming flesh and taking on human form as Jesus.

**Incarnation** → The Christian term used to describe, overall, how God took on human form.

**Crucifixion** → The method of ending someone's life by tying them to a cross and waiting for them to die. In Jesus' case, he had nails put in his hands and feet to make the process more painful.

**First Sin/The fall** → The term used to describe how Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions by eating an apple

**Sin** → Actions that go against God's laws e.g. stealing, killing, lying

**Salvation** → The term used to describe how someone could be saved from ruin or destruction.

**Saviour** → Somebody who helps support or to solve the problems around them. Jesus was considered to be a saviour because of his actions of removing sin.

**Portrayal** → How someone or something is shown in a piece of literature, imagery or art.

**Miracles** → Actions that Jesus performed that were said to prove Jesus' divinity or Godliness.

### The Incarnation

The Incarnation refers to the Christian belief that God came to Earth in the human form of Jesus. There are many reasons that are given for this - but the main ideas are that God could not communicate with humans from heaven because of their sins and God wanted to ensure humans understood the message of God by preaching in a way human beings could understand.

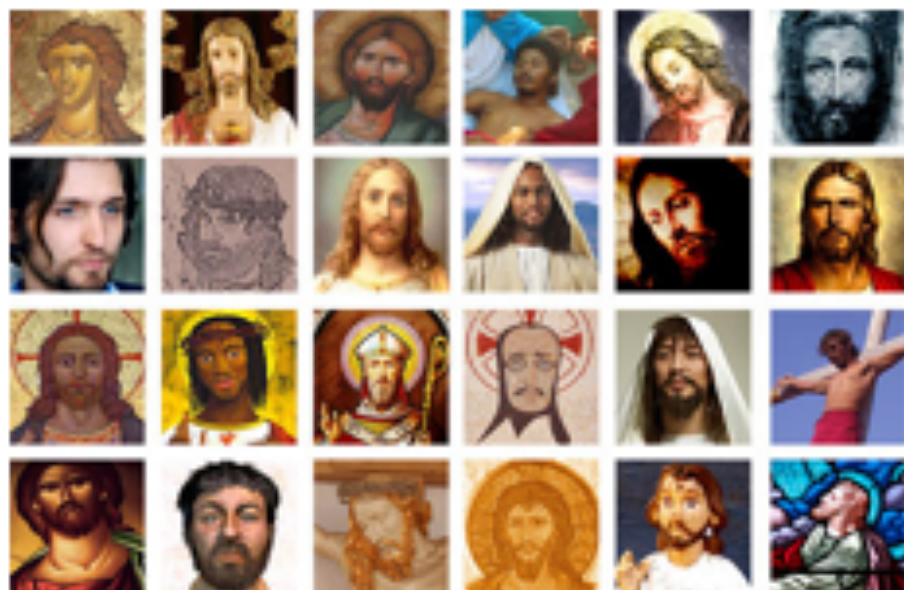


### Salvation

Christians believe that the sins committed by humans were preventing them from being able to have a relationship with God and as a result, they would never be able to achieve heaven as they were so far away from God's path. Jesus makes the ultimate sacrifice for humans by allowing himself to be crucified to take away the sins of all humans. This is known as **salvation** as human beings were saved from an afterlife of hell or not experiencing God at all.

Jesus' actions ensure that humans can still have a relationship with God (if they want to) and that all people have a possibility of going to heaven if they are truly regretful about things that have happened as God's love is unconditional.





### Jesus Portrayal in Artwork

Jesus is often portrayed very differently in pieces of artwork. This might include different images of his ethnicity or of his occupation and what he was like.

#### Why is Jesus shown as different races?

- The Bible doesn't discuss what Jesus looked like and many Christians would argue it isn't important what Jesus looked like, rather his actions, are far more interesting.
- Some Christians argue that if the Bible doesn't state what he looks like, then it means Jesus can be for everyone and not just for the few.
- When creating a piece of artwork people have their own views of what Jesus was like in their minds and thus it is often personal to someone how Jesus should look.
- When Africans were taken as slaves from countries in Africa to America - they were introduced to Christianity. Many of these slaves felt that Jesus was just like them as Jesus was also treated horrendously by people around them. As a result, many slaves started to produce artwork of Jesus as a black man to reflect their own experiences and those of Jesus.

#### Why is Jesus shown so differently? King, Carpenter, angelic?

- Jesus was many different things to people during his time alive. As a young man, he was a carpenter creating wooden objects. But as he became older he took on the role of teaching others about God. He is also said to have performed miracles that people witnessed.
- As a result of this, Jesus is portrayed differently to reflect the different times of Jesus' life. It might be also to reflect how ordinary Jesus was e.g. carpenter and yet was still the son of God.
- It might also be to reflect Jesus' power and influence e.g. as a king.

### Why did some people dislike Jesus?

#### Pharisees

The **Pharisees** were Jewish leaders of the temples. They despised Jesus for several reasons. Firstly, they were jealous and afraid of how popular Jesus became with people around them. They felt that perhaps Jesus was trying to usurp (take over) their position.

Secondly, Jesus called them out for their hypocrisy. The Pharisees were paid an awful lot of money trying to keep the people of Israel happy and compliant with the laws of the Romans. With Jesus talking about heaven, saying he was the **Messiah** (the Son of God) they were worried the Romans might come and hurt all the Jewish people rather than just Jesus. So not only did Jesus make them look bad to others around them but also to the Romans.

#### Parables

Jesus taught parables (stories) to people to explain the nature of God and how people should behave on Earth.

##### **The Good Samaritan parable**

Teaches how a Jewish man was rescued by a despised Samaritan. The story teaches how we should treat others as we would like to be treated and that anyone deserves love and good treatment.

##### **The Prodigal Son parable**

Teaches how a son left his father and spent his money unwisely. The story teaches that we should always forgive mistakes. Forgiveness will heal all things.

### Why was Jesus seen as rebellious?

#### The Poor and Sick

At this time, it was common for the poor and sick to be kept separate from the rest of the communities. There were two reasons for this. One, they believed if you were poor or sick then that was because God had willed it - it was your own fault and you should not be associated with. Secondly, often the sick had infectious diseases that would be spread if people came to the communities.

Jesus actively sought the poor and sick and welcomed them to his gatherings. He was also known for healing the sick and there are stories of Jesus' miracles including the healing a blind man and curing a man of his lameness.

#### Women

Women were not particularly respected in Israel at this time and women were often at the bottom of the social order expected to look after their families and to cook and clean. Women were not treated equally to men. Women were not allowed to worship in the same way as men and were unable to read religious scripture because they were not taught to read. Jesus was revolutionary because he had many female friends who were as close to him as his male friends, for example, *Mary Magdalene*. He also befriended women who worked as prostitutes and were typically seen as being on the outskirts of society.

#### Tax Collectors

Some Jewish people believed that Jesus would overthrow the Romans and end their rule upon them. In particular they hoped he would end the unfair tax collecting that saw much of the money that the Jewish people made go to Rome. However, Jesus believed in following the laws of the land and did not want to overthrow the Romans, in fact, he actively encouraged people to "render unto Caesar, what is Caesar's" or to provide the tax that was demanded of them. Jesus went so far to make friends with tax collectors (who were completely hated by the Jews). One story tells of how Jesus asked the tax collector ~~Zaccheus~~ to take him to his family home which many people felt was completely wrong.

#### KEY WORDS:

**Agape** – this is unconditional, selfless love. This form of love involves doing something and getting nothing in return. For example, helping a complete stranger.

**Philia** the warm feeling you have for someone like a friend or relative. There is nothing sexual in this feeling, but it is a special shared bond between people.

**Storge** – this sort of love involves a strong attachment to something that may not be able to respond. For example, the love for an animal or an object.

**Eros** - this is a physical and intimate way of showing affection within a personal relationship.

**Forgiveness** - To let go of feelings of anger or hatred towards a person who hurt you.



#### Biblical teachings about love

- 1 Corinthians states that love is: patient, kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan was a story with a message told by Jesus. The parable tells the story of a Jew who was attacked. He was helped by a Samaritan. At the time, Samaritans and Jews were enemies. The parable teaches Christians that they should show love to everyone, not just their friends, family or people like them.
- Jesus taught that people should 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches that our neighbour is not just the people who live close to us, but everyone, including our enemies.

#### Bible quotations:

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast."

#### Forgiveness: God's love in action

- Christians believe that God loved the world and human beings so much that he sent Jesus, God incarnate, to earth.
- Christians believe that the crucifixion of Jesus was the greatest act of love in history. This is because Jesus was making it possible for human beings to be forgiven for their sins. This restored the broken relationship between God and humans and opened the way to heaven.

#### Bible quotations:

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

'gave his one and only Son' = incarnation

Perish = die and go to hell

Eternal life = go to heaven

#### Biblical teachings about forgiveness:

- The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant tells a story of a servant whose master released him from the debt he owed.
- The servant then threw his friend, who owed him money, into jail because he was not paying the debt he owed.
- This parable teaches Christians that if they do not forgive others, God will not forgive them. Unlike the servant, who did not follow the example of his master, Christians believe must follow the example of God.
- This means they must forgive others.
- One example of a Christian who has put the teachings of the Bible into action is Mary Johnson, who forgave the man who murdered her son.

### **Hinduism around the world:**

- There are over 1 billion Hindus across the world.
- Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, after Christianity and Islam.
- The majority of the world's Hindus live in India.
- Hindus make up 1.3% of the population in the UK.

### **Brahman:**

- For Hindus, Brahman is the one true God.
- Brahman is omnipotent, unchanging and eternal.
- There are many different forms of Brahman, called deities. Each deity reflects different aspects or functions of Brahman.
- There is a spark of Brahman in every person, this is called the atman.

### **Atman and the afterlife:**

- The atman is the soul, or the spark of Brahman.
- All living beings, not just humans, have an atman.
- The body is not the true self, it is the atman which is the true self.
- The Atman is eternal – it doesn't become ill, age or die.
- After the death of the body, the atman is reincarnated into a new body.
- This is called the cycle of Samsara - the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Samsara literally means 'wandering' in Sanskrit - the Atman is wandering from one body to the next.
- For Hindus, the goal is to achieve moksha, meaning freedom from the cycle of Samsara. When the atman achieves moksha, it returns to its source (Brahman) rather than being reincarnated.
- Whether the atman achieves moksha or is reincarnated depends on karma.

### **Key words:**

Brahman – The one true God Hindus believe in.

Deity – forms of Brahman

Omnipotent – all-powerful

Trimurti – the three most important forms of Brahman, called Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Brahma – the Creator

Vishnu – the Sustainer

Shiva – the Destroyer

Atman - the soul, which is a spark of Brahman in everybody

Bhagavad Gita – one of the holy texts of Hinduism

Varna – social class

Dharma – your duty, the things you are expected to do based on your caste

Ahimsa – non-violence. Avoiding harming any living creature through actions, words or thoughts

Samsara - the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

### **Trimurti:**

### **Hinduism Knowledge Organiser**

- The Trimurti are the three most important deities in Hinduism.
- Brahma is the Creator deity, Vishnu is the Sustainer deity and Shiva is the Destroyer deity.
- Hindus believe that creating, sustaining and destroying are all essential for life on earth.

### **Ahimsa:**

- Hindus believe they should live according to the principle of ahimsa (non-violence). Ahimsa is the total avoidance of harming of any living creature, not only through actions, but also through words and thoughts. It is wrong to cause harm because there is a spark of Brahman in every human and animal (atman).
- Hindus believe that violence leads to bad karma.
- Gandhi put ahimsa into action through non-violent protest.

### **Varna:**

- All people are born into a varna (a social class). For example, some people are born into the warrior class while others are born into the unskilled worker class.
- Every person has a dharma (duty) which depends on their varna.
- "By doing the work that is proper to him and rejoicing in the doing, a man succeeds, perfects himself." (Bhagavad Gita)
- The idea of varna influences the caste system in India.

### Key words

**Media** → Anything to do with newspapers, television, films, music.

**Hymn** → A song that is song with a religious context. Usually sung in a place of worship such as a Church.

**Allegory** → To have a hidden religious message in music, film or television.

**Stereotype** → A widely held belief or oversimplified idea about a person or thing.

**Evangelism** → To spread the message of the Christian faith.

**Prejudice** → To judge someone or something before you know anything about it.

**Discrimination** → To treat someone or a group of people differently as a result of a prejudice.

### Religion and Television

#### **Religious Programming**

There are many religious programmes on TV that evangelise to the people. For example, Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoons or The Big Questions on Sunday mornings. Religious programming gives believers a chance to hear themselves represented in the media and to worship – particularly if they are unable to worship with others or in their place of worship. Religious programmes also shine a light on the positive aspects of the faith and what they do for their communities.

#### **Non-religious Programming**

Often non-religious programming can be prejudiced about different faiths which can lead to stereotypes. For example, the Lucas Johnson case in *Eastenders* is an example where Christians found it offensive that faith was being used to justify Lucas Johnson's poor behaviour towards others. Many Christians felt it made the whole faith seem violent. The BBC defended it saying it was not representative of the whole Christian community. Or characters such as Ned Flanders in *the Simpsons* is portrayed as silly and naive as a result of his faith.

In addition, many news channels will focus on religious extremism which may not truly reflect the entire religion and may also give negative impressions to others in the communities.

On the other hand, some programmes that are non-religious can represent religious characters well. *The Vicar of Dibley* is an example of a positive depiction of the Christian faith in a comedy show. Or Joel Dexter as a priest in *Hollyoaks* who experiences complex storylines.

### Religion and Film

Sometimes films can have hidden religious messages (**allegory**), which explain ideas about certain religions. For example, in *The Chronicles of Narnia Aslan* is representative of Jesus fighting the devil (the white witch), Aslan's death and resurrection is symbolic of Jesus' own miracle. This demonstrates a positive message of Christianity and teaches younger audiences about Jesus.

However, non-religious people may argue it is wrong to promote religious messages in films for children as they should make up their own minds about their faith and a film could brainwash them. In addition, would people be so comfortable if these contained hidden meanings about Islam? Or Hinduism?

### Religion and music

#### **Religious music**

Religious music is often a way of praising or showing devotion to God. Many hymns are sung in a place of worship and have lyrics that praise some aspect of God. Hymns may form part of a traditional religious service although hymns can be sung spontaneously.

#### **Non-religious music**

Many popular songs also discuss God and religion in their music. This may be to praise God because they themselves are religious and are evangelising to the people who listen to their songs. On the other hand, some popular songs may be making reference to God to dispute his existence or to question aspects of life that do not make sense to us.