

Wonderful words

Parable: a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

Kingdom: an area controlled by a King or Queen

Forgiving: stopping blaming or punishing someone for that they have done

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that humans are no longer separated from God

Unforgiving: to continue to blame someone for what they have done

Banquet: a very large meal usually for a celebration

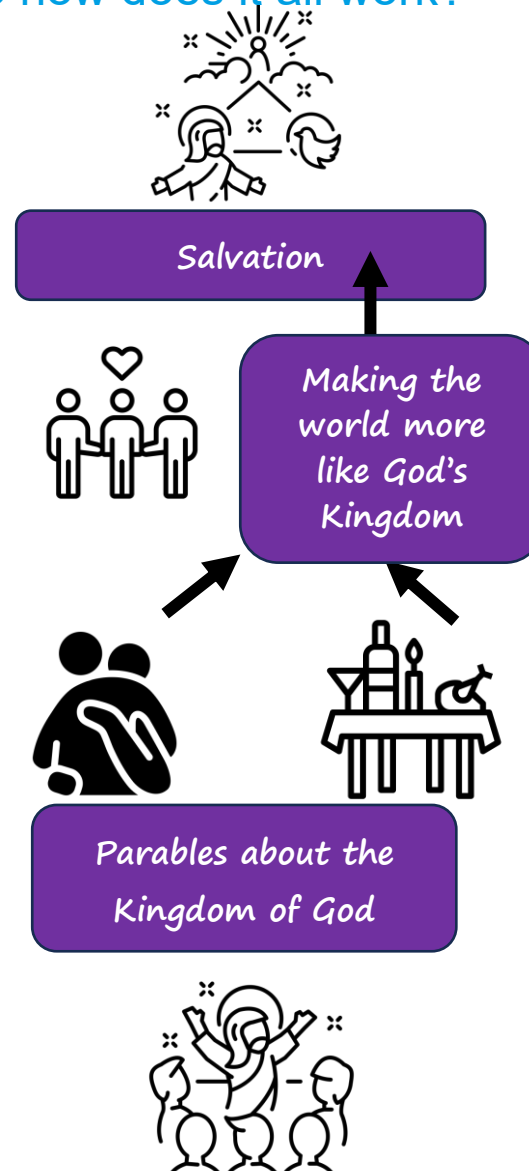
Inheritance: when something is passed on to someone else

Social: being part of society

Unjust: not behaving in a way that is morally right or fair

Biblical: relating to, or in the Bible

So how does it all work?



Important information

Throughout his life Jesus told **parables** to help the people understand what the **Kingdom** of God was like and to invite people to join his kingdom.

These **Biblical** stories or parables, such as the stories of The Great **Banquet** and the **Unforgiving Son** tell Christians they should accept God's invitation to become part of his kingdom and not to be distracted by things in the world.

In the parable of the **Unforgiving Son** a young man was given his **inheritance** by his father but when a great famine came he lost all of his money and he went back to his father who forgave him and welcomed him. In this, Jesus taught that **forgiving** people is at the heart of what it is to be part of God's kingdom.

Christians follow what Jesus told them to do and many of them will challenge **unjust social** structures in their local area and around the world by supporting charities that help those less fortunate than themselves.

By acting as Jesus told them to, Christians believe that they will have **salvation** and will be able to be near to God as the events of the Fall meant that people fell away from God.

Wonderful words

Messiah: a saviour from God promised in the Hebrew texts

Incarnation: 'in the flesh'; Christians believe Jesus is God 'in the flesh', or God incarnate

Saviour: Jesus came to save or rescue people e.g., by showing them how to live

Immanuel: a Hebrew name meaning God is with us

Micah: a prophet from God who promised a rescuer

Theological: about the study of God and religious belief

Prophecy: a prediction of what will happen in the future

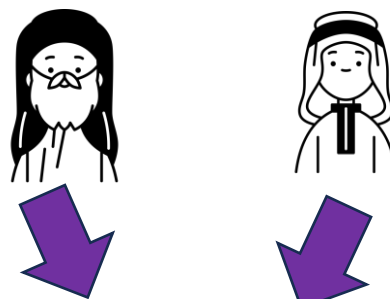
Gospel: the good news about Jesus, a book of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life

Prophet: a messenger sent from God

Isaiah: a prophet from God who told of a rescuer and what the Messiah would be like

So how does it all work?

The Prophets



The Messiah



Incarnation

Important information

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden they were sent away from God. This is known as The Fall.

Humans cannot sort this out themselves and need a rescuer to bring them back to God, a **Saviour**. In the Old Testament there is a **prophecy** that God will send a **Messiah** to bring people back to him. The **prophet Micah** and the prophet **Isaiah** both speak of this rescuer who God will send to heal the damage done by people's disobedience.

Christians say this saviour is Jesus, who is God in human form which is a belief they call the **incarnation**. People who want to find out how the events of the life Jesus show he is God in the flesh will make a **theological** study of the **gospel** story, looking at events such as the birth of Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection to show how he healed the gap between God and humans.

Some Christians will refer to Jesus as **Immanuel** as God is with them on earth.

Wonderful words

Dharma: Duty, by fulfilling their dharma Hindus believe they will attain moksha

Samsara: the cycle of life, death and rebirth

Reincarnation: the rebirth of the atman in another body

Atman: the spark of Brahman in every living creature

Duty: an obligation you have because of who you are

Karma: the total of all a person's actions which decides their future existence

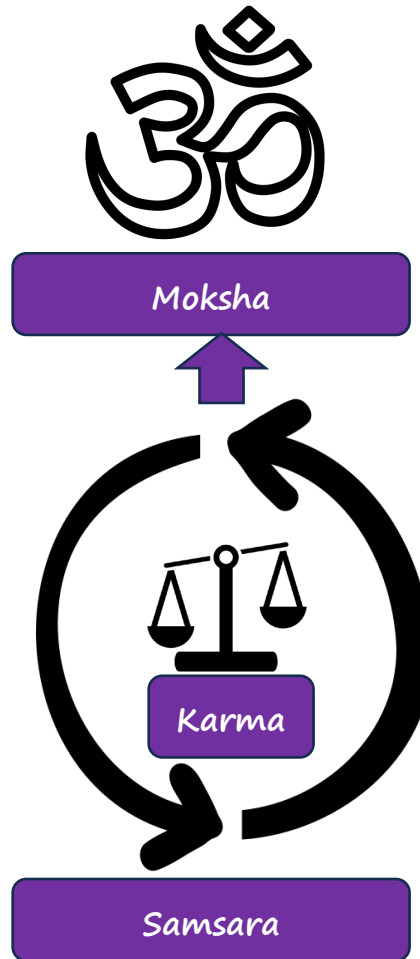
Moksha: the release from the cycle of life, death and rebirth

Brahman: a formless, ultimate reality, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything

Ahimsa: the belief not to cause harm to any living creature

Deity: Brahman channelled into different forms

So how does it all work?



Important information

In the Hindu Dharma all animals and humans have a spark of **Brahman** inside them and this is called **atman**. Brahman is represented in the form of many **deities**. The atman is pure, eternal and unchanging. This is someone's true self, but is tangled up with a creature's physical body.

The belief in **reincarnation** is that the atman moves from one living creature to the next in a cycle which is called **samsara**. **Karma** is the law of cause and effect, someone's positive actions lead to good karma and negative actions lead to bad karma and these will have consequences in the next life.

Your karma is linked to your **dharma** and if you fulfil your **duty** you will have good karma. The Hindu stories help people to understand what their dharma is and how they would live their life. A key part of everyone's dharma is not to cause harm to any living creature and this is known as **ahimsa** and is a very important belief for Hindus. If someone fulfils their dharma, understands the atman and leads a good life they will attain **moksha**, a release from **samsara**.

Wonderful words

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that humans are no longer separated from God

Resurrection: Jesus' return to life after dying

Interpret: to explain or understand the meaning of something

Sacrifice: giving something up for the sake of someone or something else

Biblical: relating to something in the Bible

Theological: the study of God and religious belief or a set of beliefs

Gospel: the good news that Jesus brought, a book in the New Testament

Eternal Life: the belief that through Jesus' death Christians can go to Heaven to be with God for eternity

Incarnation: God became human in the form of Jesus, God in the flesh

Funeral: a ceremony held after someone has died

So how does it all work?



Sacrifice



Resurrection

Salvation



Eternal Life

Important information

Easter is a very special time for Christians as they remember Jesus being crucified on Good Friday and his **resurrection** on Easter Sunday.

Christians will read the **Biblical** accounts of Easter in the **gospels** which will tell them about the events and they will use **theological** ways of study to find out what these events means. Through this they are able to **interpret** what the story means for them as Christians today.

Christians believe that God became human so that He could bring **salvation** to everyone. Christians refer to the birth of Jesus as the **incarnation** as this is when God became flesh. They believe that the **sacrifice** of Jesus on the cross enables them to have **eternal life** with God in heaven after they have died. They believe that Jesus dying and being resurrected healed the rift between God and man caused by The Fall.

In churches different Christians will remember the events of Easter in many ways. However, they will all focus on how God has saved people and given them eternal life.

When a person has died, Christians will have a service known as a **funeral** for the dead person. The funeral service expresses the belief that the dead person has eternal life with God because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Wonderful words

Gospel: this literally means 'Good news' but also the title of the four books of the bible that tell the story of the life of Jesus.

Theology: the study of God and religious belief or a set of beliefs

Luke: one of the three gospels which are similar in the New Testament

Matthew: one of the three gospels which are similar in the New Testament

Mark: one of the three gospels which are similar in the New Testament

Interpretation: a way of explaining one meaning of something.

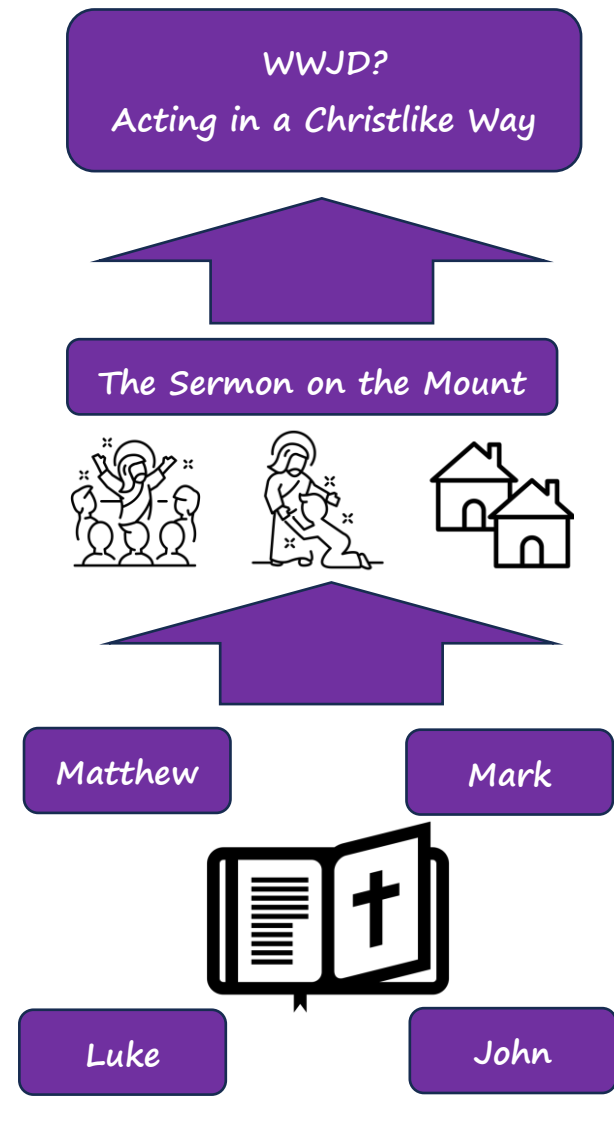
Leprosy: a bacterial infection that damages the nerves

Christlike: becoming more like Jesus in how people act

Parables: a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

Commandments: a rule which has to be observed

So how does it all work?



Important information

The word **Gospel** literally means good news. It is also the title given to the four books of the Bible which tell the story of the life of Jesus.

Three of the gospels are similar, these are the Gospels of **Matthew, Mark and Luke**. They wrote about the life of Jesus using eyewitness accounts. The Gospel of **John** is very different to the other three. People who study **theology** look at the **interpretation** or meaning of what these four wrote.

The gospels contain the **parables** that Jesus told and how he told people to live known as **commandments**. The gospels contain the two great commandments of Jesus that tell Christians how to live. He also gave The Sermon on the Mount to tell people how to live.

Jesus would show that the good news was for everyone including those people in society many did not like. An example of this was Jesus healing people with **leprosy**, a disease that people were scared of.

You will often see people wearing things with the letters **WWJD** on them, this means they are thinking 'What would Jesus do?' By following what Jesus taught in the commandments, in his actions and in the parables they hope to become more **Christlike**.

Wonderful words

Theist: a person who believes in the existence of god

Atheist: a person who disbelieves the existence of god

Psychology: the study of how people think

Evidence: the available facts about something

Psychologist: a person who studies how the mind works and how people think

Agnostic: a person who believes that nothing can be known about the existence of God

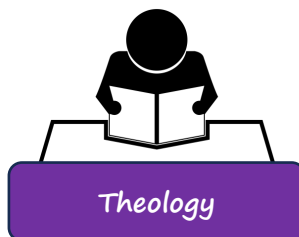
Humanist: a person who seeks natural explanations to answer life's big questions and for events in the world around them

Philosophy: the study of the nature of knowledge and existence

Reason: the power of the mind to think, understand, and form judgements logically

Theologian: a person who studies religion and the existence of god

So how does it all work?



The existence of god?



Philosophy

Psychology

Important information

There are a rising number of people who identify as 'no religion'. These may include people who call themselves **atheist** who believe that god does not exist. Someone people who identify as no religion may call themselves a **humanist**.

Other people are not sure whether there is god or not and they would call themselves an **agnostic** whereas someone who would say that there is a god is known as a **theist**.

People who study **philosophy** like to think about the answers to the big questions that are difficult to answer. They will try to use **reason** to prove whether god exists or not.

A **theologian** will use religious texts and actions to provide **evidence** for the existence of god, for Christian theologians this would mean looking at the Bible and for Muslim theologians at the Qur'an.

The study of **psychology** investigates how the mind works and how people think and feel. A **psychologist** will investigate how the impact of believing or not believing in god will affect how someone thinks and feels.