

Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Wonderful words

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

Jesus: The second person of the Trinity or the Son; God in the flesh

Mary: the mother of Jesus

Joseph: the husband of Mary

Shepherds: the first people to visit Jesus after he was born

Advent: the four Sundays leading up to Christmas

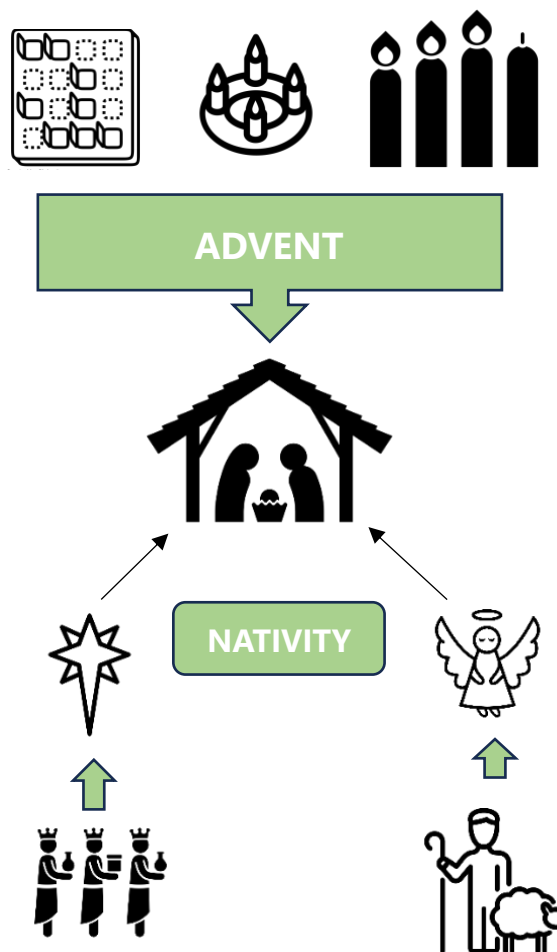
Secular: anything that is not connected with religion or religious worldviews

Religious: believing in a religion

Birth: the arrival of a baby into the world

Celebration: an enjoyable activity held to remember something

So how does it all work?



All icons are used free of charge from Noun Project. Individual artist credit is given on the following slide.

Important information

Christmas is a very important **celebration** around the world as a **religious** celebration for Christians and also as a **secular** celebration for many people who are not Christian.

At Christmas people remember the **birth** of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. Christians use the weeks before Christmas known as **advent** to prepare for the celebration of God becoming human in Jesus. Christians believe that Christmas is a time to remember how Jesus came to earth as both God and human and they call this belief the **incarnation**.

Advent is a time when people will use advent calendars, wreaths, and candles to remember the days leading up to the birth of Jesus.

The story of the birth of Jesus is celebrated in many ways including through cards, Nativity plays and church services. Christians remember **Mary** and **Jospeh** and the events of the story, including Jesus being born in a manger as there was no room anywhere else and how the first visitors to see him were the **shepherds**.

The shepherds were the first people to visit Jesus in the manger and this shows how Jesus was born for everyone, rich and poor alike.

Who do Christians say made the world?

Wonderful words

Creation: the act of God creating the world and everyone in it and everything that has been created by God

World: the planet and everything and everyone in it

Belief: trust or confidence in something

Thank: to express gratefulness for something

Harvest: to gather in crops and a Christian celebration

God: the all loving and all powerful being that Christians believe created the world and everything in it

Believe: to accept that something is true

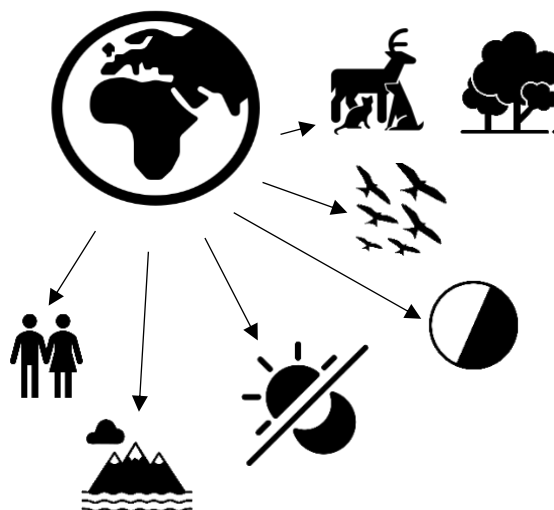
Bible: the holy book for Christians, comprising the Old Testament and the New Testament

Genesis: the first book of Moses for Jewish people and the first book of the Old Testament for Christians

Praise: to show and express gratitude and thanks to God

So how does it all work?

God's Creation



Christians say thank you to God



All icons are used free of charge from Noun Project. Individual artist credit is given on the following slide.

Important information

The first book of the **Bible** is the book of **Genesis** which in Chapters 1 and 2 tells Christians the story of how **God** created the world and everyone in it. This is known as the Story of **Creation**.

The story tells Christians how God made the world in six days and then on the seventh day he rested. Although some Christians may disagree with the events of **Creation**, they all **believe** that God is responsible for creating everything in some way.

Christians have a very strongly held **belief** that they should look after everything that God has created, and they should **thank** him for the world and everything in it.

Although Christians can thank God, pray to him and worship him at any time, the festival of **Harvest** is a key time in the Christian year when they **praise** him for **Creation**. This is a time when Christians can thank God for all he has made and for all they have been given. Christians will be singing songs about God as creator and about all he has given people.

Wonderful words

Community: a group of people who have something in common

World: the planet and everything and everyone in it

Psalm: a sacred song or hymn, often used in Christian and Jewish worship

Stewardship: the act of looking after and caring for something

Love: a strong feeling of affection or attachment to someone or something

Genesis: the first book of Moses for Jewish people and the first book of the Old Testament for Christians.

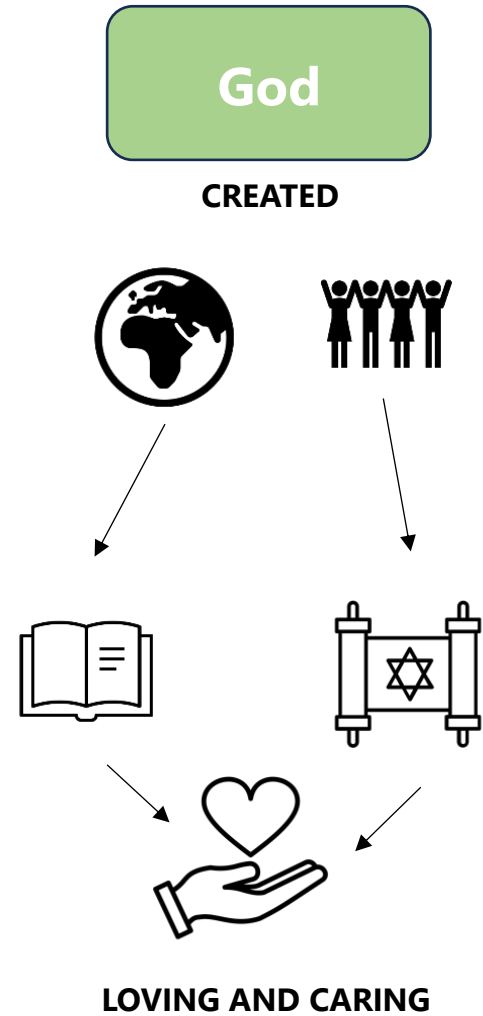
Religious: believing in a religion

Non-religious: not believing in a religion.

Christian: anything that is part of, or someone who follows Christianity.

Jewish: anything that is part of, or someone who follows Judaism.

So how does it all work?



Important information

Christian and **Jewish** people believe that **God** created the **world** and the people in it. They believe that God created people in His Image. People can read this story in the book of **Genesis** which is the first book in the **Christian** Old Testament and the first Book of Moses for **Jewish** people.

This means that everybody on earth is different and unique, and we are all part of the worldwide **community**. Everyone who is **religious** or **non-religious** believes we should take care of the world and everyone in it.

In the Bible and the Torah there are many stories and teachings about how we should take care for planet, which is known as **stewardship** and how we should show **love** for each by looking after everyone. In the book of **Psalms**, Jewish people are told how much God loves and cares for them and in the Gospels, Christians are taught that God loves and cares for them as well.

People want to show how much they love and care for each other and they do this through helping other people by giving help like Mother Teresa did or by giving tzedakah. Many Jewish people believe the festival of Sukkot is about helping others just as God helped the Jewish people when they left Egypt.