

# What do Christians believe God is like?

## Wonderful words

**Holy:** something that is considered to be good because it relates to religion

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

**Prodigal:** spending lots of money in a way that is not very good

**Worship:** to praise and follow God

**Nineveh:** an ancient city where people went against what God wanted.

**Loving:** the act of taking care of something or someone because of a strong attachment

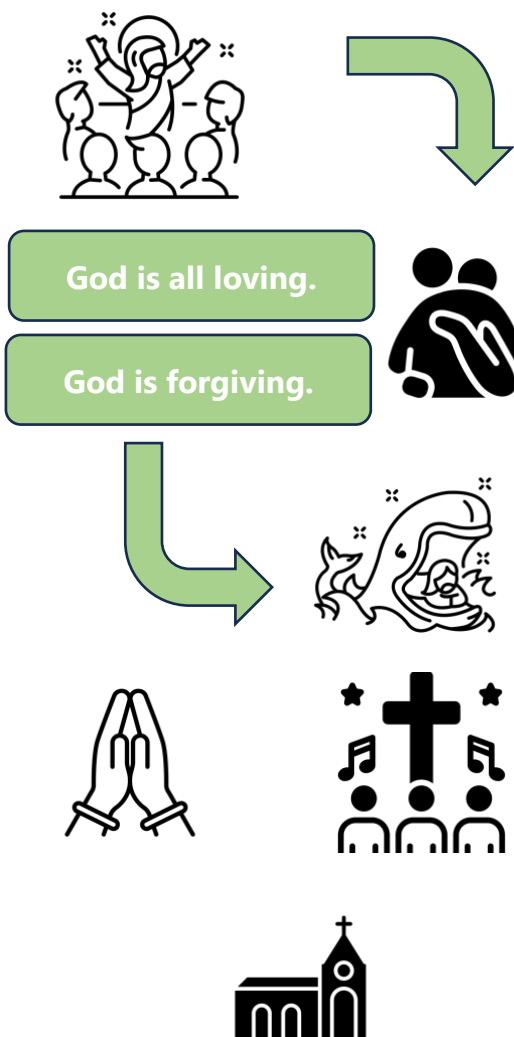
**Father:** the first person of the Trinity, who created everything

**Parable:** a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

**Jonah:** a messenger sent from God to the people of Nineveh.

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

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

Jesus told his followers many stories that helped them understand **God**. A story such as this is known as a **parable**.

An important story Jesus told was the Parable of the Lost Son, in this story a man has a son who leaves home and spends all of his money, he is often known as the **prodigal** son. When he goes home his father welcomes him home and is **loving** and **forgiving** to him.

This shows that **God** will forgive people who come back to him because he is loving and caring as he is The **Father** who created the world and everyone in it. Anyone can ask God for forgiveness, and they will be welcomed back into God's family.

The story of **Jonah** tells Christians that God sent him to **Nineveh** to help the people understand what was **holy** so that they could **worship** God and he would forgive them for what they had done wrong.

These stories tell Christians that if they ask God to forgive them when they worship.

him through prayer and when they go to church he will. They can ask him for help when they are sad or worried or they can tell him when they are happy.

# What is the 'good news' that Christians say Jesus brings? – Part 1

## Wonderful words

**Christians:** people who follow Christianity and believe Jesus is the Saviour who healed the rift between humanity and God.

**Jesus:** a very important person for Christians; God in the flesh

**Matthew:** a tax collector who Jesus called to follow him and who left his job as a tax collector.

**Fishermen:** people who earn a living through fishing

**Disciples:** a follower of Jesus

**Tax Collector:** a person who collects money on behalf of the Romans at the time of Jesus.

**Peace:** freedom from conflict

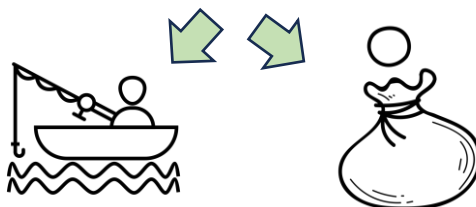
**Forgiveness:** when someone is stopped being blamed or punished for something they have done

**Apostles:** the twelve followers of Jesus who went with him during his earthly ministry

## So how does it all work?



Called to be world changers.



Love, Peace and Forgiveness  
Today



## Important information

Jesus chose people from many different roles in life to be his **Apostles**. Jesus often chose people to follow him who were outcasts at the time.

One person he chose was man named **Matthew** who was a **tax collector**. The Romans employed tax collectors to collect money from the people and they were hated as they gave the money to the Romans and kept some for themselves. Jesus showed **forgiveness** to Matthew by asking him to become one of his followers.

Jesus wanted his apostles and **disciples** to be world changers, so like Matthew they would be able to spread Jesus' message of love, forgiveness, and **peace**. Jesus chose people like Matthew as this would show everyone as it showed that anyone who wanted to could change.

Jesus also chose other world changers to help him spread his message of forgiveness, these included the **fishermen**, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew and James and John. As with Matthew these were unlikely people for Jesus to call to be his apostles.

**Christians** believe that Jesus' message of 'forgive and be forgiven' is still needed today and they will work to show this in all that they do. In Leeds, for example, the Christians at St. George's Crypt have been helping the homeless people for over 90 years and are putting into place Jesus' teaching and following his good news.

# Who is Jewish and how do they live?

## Wonderful words

**Synagogue:** the Jewish place of worship, sometimes called a shul

**Torah:** the Jewish holy book made up of the five books of Law.

**Jewish:** relating to the religion of Judaism.

**Mezuzah:** a small scroll with words from the Torah written on it and contained in a small rectangular mezuzah box

**Shabbat:** a day of rest for Jewish people, the seventh day of the week

**Shema:** A Jewish prayer

**God:** all powerful being who Jewish people believe created the world

**Chanukah:** a Jewish festival that remembers the winning back of the Second Temple and the miracle of the tiny amount of oil.

**Dreidel:** a four-sided spinning top played during the festival of Chanukah

**Star of David:** the recognized symbol of Judaism

## So how does it all work?



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## Important information

Jewish people have many items in their homes which help them show that they follow the Jewish faith.

This may include a **mezuzah** box which contains the **Shema**, a very important prayer from the **Torah** which tells Jews about their relationship with **God**. The mezuzah box can be seen on doorposts in Jewish homes and Jewish people will touch it as a reminder of their faith.

Sometimes there will be a **Star of David** on a mezuzah box or somewhere else in a Jewish home to show people that the home is a Jewish home. You can also find a Star of David in a **synagogue** to show it is a Jewish place of worship.

Some Jewish people will also keep **Shabbat** when they will not work or travel and will have a special meal to remember the day God rested when he had created the world. Many Jewish people will also go to the synagogue to show what an incredibly important day it is.

Jewish people will also have celebrations and festivals throughout the year to remember specific events and important times. One of those is the festival of **Chanukah** which helps Jewish people remember when there was only enough oil to keep the temple menorah lit for one day but it stayed alight for eight days. Some of these stories are in the **Torah** such as the story of David and Goliath.

## Wonderful words

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

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

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

**Resurrection:** Jesus' return to life after dying

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

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

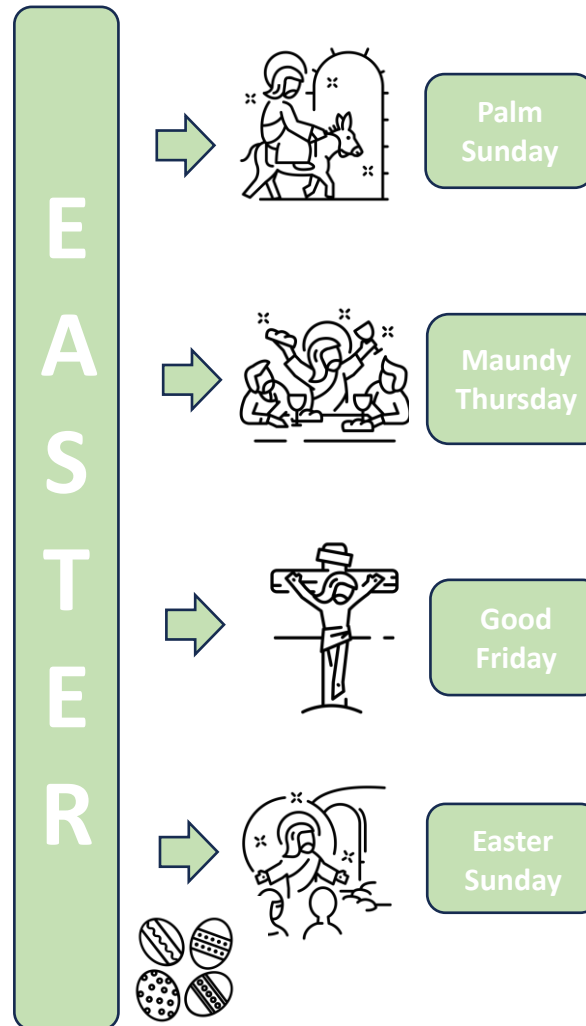
**Easter:** the Christian festival which remembers the resurrection of Jesus.

**Worship:** to praise and follow God

**Good Friday:** the Friday of Holy Week, the day on which Jesus was crucified.

**Religious:** believing in a religion

## So how does it all work?



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## Important information

**Easter** is the most important celebration for Christians during the year. It is a time for them to reflect on the events in the life of Jesus from Palm through to Easter Sunday.

Christians remember how through his death and **resurrection** Jesus healed the rift between humanity and **God** caused by sin. Christians refer to Jesus as **Saviour** as he saved them from being away from God and brought them **salvation** so that when they die, they can have **eternal life** in heaven with God.

Easter can be celebrated in many ways, **religious** and **secular**. During Easter week, sometimes called Holy Week, many Christians will feel a lot of different emotions, they will feel happy on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. They may feel sad and upset on **Good Friday** as they remember this as the day Jesus died.

In Easter Sunday they will feel very happy as they remember the **resurrection** of Jesus when he defeated death and came back to life with a promise of eternal life.

Other people will focus on the secular celebration of Easter by giving Easter Eggs and looking out for the Easter Bunny. Even though this is the same time of year it can be celebrated very differently, although Christians may also give Easter Eggs but will always think about the death and resurrection of Jesus as the eggs symbolize the new life Jesus has brought as the Saviour.



## Wonderful words

**Muslim:** a person who submits to the will of Allah by following the religion of Islam

**Prophet:** a messenger sent from Allah

**Shahadah:** the Muslim declaration of faith. It includes the beliefs that Allah is the only God and that Muhammad is Allah's messenger

**Ramadan:** a month in the Muslim calendar when Muslims fast during daylight hours

**Allah:** God

**Tawhid:** the belief that there is only one God and nothing is equal to God

**Islam:** submitting to the will of Allah

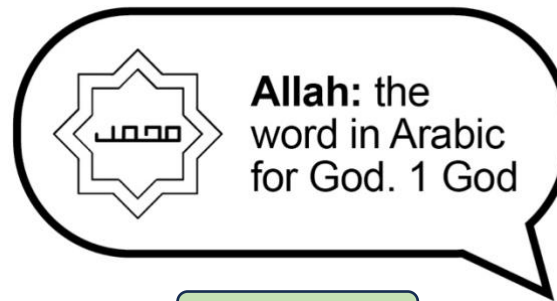
**Salah:** ritual prayer carried out 5 times per day, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

**Zakah:** giving of charity usually 2.5% of income, this is the 3rd Pillar of Islam

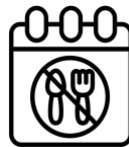
**Hajj:** Pilgrimage to Makkah to be made once in a life time if possible, this is the 5th Pillar of Islam

**Sawm:** Fasting from food or liquids during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan, this is the 4th Pillar of Islam

## So how does it all work?



Shahadah



Sawm



Zakat



Salah



Hajj

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## Important information

In **Islam** there is only one God, **Allah** and someone who follows the religion of Islam is a **Muslim**. The **shahadah**, is a statement of belief that Muslims say and think about many times a day. Muslims also believe that God sent a messenger or **Prophet** to spread Islam and this was Muhammad who is also mentioned in the shahadah.

Muslims believe there is only one God and nothing is equal to God (**Tawhid**). There are no pictures of Allah instead attributes of are explored through the 99 names.

The 5 pillars are a way of showing their submission to Allah. It can make a big difference to how Muslims live and provides a structure to their lives. These are important to most Muslims but Shi'a Muslims may give them different names and also perform other obligatory acts.

The shahadah is the first pillar in Islam and many Muslims try to keep or complete all of the pillars during their life time. Most Muslims will pray five times a day and this is known as **Salah**, although Shi'a Muslims will combine the prayers into three. Many Muslims will give money to the poor and this is usually 2.5% of their income and is known as **Zakat**. During the month of **Ramadan**, those Muslims who can, will go without food and water during daylight hours and this is known as **Sawm**.

The final pillar, which is only undertaken by Muslims who can afford it is called the **Hajj** and this is a pilgrimage to Makkah, they should try and make this journey once in a life time.

# What does it mean to belong to a faith community?

## Wonderful words

**Community:** a group of people who have something in common

**Muhammad:** Messenger or the Prophet of Allah

**Allah:** God

**Shabbat:** a day of rest for Jewish people, the seventh day of the week

**Ichthus:** a Greek symbol of a fish used by Christians to show their faith

**Faith:** a belief in God or the teachings of a belief system

**Wedding:** a marriage ceremony as a legal union of two people

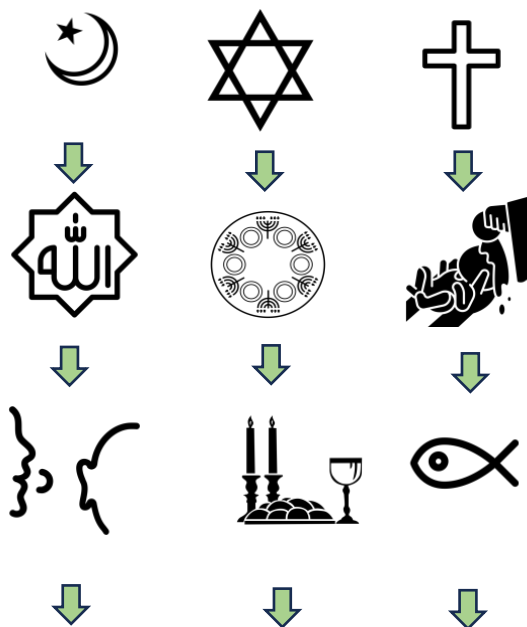
**Baptism:** a ceremony that welcomes someone into the Christian Church

**Aqiqah:** a ceremony to welcome a baby into the world in Islam

**Parable:** a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

## So how does it all work?

### Belonging



### Faith Community

## Important information

Many people in the world belong to a **faith community**. A faith community is a group of people who believe the same things as each other about God or the religion they follow.

People within the faith community will often have special events to welcome people such as an **aqiqah** in Islam or a **baptism** in Christianity.

Faith communities will also have many symbols and items which show they belong to that religion, for example in Christianity you may often see the **ichthus**, this is a symbol known around the world to represent Christianity. Christians will also use a **parable** from the Bible to show how important people are.

In Judaism you will often see a mezuzah or a seder plate to recognize that a person belongs to a Jewish faith community and there are special rules about what can cannot be done on **Shabbat**.

In Islam the faith community will show what they believe about **Allah** and about **Muhammad** by what they wear and what they do, for example many Muslims will have calligraphy pictures at home to show they are Muslims.

People will often show they belong to each other to having a wedding ceremony which each faith community will celebrate in a different way.