

What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?

Wonderful words

Holy: God is awesome and amazing. God is morally pure and hates sin

Omnipresent: God is everywhere

Omniscient: God is all knowing

Believer: a person who believes and accepts the truth of something

Eternal: God created time and is not limited by it – God is outside time

Loving: God wants the very best for human beings, He is kind and forgiving

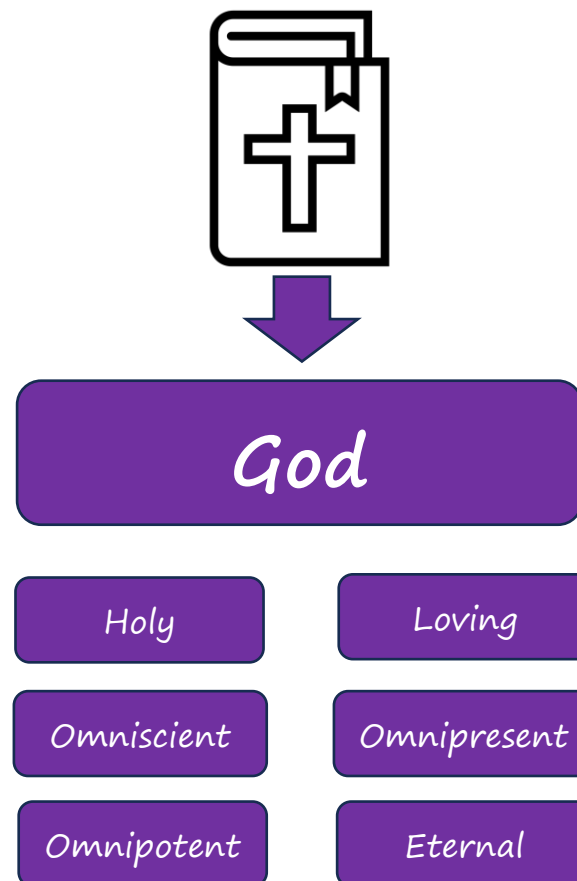
Omnipotent: God is all powerful

Isaiah: an Old Testament prophet who speaks of the power and holiness of God

John: a letter written a few years after the death of Jesus, which is believed to be by one of the disciples

Testament: a statement of belief; one of the two sections of the Christian Bible

So how does it all work?



Important information

Christians use the Bible to explore what God is like, reading many different books in the Old Testament and the New Testament to understand better the nature of God.

The book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament talks about his experience of God. He talks about how God is **holy** and powerful. For Christians, God is **omnipotent**, which means he is all powerful, for example as the Creator in the book of Genesis.

God is also described as **omnipresent**, this means that God is everywhere because he is **eternal** and is outside time because he is not limited by time as he created it. God is also described as **omniscient**, this means he knows everything that has happened, is happening and will happen because he is outside of time and can see every moment in time.

When a **believer** reads the letter 1 John they will find God described as **loving** because he is kind and forgiving to his creation. God loves his people and he came to earth as Jesus so that he could heal the rift between himself and humanity that had been caused by The Fall.

Why is the Torah so important for Jewish people?

Wonderful words

Torah: the Jewish Holy Book made of the five books of law

Sefer Torah: the scrolls containing the Torah which are kept in the ark in the synagogue

Orthodox: a worldview in Judaism following the traditional interpretation of Jewish law.

Pesach (Passover): the festival remembering the Israelites leaving slavery in Egypt

Synagogue: the Jewish place of worship sometimes called shul

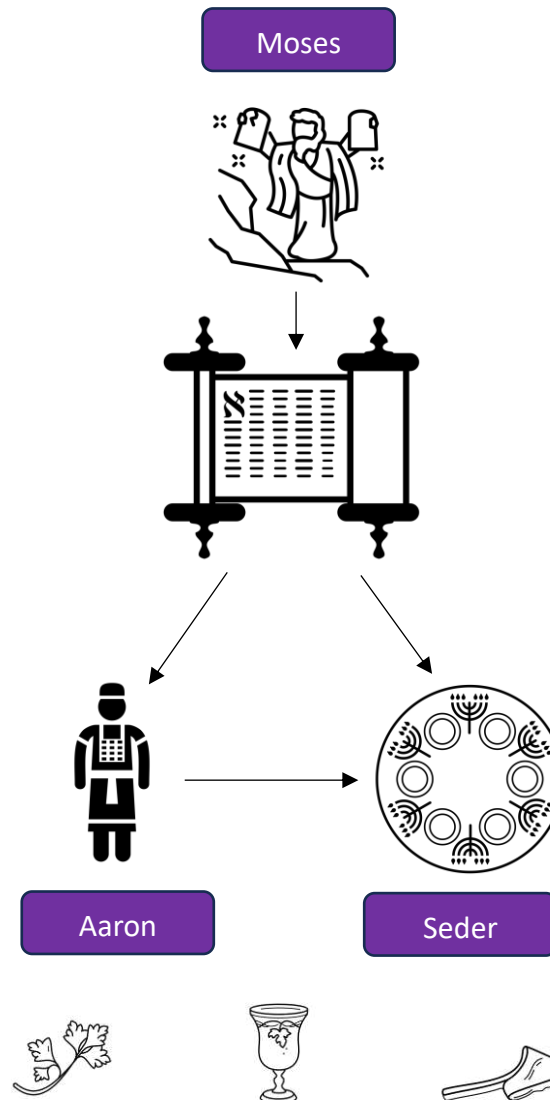
Kosher: something which follows Jewish laws

Progressive: worldview in Judaism which says that the laws of the Torah should be interpreted for modern day life

Kashrut: Jewish laws about the suitability of food

Secular: not connected with religious or spiritual matters

So how does it all work?



Important information

The Jewish people are a diverse group with different views about how the laws in the Torah are applied in everyday life.

The Torah is important to all Jewish people and every **synagogue** will have a **Sefer Torah** contained in an ark to show how important and special it is.

The Torah will tell Jewish people what God allows them to do and what God wants them to do. Anything that God allows Jewish people to do is known as **kosher**. When this is applied to what Jews can and cannot eat this is known as **kashrut**, for example a Jewish person cannot eat pork as God forbids it.

Orthodox Jewish people will follow what God has told them exactly in the Torah as it is the word of God. **Progressive** Jewish people believe that the Torah was written by humans and reflects the place of God in the life of the author. They will interpret the Torah for modern day life as some of the laws cannot be followed today. **Secular** Jewish people identify as being Jewish but do not tend to identify with Jewish beliefs.

Pesach is a very important Jewish festival which can be celebrated differently by the different Jewish groups. Some Jewish people may choose to remember Miriam at Pesach whilst other Jewish people may have a vegan meal to reflect what they believe.

For Christians, when Jesus left; what was the impact of Pentecost?

Wonderful words

Pentecost: the day when the Holy Spirit came to earth.

Holy Spirit: the third person of the Trinity, God spiritually active in the world

Disciples: the followers of Jesus

Lord's Prayer: the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to use.

Tongues: being able to speak different languages, a gift given to the disciples on Pentecost

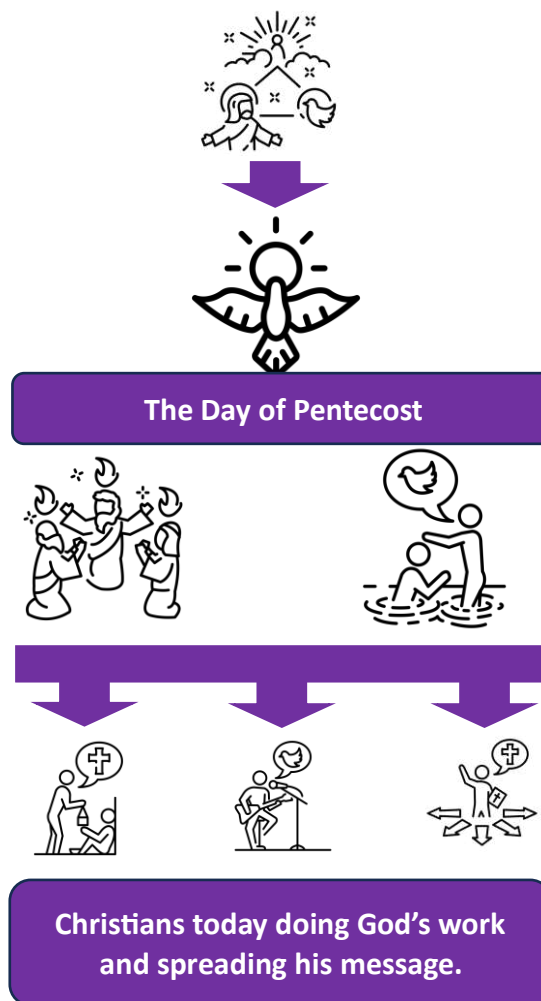
Acts: the book in the New Testament that contains the story of the early Church and the spread of God's message

Trinity: The Christian belief that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three in one

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

Baptised: the act of washing that welcomes a person into the Christian Church

So how does it all work?



Important information

After Jesus' resurrection he spent time with his **disciples** and told them to wait in Jerusalem and then he went back to Heaven to be with God.

The book of **Acts** in the New Testament tells Christians about the events on the day of **Pentecost** when the **Holy Spirit** was received by the disciples, and this enabled them to speak in **tongues**. This amazed the people who saw it as the disciples were speaking the different languages of all the visitors in Jerusalem. This was important as the disciples could tell everyone about God and Jesus.

Many of the disciples who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were **baptised** to show that their sins had been washed away and they were part of the Christian community. After the day of Pentecost, the disciples followed the example of the **Apostles** and did God's work and spread his message of forgiveness.

Christians today follow this example and guided and supported by the power of the Holy Spirit to carry on this work and spread the message in the UK and around the world, just as the book of Acts tells people the disciples did.

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the **Trinity**, a key Christian belief of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Wonderful words

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that Christians are no longer away from God

Jerusalem: the city where the Jewish Temple was located.

Resurrection: Jesus' return to life after dying

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

Crucifixion: the way Jesus was put to death by nailing him to a cross

Palm Sunday: the first day of Holy Week when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

Disciples: the followers of Jesus

Sin: an act which goes against the God's laws

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

Calvary: the hill outside Jerusalem on which Jesus was put to death.

So how does it all work?



The Fall – God and humans are apart.



Holy Week



Salvation – God and humans are at one with each other.

Important information

The most important festival for Christians is **Easter** and it is a time when they remember the **crucifixion** of Jesus on Good Friday and his **resurrection** on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week is the title given to the last week of Jesus' life and begins on **Palm Sunday**. On this day Christians remember how Jesus entered the city of **Jerusalem** on a donkey. The events of Holy Week include Jesus and his **disciples** sharing a meal which is called The Last Supper, his trial, crucifixion and resurrection.

In the big story of the Bible, Christians believe that the Fall led to a split between humans and God and that Jesus died so that people would receive **forgiveness** for the **sins** they have committed. This belief is that Jesus' death led to the **salvation** of humanity so they can be with God as they were during the Creation and before the Fall.

Good Friday is called good because, by the act of Jesus being crucified on **Calvary** and by defeating death and being resurrected on Easter Sunday, he restored the relationship between God and humanity. His act of sacrifice although sad became good because Christians believe anyone can be saved and go back to God.

Wonderful words

Hindu: a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal teaching

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

Deity: Brahman channeled into different forms

Namaste: bowing slightly and putting hands together

Shiva: the destroyer of things so new things can begin

Aum: the sacred symbol that describes Brahman; the first sound of creation

Atman; the spark of Brahman in every living creature

Lakshmi: the deity of wealth and prosperity

Vishnu: the sustainer of all living things

Brahma: the creator of things who created the universe, people and creatures

So how does it all work?

Aum



Brahma



Vishnu



Shiva



Lakshmi

Important information

The Hindu tradition is diverse and ever changing and according to the 2021 Census, 1.7% of the population of the UK are Hindus.

The ultimate reality is known as **Brahman** who is the source of everything in the universe. The **atman** is a spark of Brahman in every living creature and the **namaste** welcome is a way of recognising the spark of Brahman inside every living creature. The **Aum** symbol represents Brahman but also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Brahman can be found in many different forms, known as **deities**. For many Hindus the three most important deities are known as the Trimurti. **Brahma** is the creator deity who is responsible for the creation of the universe. **Vishnu** is the preserver deity who maintains the universe and **Shiva** is the destroyer deity so that new things can begin in the cycle of life and death.

Another important deity for Hindus is **Lakshmi**, at Diwali many Hindus will put statues of Lakshmi outside their homes in the hope that she will visit the home and bring the family good fortune for the new year.

Wonderful words

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

Belief: trust or confidence in something

Moral: acting in the correct way

Golden Rule: to treat other people as you want to be treated

Humanism: a non-religious worldview of life and the world

Worldview: a person's view of the world

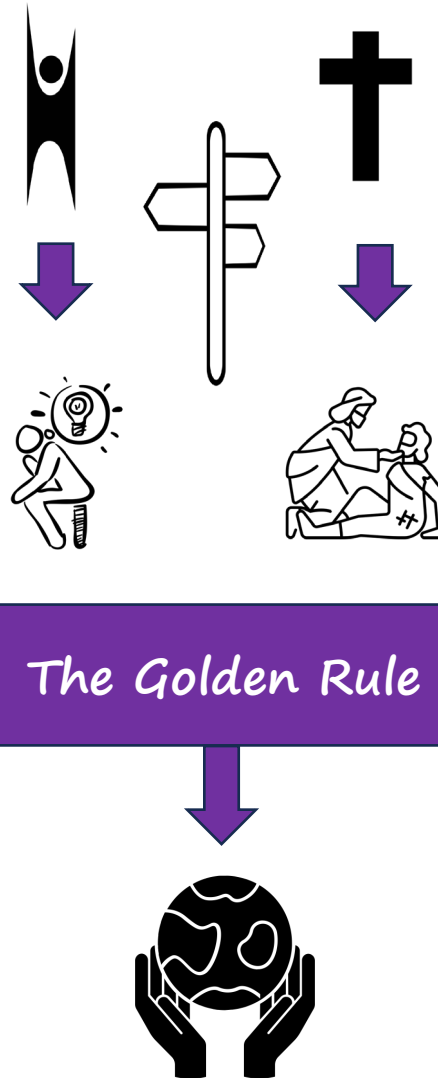
Christian: a person who follows Christianity and believes Jesus is the Saviour who healed the rift between humanity and God.

Values: something that is important in terms of what you believe or how you act

Authority: having power over something or someone

Non-religious: not believing in a religion

So how does it all work?



Important information

Everybody in the world has their own personal **worldview** and this can be religious or **non-religious**. There are similarities and differences between these different worldviews.

All worldviews have different **moral** ways of living and this affects how people treat other people and the world around them.

A **Christian** will have **values** which are based on the life of Jesus and the teachings of the Christian Church. For many Christians the Bible has **authority** because for many it is the Word of God.

People who hold **Humanism** as a world view will have the **belief** that they should be free to work out for themselves what makes us happy and that we should be kind to the planet and animals. A person who holds this worldview is known as a **Humanist**. Not all non-religious people are humanists.

Treating others as we want to be treated can be found in many worldviews and is called **The Golden Rule**.