


Key Vocabulary			
Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, or its beliefs and practices.	Jerusalem	important to Christians because it is where Jesus did lots of his preaching.
Church	a building used for public Christian worship	Nazareth	it is the hometown of Jesus and where he spent much of his life.
Jesus	Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God	Bethlehem	important because it is where Jesus was born
festival	A festival is a day or period of celebrating, usually for a religious meaning.	Ichthus	A fish symbol important to Christians
The Cross	The cross is an important symbol for Christians. It reminds them that Jesus died on a cross.	Gospels	the four books in the Bible (New Testament) that tell the events in the life of Jesus. These are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
parable	a story with an underlying meaning.	moral	a lesson that can be taken from a situation, story or parable.


WHAT?

1




Christianity is one of the five main world religions. It began after the death of Jesus. Jesus was born a Jew and Christianity originally developed as part of Judaism. The words ‘Christian’ and ‘Christianity’ come from the name, ‘Jesus Christ.’ Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God and that he came to Earth to teach people about God’s message. Jesus is also known as Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, The Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Light of the World, and Bread of Life.

2



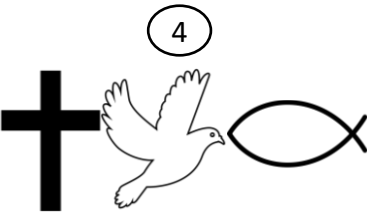
Jerusalem is important to Christians because it is where Jesus did lots of his preaching, Bethlehem is important because it is where Jesus was born and Nazareth is important because it is the hometown of Jesus and where he spent much of his life. Lourdes is significant because Bernadette Soubirous saw a white robed lady 18 times near here who was the Blessed Virgin Mary – Jesus’ mother. Mary, Jesus’ mother, is a very significant person to Catholics and therefore Lourdes is a very special place for Catholic Christians in particular. Rome is significant to Christians and centre of Catholic Christianity since 1st century AD and where the head of the Catholic church, the Pope, lives.

3




A festival is a day or period of celebrating, usually for a religious meaning. Easter and Christmas are Christian festivals. They both celebrate important times of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe was the Son of God. Christmas is a festival celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians believe his birth showed God’s love for the world. Easter is a festival celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This festival is very important to Christians as they believe it shows them that Jesus died for their sins.

4




The cross is an important symbol for Christians as they believe that Jesus died on the cross to show his love for humanity. Jesus dying on the cross is known as the crucifixion and a cross symbol showing Jesus on the cross is called a ‘crucifix’. The dove symbol is often associated with peace. It also represents the Holy Spirit. When Jesus died, he promised the disciples that even though he wouldn’t be there any more as a man, he would not be leaving them alone – he sent the Holy Spirit. Christians think of the Holy Spirit as a presence with them, a feeling that God is there with them always, guiding, helping and revealing. The Ichthus ‘fish’ was a secret symbol for early Christians. It was used to show that they were followers of Jesus Christ, and to state that they were Christians.

5



Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God and he was sent to Earth to teach about God’s love and His forgiveness. The life and death of Jesus is documented in the four gospels of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. His birth was heralded by angels and Wise Men from the East followed a star and came to worship him. Jesus grew up to become a great teacher, spreading the message of God’s love. Jesus had 12 disciples, who travelled with him and helped him spread the message of God.. Towards the end of his life, Jesus told his disciples that he would be betrayed and put to death. A short while later, Jesus was crucified and he died. Three days later, the gospels state that Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to his followers with the message that through God, Christ’s believers can have the promise of eternal life.

6



The Gospels are the four books in the Bible (New Testament) that tell the events in the life of Jesus. These are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. A parable is a story with an underlying meaning. Jesus told many parables to teach people about God. A moral is a lesson that can be taken from a situation, story or parable. Many of the morals in Jesus’ parables are linked to following God’s laws. Some of the key witnesses who were with Jesus during his life wrote down accounts of what he did and said. These accounts are known as the Gospels. The first four books of the New Testament in the Bible are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Christians believe that the Gospels hold accurate accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Two important parables are The Lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan.