

RS	Understanding Christianity Part B	Year 7	Term 4
<b>1. HOW SHOULD WE INTERPRET THE CHRISITAN CREATION STORY?</b>		<b>2: WHAT DOES GENESIS REVEAL ABOUT HUMANITY?</b>	
<p><b>All Christians</b> believe the Bible is the book of <b>'truth'</b> and reveals God is the almighty creator of the universe. <i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."</i> Genesis 1:1.</p> <p>Genesis 1 reveals God created the world in 6 days, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> rested. However, Christians may interpret the creation account differently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Literalist view:</b> Some Christians read the account as a fact and reject scientific theories.</li> <li>• <b>Non-literalist:</b> Other Christians read the account as a metaphorical story and argue God is the intelligent designer of the universe who caused the Big Bang.</li> <li>• <b>Atheists:</b> Argue creation was by chance as science claims the universe is approx. 14 billion years old, and our planet is approx. 4 billion years old. They support the Big Bang Theory and Evolution Theory.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sanctity of life:</b> The belief that life is God given so is precious and special.</li> <li>• Genesis reveals humans are God's greatest creation and they alone are made in the image of God.</li> <li>• Genesis reveals God commanded humanity to rule over his creation to maintain it.</li> </ul> <p><i>"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female he created them."</i></p>	
<b>3: WHY ARE JESUS' MIRACLES IMPORTANT?</b>		<b>4: WHAT DO JESUS' MIRACLES TEACH PEOPLE?</b>	
<p><b>Miracle:</b> An extraordinary event that goes against nature, cannot be explained by science and that Christians believe is caused by God.</p> <p><b>Divine:</b> Jesus was divine because he is God. His miracles showed his omnipotence and benevolence.</p> <p>Jesus performed many miracles that can be put into three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Raising to life miracle :</b> Jesus raises someone from the dead.</li> <li><b>2. Nature miracle:</b> Jesus shows his power over the natural world.</li> <li><b>3. Healing miracle:</b> Jesus heals someone from a disease.</li> </ol> <p>Many Christians believe God still performs miracles today, as a sign he is still here. This might be a sign to guide people or an answered prayer.</p>		<p>Jesus' miracles include healing the sick and blind, forgiving those who sinned and rising people from the dead. These all prove Jesus was <b>the Son of God</b>.</p> <p>Miracles showed the <b>compassion</b> Jesus had for people. He did not want to see people suffer unnecessarily. Today, Christians work to <b>help</b> those in poverty and who suffer.</p> <p>Jesus' miracles taught people to have <b>faith</b>. Jesus healed a paralysed man because of the faith of his friends. This teaches Christians to have faith today.</p>	
<b>5: WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?</b>		<b>6: SUFFERING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resurrection:</b> Jesus rose from the dead to prove he was the Son of God and to show he had the power defeat death so now people can go to heaven.</li> <li>• <b>Atonement:</b> To be at one with God . This was possible because Jesus forgave sin. Jesus' death paid the price for sin.</li> <li>• <b>Incarnated:</b> God the Son became human as Jesus so he could live amongst humanity and fulfil God's plan to forgive sin. As a man, he experienced pain and suffering so they believe Jesus is with them in their pain and suffering.</li> <li>• <b>Grace:</b> Jesus died on the cross as an act of benevolence for human sin even though they did not deserve it.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Moral evil:</b> Suffering caused by humans.</p> <p><b>Natural evil:</b> Suffering caused by nature.</p> <p><b>The inconsistent triad:</b> Claims that an omnipotent and benevolent God cannot exist as suffering exists. This is why many atheists don't believe in the existence of God as they argue a loving God would not allow his creation to suffer.</p> <p>Christians still believe in God but accept suffering is a part of life and part of God's plan. They believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffering is temporary.</li> <li>• Suffering is a punishment for sin.</li> <li>• Suffering is caused by human free-will.</li> <li>• Suffering is a test of faith, those who live a good life will be rewarded with heaven on Judgement Day.</li> </ul>	