

Year 7 (Topic 2): Christianity

Lesson 1: WHY DID GOD CREATE?

In the beginning, God created the Earth and everything in it, including a beautiful garden called Eden. He made the first humans, Adam and Eve, and placed them in the garden to live in harmony with nature. Among the many trees in the garden were the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam and Eve they could eat the fruit from any tree except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. One day, Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. Eve ate it and gave some to Adam, who also ate it. This act of disobedience is known as the Fall. As a result, Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness and felt shame. God then banished them from the Garden of Eden, and life became harder for them. Despite this, God promised to send a Messiah who would save humanity. The story of Adam and Eve highlights themes of temptation, disobedience, and hope for redemption. Believers strive for theosis, the process of becoming more like God, even after the Fall.

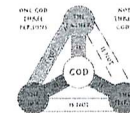
Lesson 2: WHAT ARE PROPHETS & TEMPLES?

After the Fall, humanity became increasingly wicked, so God decided to cleanse the Earth with a great flood. He instructed Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark to save his family and two of every kind of animal. Noah obeyed, and when the floodwaters came, they were safe in the ark. After 40 days and nights, the floodwaters receded, and God made a covenant with Noah, symbolized by a rainbow, promising never to flood the Earth again. Throughout history, God sent prophets to guide the people and remind them of His promises. These prophets foretold the coming of a Messiah who would restore the friendship lost at the Fall and bring hope and redemption. The Israelites built a Temple to worship God and made sacrifices to atone for their sins, including lambs and other animals, symbolizing the need for purification and forgiveness. These sacrifices pointed to the ultimate sacrifice that the Messiah would make, fulfilling God's promise of redemption and restoring the broken relationship between God and humanity.



LESSON 3 WHO IS GOD?

God is the supreme being who created the universe and everything in it. Christians believe in one God who exists in three persons, known as the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is a mystery, showing that God is one in essence but three in person, working together in perfect unity. The story of Abraham's Hospitality, where Abraham welcomed three visitors to his tent, is believed to symbolize the Trinity and God's engagement with humanity. God is described with four "omni" attributes: omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere), and omnibenevolent (all-good). These attributes highlight God's infinite nature and His deep involvement in the world and the lives of people. Understanding these aspects of God helps Christians trust and worship Him more fully.



Lesson 4: EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus' early life is described in the Gospels, which tell us about His birth, childhood, and early adulthood. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, fulfilling many prophecies about the coming Messiah. After His birth, His family fled to Egypt to escape King Herod's decree to kill all young boys in Bethlehem. They later returned and settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. Joseph, His earthly father, was a tekton, a craftsman or carpenter, and Jesus likely learned this trade from him. Little is known about Jesus' childhood, but one significant event is when He was twelve years old and stayed behind in the Temple in Jerusalem, impressing the teachers with His wisdom and understanding of the Scriptures. Jesus lived a humble and obedient life until He began His public ministry around the age of thirty, when He was baptized by John the Baptist and started preaching, teaching, and performing miracles, revealing His identity as the Son of God and the promised Messiah.

Lesson 5: JESUS THE MESSIAH AND TEACHINGS.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the promised savior sent by God to redeem humanity. Christians believe that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Born to Mary in Bethlehem, Jesus lived a sinless life, teaching about God's love and performing miracles. His key teachings include loving God and your neighbor, treating others as you want to be treated, forgiving others, practicing humility, and having faith in Him. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection three days later are central to Christian faith, as His sacrifice paid for humanity's sins, offering eternal life to all who believe. By following Jesus' teachings and example, Christians strive to live a life pleasing to God.

Lesson 6: PHARISEES

The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group known for strictly following the Law of Moses. They emphasized rituals like purity, tithing, and keeping the Sabbath. Although they clashed with Jesus, who criticized them for focusing on outward appearances instead of inner righteousness, they played a key role in preserving Jewish traditions. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, betrayed Jesus to the Pharisees and other religious leaders, leading to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Despite their conflicts with Jesus, the Pharisees' teachings later influenced Rabbinic Judaism.



Lesson 7: DEATH & RESURRECTION

The Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are central events in Christian faith. Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by crucifixion. He was nailed to a cross and died, taking on the sins of humanity. Jesus' body was placed in a tomb, but three days later, He rose from the dead, an event known as the Resurrection. The Resurrection proved Jesus' divinity and His victory over sin and death, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him. These events are celebrated by Christians during Easter, marking the foundation of their faith and hope in salvation.



Lesson 8: PARABLES

The Sheep and the Goats: Jesus tells a story about the final judgment where He will separate people like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep, representing good people, are praised for helping others, like feeding the hungry and caring for the sick. They are rewarded with eternal life. The goats, representing those who didn't help others, are punished. This parable teaches the importance of helping and loving others.

The Good Samaritan: Jesus tells the story of a man attacked by robbers and left injured. A priest and a Levite pass by without helping, but a Samaritan, who was considered an outsider, stops to help. The Samaritan cares for the man's wounds and ensures he gets more care. This parable teaches us to show kindness and compassion to everyone, no matter who they are.