



CHRISTIANITY RELIGION



FOUNDER

The history of the **Christian** religion and the **Christian** church began with Jesus and his apostles (disciples). **Christianity** is the religion that is based on the birth, life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus Christ.

BELIEFS

Christians believe there is only one God, but that he is revealed in three different forms:

- God the Father, who created and cares for the world and everything in it.
- God the Son, who came down to earth as Jesus.
- God the Holy Spirit, which symbolises God's power living within Christians.

The word Christ comes from a Greek word meaning Messiah which means 'God's chosen one'.

Christians model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught people to love God and love their neighbour.

CHRISTIAN HOLY BOOK

The Christian holy book is the **Bible**. It is divided into the **Old and New Testaments**.

The New Testament explains how God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to restore the broken relationship between people and God.

Jesus was executed on a cross at Easter (**Crucifixion**) as a criminal by the Romans, and according to Christian teaching after three days he rose from the dead (**the Resurrection**).

PLACE OF WORSHIP

Many Christians worship in **churches**. Some groups meet in homes and other buildings. 'Church' means the gathering of Christians as well as the building in which Christians worship. Their leaders are called **priests** or **ministers**.

Many churches hold a service called **Communion, Eucharist** or **Mass**, in which bread and wine are shared together, just as Jesus did with his followers before his death.



SPECIAL HOLIDAYS

The two main Christian festivals are Easter and Christmas.

Christmas is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Easter marks the death and resurrection of Jesus and is the most important Christian festival.

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before **Easter** in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

What are the Christian symbols?

The cross is the main symbol. It reminds Christians that Jesus died on the cross to save them.



The dove is the symbol of the holy spirit and peace.

The fish symbol was created using the Greek letters which spell out ICHTHUS : Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour.



The Romans persecuted the Christians and it became dangerous for them to meet. So the Christians devised a secret code. They drew half a fish in the sand. If a person completed the fish, they knew he or she was a believer too. Under the fish sign the Christians wrote the Greek word fish.

ΙΧΘΥΣ

These letters stood for: **Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour**

FIND OUT MORE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4/articles/zvfnkmn>

<https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/1280xn/p070r627.png>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z77jf4j>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What does the lit candle represent?
2. Who founded the religion?
3. Christians believe "God the Son" is?
4. What is the Holy book called?
5. The word Christ comes from a Greek word meaning Messiah. What does this mean?
6. What does this symbol mean?
7. Where do Christians worship?
8. What is the main reason why the cross is important to Christians?