



Religious Education

Salvation: Why does Easter matter to Christians?

Digging Deeper.

Background Information

Most Christians see the Bible as telling a story about the ongoing relationship between God and Creation, with a particular focus on the bond between God and humanity. The good relationship was damaged very early on in the Bible story, with Adam and Eve eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and bad. This action illustrates a human tendency to go their own way — or to 'sin'. Called 'the Fall' by many Christians, this act also signals a separation and division between humans and their Creator: the idyllic relationship between God and humans no longer exists. God, however, still loves his creation and seeks to bring all people back into friendship. This is the link with the concept of Salvation — of God 'saving' humans (and renewing the whole of creation). For Christians, Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the culmination of this. Jesus, as God in the flesh (incarnation), shows people what God is like, in his teachings and example. Jesus' name means 'he saves'. His death is seen by Christians as a sacrifice, the supreme example of God's love for people, and the model for Christian living. One way of looking at this is that Jesus' death and resurrection heals the damage done by sin — so, if people ask for forgiveness, it is freely given, because Jesus has already paid the punishment. The death and resurrection should not be seen as a complete end to sin, however: sinning still happens and should be taken seriously, but can be forgiven by God through Jesus. This unit focuses on Jesus building a bridge to God through his teachings and his example. Pupils will concentrate on the idea of his death as sacrifice more fully in KS2. Christians use these stories in different ways. Some will prepare for Easter during Lent, reading passages from the Easter story and meditating on Jesus' experience, perhaps particularly on his suffering. This might remind a Christian to be grateful for Jesus' sacrifice, and to recognise that sin is still a serious business. Some Christians read the whole of the Passion narrative in John's Gospel (Chapters 18-20) in a service; others remember it in the Stations of the Cross, saying prayers recalling different events of Holy Week. This is the most significant Christian festival, remembering and celebrating the salvation offered through Jesus.



In this unit the children will...

- Know where God, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation fit into the 'big story' of the Bible.
- Know the stories of Holy Week and Easter from the Bible and how they link to the idea of Salvation.
- Recognise how Christians show their beliefs about Jesus as a saviour in church worship.
- Make their own ideas about whether the text has something to say to me.

By the end of this unit....

All children can:

- Tell stories of Holy Week and Easter from the Bible.
- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about Jesus as a saviour.
- Explain how God, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation fit into the 'big story' of the Bible.

Most children will:

- Tell stories from the Bible and recognise a link with salvation .
- Give ideas about whether the text has something to say to them.

Some children will:

- Give clear, simple recounts of what the texts mean to Christians and how they link to Salvation.
- Think, talk and ask questions about whether Jesus' Salvation matters to anyone other than Christians, exploring different ideas.

Why does
Easter matter
to Christians?



Key Vocabulary

God, Bible, Christians, Jesus, prayer, sin, salvation, Easter, Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Lent, Big Story.