

Year 8 Christianity – Beliefs and Practices



Key Beliefs

Key Practices/Impacts

Topics	Beliefs
Nature of God	Christians believe that God is all powerful, good, loving and knowing. They believe that God is beyond the universe but interacts with His creation.
Creation	The beliefs revealed in Genesis 1 and 2 about how God created the universe and humankind. Many Christians see Genesis 1 as a poem and Genesis 2 as a metaphorical story. Some (Creationists) see the accounts as literally true.
Adam and Eve	The first created humans according to Genesis 2. God created Adam from dirt as a caretaker of his creation. Eve was created from Adam's rib.
Trinity	The Nicene Creed was a document written in 325AD that describes one God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Almost all Christians today recognise this as a key belief describing their one God as three persons.
Omnipotent	"With God all things are possible." - This religious teaching shows that God can do anything. "And God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light." This religious teaching demonstrates God doing the impossible.
Benevolent	"The Lord is good to all; He loves all He has made." This religious teaching tells Christians that God loves all people.
Salvation	Many Christians believe that all have sinned and so need God's forgiveness in order to enter Heaven in the afterlife. For Christians, this can be achieved because of Jesus who's life and death is an atonement for their sin.
Incarnation	The belief shown in John 1 that "the word became flesh and lived among us." Christians believe that 'the word' is another way of saying God the son and so God became flesh and lived as a human. This closed the gap between humans and God, caused by sin.

Worship	Christians believe that God can be worshipped in a number of ways. This includes singing, dancing, praying, art and celebrating the Eucharist. Worship shows that they are devoted to God.
Eucharist	This is the sacrament (religious practice that symbolises a spiritual change) involving bread and wine. Christians celebrate it in different ways but for all Christians it reminds them of the forgiveness God offers through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
Prayer	Most simply, this is talking to God and is the most common form of worship. Christians may use the Lord's prayer, as Jesus taught. Alternatively they may thank God, apologise for sin or ask for help when they pray.
Liturgical Worship	Worship that follows a set structure, such as the Eucharist. This is done in many Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches.
Easter	The Christian festival that remembers the death of Jesus and celebrates the resurrection. Christians use hollow eggs to represent the empty tomb and as a symbol of new life.
Christmas	The Christian festival that remembers the birth of Jesus. This festival marks the incarnation of God. Christians exchange gifts to remember that God gave the ultimate gift by coming to earth.

Nature of God	God's characteristics. What God is like.
Trinity	The belief that God is one God but 3 'persons', Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Omnipotent	All powerful.
Omniscient	All knowing.
Omnibenevolent	All good or all loving.
Omnipresent	Everywhere / always there.
Transcendent	Beyond the Universe.
Incarnation	Literally to become flesh. When God became human, as Jesus.
Atonement	To become one again, when God is at one with humans again because of Jesus.
Worship	Showing praise or devotion to God.
Liturgical worship	Worship with a set structure, e.g. the eucharist
Eucharist	Literally thanksgiving. Eating bread and wine to remember the crucifixion.