

Gospel | Understanding Christianity | Years 5 & 6 | Spring Term 2024-25

Key Question

What would Jesus do?

Key Concepts

The Gospel	Texts that proclaim Jesus's good news; they offer accounts of Jesus's life, journeys and dealings with his disciples, followers and opponents.
Context	The Gospels were written in the context of that time meaning the text needs to be studied to understand their meaning; for this reason, Christians today can interpret biblical texts differently.
Features	The Gospels take many different forms including features such as teachings, parables and narrative accounts.
Religious Testimony	The Gospels were written by the Christian community and therefore are best described as religious testimony. This does not mean they are fiction, but neither are they objective historical accounts.
Christians today	Christians believe that they should bring this good news to life in the world in different ways within their church family, in their personal lives, with family, with their neighbours, in the local, national and global community.

Key People

Jesus	God incarnate. Often referred to in the Gospel as 'Rabbi', meaning 'teacher.'
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John	Disciples of Jesus and authors of the Gospel. The Gospels are eye-witness accounts of the people who lived and spoke with Jesus.

Key Vocabulary

Christian	A disciple or follower of Jesus
Disciple	Literally means 'learner'
Discipleship	Becoming more like Jesus; through the power of the Holy Spirit e.g. by putting Jesus first, reading the Bible, loving God and other people
Gentiles	Non-Jewish people
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
Generous	Showing a readiness to give more of something
Foundation	An underlying basis or principle

Key Bible Passages

Matthew 7: 24 – 27	Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders – foundations matter. Those who follow what Jesus said have built firm foundations.
Matthew 5 – 7	The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus's teachings about how to live. Combines spiritual ideas with ethical practice.
Luke 7: 1 – 10	An example of a healing story (miracle) which demonstrates how Jesus's ministry is very inclusive; those usually marginalised or excluded are beneficiaries of Jesus's generosity.

Key Learning: What would Jesus do?

- 1 What is the Gospel (The Wise and Foolish Builders)?**

Elicit current understanding of the Gospel and parables. Complete a design challenge – in groups of three, use 12 kebab sticks and some masking tape to create the tallest possible Bible stand? Give half the class sand trays and the other half modelling clay for the base. Which is easier? Read the parable (Matthew 7: 24-27). What did the wise and foolish builders learn? If it is not a manual for builders, why did Jesus tell this story? Jesus is clear that his words give foundations for living – and without them, people will get swept away.
- 2 What is the Gospel (The Sermon on the Mount)?**

Explain this took place on Mount Beatitude in northern Israel. Jesus gave a sermon/talk there to his followers which included a collection of 15 of his sayings or teachings, also known as the Beatitudes. Christians and some non-Christians try to live by Jesus's teachings. Read Matthew 5-7 together. For each of the 15 sayings from the Sermon on the Mount, summarise each with one topic word and a phrase of seven words or fewer.
- 3 What is the Gospel (The Centurion's Servant)?**

Read Luke 7: 1-10 together. Ask, Jesus brings good news for whom in this story? Explain differing Christian viewpoints on healing miracles. Working in pairs, imagine you are Christians having a conversation about the story of the healing of the centurion's servant. Which viewpoint of miracles will they try to convey?
- 4 What makes for strong foundations in life?**

Reflect on the parable of the wise and foolish builders and consider what makes for strong foundations in life. What kind of things guide people today in deciding how to live? Complete Venn diagram to sort ideas into helpful in building foundations for 'anyone', or foundations for 'Christians'. Discuss where else people get foundations for life (e.g. in Islam, the five pillars) and compare them to Christian foundations.
- 5 How might prayer help?**

Elicit the common components of prayer using a prayer hand: praise, thank, sorry, ask, others. Find examples of these aspects in prayers. Share ideas about why Christians think prayer is a good thing to do. Consider three ways in which prayer might help someone who is: sad, worried, lonely, or wants to follow Jesus. Write own prayer.
- 6 Why be generous?**

How can we be generous? Discuss and explore ideas. What is the value and importance of being generous with our time and money and giving to/working for a charity? Provide two examples of Christian practice: projects to help homeless people, to help families with young children, to help older people or to help poor people through a foodbank. Share personal experiences and remind of how these link to what we do at school e.g. harvest festival. Link to the unit's key ideas: foundations, peace, forgiveness, health and healing, prayer and generosity.