

People of God | Understanding Christianity | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2024-25

Key Question	
How can following God bring freedom and justice?	
Key Concepts	
The Old Testament	Pieces together the story of the People of God. Through the stories in the Old Testament, Christians see a model of God having a relationship with people.
Story of Moses and Exodus	Shows how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt; Christians see this story as looking forward to how Jesus’s death and resurrection also rescue people from slavery to sin.
The Promised Land	The land that God promised he would give to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob; the land flowing with milk and honey; the land of Canaan or Palestine. The Israelites did not take it over until after the Exodus, when they conquered the people already living there.
People of God and the Ten Commandments	The People of God are chosen by God to be His special people: he enters into an agreement with them, promising to love and guide them. In return, he gives guidance on how to remain in a relationship with an almighty, holy God (the Ten Commandments).
Applying ideas today	Christians apply this idea to living today by trying to serve God and to bring freedom to others; for example, loving others, caring for them, bringing health, food, justice and telling the story of Jesus.
Key People	
Moses	A great prophet and leader of his people. He met God, face-to-face, on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments after leading his people, the Hebrews, out of slavery in Egypt and into the ‘Promised Land’ of Canaan.

Key Vocabulary	
Freedom	The power or right to act, speak or think as one wants; the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.
Justice	Behaviour or treatment according to what is morally right or fair.
Covenant	An agreement.
Plague (Biblical)	Wrath that is unleashed to cause harsh punishment, affliction or trouble.
Ritual	For example, the practice of sacrifice as offerings to God for thanks or to say sorry.
Ethics	Moral principles that govern a person’s behaviour or the conducting of an activity.
Key Bible Passages (Gospels)	
Pentateuch	The first five books of the Bible. (Pentateuch comes from the Greek meaning ‘five scrolls’.)
Exodus	The second book of the Bible which describes the Israelites’ deliverance from slavery in Egypt through the hand of God and the revelation of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai.
Matthew 22: 37-40	Jesus relays the first and second greatest commandments.

Key Learning: How can following God bring freedom and justice?

- 1 **Who was Moses?**
Learn about the first four main events in the life of Moses. Discuss Moses's feelings about returning to Egypt. Create an emotions graph to accompany the 'Burning Bush' story – Exodus 3: 1-17. Explain that Moses and the children of Israel were part of the People of God. Exodus 3:6 shows their link to God and Abraham (read this).
- 2 **Who was Moses (continued)?**
Elicit current knowledge of event 5 in Moses's life – The Ten Plagues (Exodus 7: 14 – 11:10). Hold a 'conscience alley' to consider the viewpoints of both Moses and the Pharaoh. Learn about the final three main events in the life of Moses then consolidate their knowledge of Moses's story using 'quick draw'. Spend 30 seconds drawing each of the eight main events.
- 3 **What can we learn from the story of Moses?**
Recap the eight events in Moses's story then identify some main themes in the story of Moses's life, for example: freedom, God, suffering, leadership, vulnerability, obedience, evil. Allocate one of the themes identified to each group to make a tableaux showing the theme within Moses's story vs the theme within the world today.
- 4 **Are the Ten Commandments still significant today?**
Look at the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai. For each, determine what actions some people must have been doing if the People of God had to be given that command. How similar/different is the world now? Write a passage to provide three good reasons why Christians (and Jewish people) argue that the Ten Commandments are still important today. Compare this to what an atheist might say about the value of these commandments today.
- 5 **How do Jesus's teachings reflect the Ten Commandments?**
Many Christian people see Jesus as bringing a new covenant – a new relationship with God. His teachings and actions showed how to live. Look at the two greatest commandments Jesus reminds listeners of in Matthew 22: 37-40 and spot links between Jesus's reminder and the Ten Commandments. Write about these links using sentence starters. Discuss and link to this unit's key question.
- 6 **How can we bring more freedom and justice to the world today?**
Explain it is not only Christian and Jewish people who want freedom and justice. Reflect on why ideas of freedom and justice are so important in the world today. Look at examples of people who are involved in working for freedom and justice: Desmond Tutu, Malala and Aung San Suu Kyi. In groups, write Ten Lessons for Living to show and explain what we can all do to bring more freedom and justice to the world, then present to the class.