

# Year 7: Unit 3- The Life of Jesus

| Key words    | Definition   |
|--------------|--|
| Resurrection | To <b>rise</b> from the dead. The term which describes how Christians believe Jesus came back to life after death on the cross.            |
| Parable      | A short story with a hidden meaning or <b>moral</b> .  |
| Miracle      | An <b>extraordinary</b> event that <b>cannot be</b> explained by <b>science</b> . Religious people believe they are <b>caused by God</b> . |
| Crucifixion  | When a person is killed on a <b>cross</b> . Jesus was killed in this way.  |

## A parable that Jesus told: The parable of the good Samaritan

A man was walking along and was attacked, robbed and left to die. A priest walked by and ignored the man by crossing the road. Then a Levite (religious leader) passed by and also ignored the man. After a while, a Samaritan (they were not liked by people at the time, they were considered lesser people) came across the man and took pity on him. He cleaned his wounds and took him to an inn to rest. He gave the innkeeper two gold coins and said he would return and pay any debt the man had from resting in the inn. The meaning behind the parable is 'love your neighbour'. 'Neighbour' means anyone we meet; Christians believe Jesus teaches in the parable of the good Samaritan that we should care for all persons we come across and anyone who needs support despite the differences we have.



## Jesus' resurrection

After Jesus was crucified and died on the cross, His body was placed in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance, and soldiers were assigned to guard it so that no one could take the body. This happened on a Friday, the day we now call Good Friday. Early on Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus went to visit the tomb. They wanted to prepare His body with spices, as was the custom at that time. But when they arrived, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty!

Suddenly, two angels appeared to them in shining clothes. The women were frightened, but the **"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"** The angels reminded them that Jesus had told them this would happen — that He would be crucified and rise again on the third day.

The women, including Mary Magdalene, ran to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. At first, the disciples didn't believe them. But Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. They found the tomb empty, with only the cloths that had wrapped Jesus' body left behind.

Later that day, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to some of His other followers. At first, they didn't recognize Him, but when He spoke to them, they realized it was Jesus. He showed them the wounds in His hands and feet as proof that it was really Him.

Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to many of His disciples and followers, teaching them and giving them instructions. He told them to go and spread the good news about Him to the whole world. Then, He ascended into heaven, promising that He would always be with them in spirit.

Why is the resurrection important to Christians?

It proves that death is not the end. Jesus rose again after death, and they will too by being reunited with God in heaven.

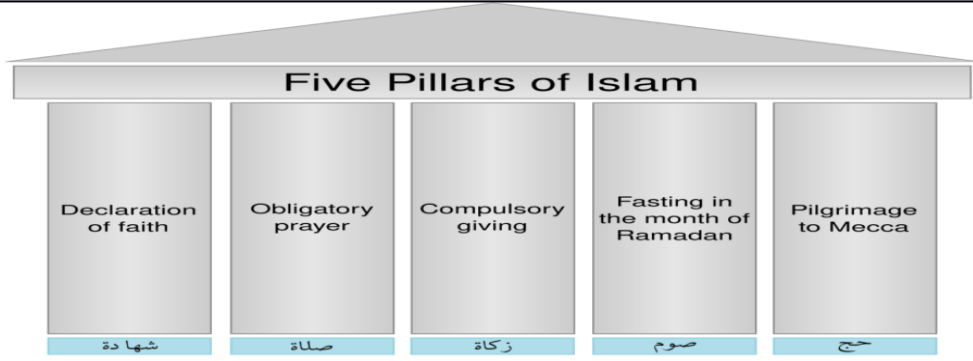
Greatest miracle in New Testament as Jesus defeated death.

It proves to Christians that Jesus was the son of God/Messiah

# Year 8: Unit 3- Islam Practices

A pillar is something that supports a building. Just like the Five Pillars of Islam 'support' the religion. Muslims believe that following the five pillars helps them follow their religion properly.

| Key words | Definition  |
|-----------|---|
| Shahadah  | The first pillar of Islam and is the Muslim statement of faith. That they believe in 'one God and Muhammad is his prophet'.   |
| Salah     | The second pillar of Islam and means prayer. Muslims have a duty to pray five times a day.  |
| Zakat     | The third pillar of Islam and means charity. Muslims have an obligation to give 2.5% of their earnings to Zakat a year.   |
| Sawm      | The fourth pillar of Islam and means fasting. Muslims have a duty to fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan  |
| Hajj      | The fifth pillar of Islam and the only one Muslims do not have to perform. It is pilgrimage to Makkah (Holy City). A Muslim must be mentally and physically healthy enough to make the journey. |



**Why is Salah important to Muslims?**  
 Salah is important because it is the way Muslims worship and communicate with their God. This is shown in their duty to pray 5 times a day. It allows them to thank God for his blessings and show they submit to his will/commands. Prayer can also bring the ummah (community) together when Muslims pray in the mosque. Prayer is so important Muslims will perform wudhu (wash) before they pray.

**How is Zakat money used after it is collected?**  
 It is used to help the poor and needy, it is used to pay Zakat collectors, it used to purchase the freedom of enslaved people, it is used to help stranded travellers and to support Muslims who are in debt. Zakat collections are only used to support the Muslim community.

## The stages of Hajj

- 1. Wear an Ihram-  
Wear a white cloth. This is done to signify equality, that there is no difference between the rich and the poor**
- 2. Perform Tawaf  
The circle the Ka'ba seven times. This is done as sign of respect as it was the first place built to worship Allah.**
- 3. Run between As-safa and Al-Marwah  
Allows Muslims to remember Hagar's search for water for her son.**
- 4. Visit Arafat  
Muslims stand on the plain of Arafat on the Mount of Mercy and pray for Allah's forgiveness.**
- 5. Stoning at Mina  
At Mina Muslims will throw pebbles at three pillars. The pillars represent evils like temptation and unkindness. Throwing stones at the pillars reminds Muslims to resist temptations in their own life.**
- 6. Some people also cut their hair  
Many men cut their hair to show they are close to Allah, and it shows that they are not concerned about appearances as everyone is equal. Some may sacrifice a sheep as a reminder that they must give up everything for Allah.**

Who can take part in hajj?  
 Any Muslim who are old enough to look after themselves, are mentally and physically fit enough to make the journey and have enough money to make the trip.

# Year 8: Unit 2- Arguments for and against the Existence of God

## Christian Creation story

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Light/Dark                              |
| Day 2 | Sky/Sea                                 |
| Day 3 | Land and vegetation (plants, trees etc) |
| Day 4 | Sun, moon and stars                     |
| Day 5 | Birds/Fish                              |
| Day 6 | Land animals and Humans                 |
| Day 7 | God rested                              |



## Examples of Design in the universe

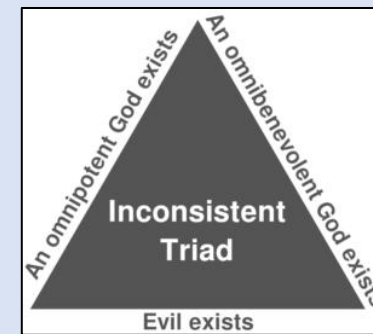
| Solar System   | Oxygen Cycle   |
|--|--|
| <p>An example of design in the universe is the solar system. The solar is in perfect order. The earth is the third planet away from the sun. If it was too close to the sun it would be too hot for life to survive. If it were any further away from the sun it would be too cold. Neither of these conditions are habitable (cannot be lived in). This suggests an intelligent designer could have organised the solar system in this way. Paley would say this is proof God exists.</p> | <p>An example of perfect order is the oxygen cycle. This is when the trees take in the carbon dioxide and give back out oxygen. If we did not have the trees humans would not survive as we need oxygen to breathe. A Christian would say this must have been designed by God because God is the only being omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowledgeable) to be able to create such a design.</p> |

## The Design Argument by William Paley

William Paley was a Christian Philosopher who used evidence of design in the universe to try and prove that God exists. He did this through an analogy of the watch. His analogy goes like this: One day he is walking through a meadow, and he came across a watch. He picked it up and looked inside at all of the wonderful cogs and complex design all working in perfect order to be able to perform its function of telling the time. It must have had a designer- a watchmaker. He then thought about the universe/world and how that also works in perfect order. For example, seasons change, day turns to night, the solar system is in a perfect order. He said the universe too must have had a designer. The designer must be God.

## Types of Evil

| Moral  | Natural   |
|--|---|
| <p>Murder<br/>Theft<br/>The Holocaust<br/>9/11</p> | <p>Tsunami<br/>Earthquakes<br/>Volcanic eruptions</p> |



## What is the problem of evil?

The problem of evil is an argument that is used to try and prove that God does not exist. The problem of evil is: 'If God is omnibenevolent and omnipotent why is there evil and suffering?' It is also summed up in J.L Mackie's inconsistent triad. It can be explained as follows. If God was omnibenevolent, he would love his creation enough to want to stop evil and if he was omnipotent, he would have the power to do so. But evil still exists. This suggests that there is no omnibenevolent and omnipotent God. Therefore, God does not exist.

# Year 9: Unit 1- Crime and Punishment

## What is the Death Penalty?

The death penalty, also known as capital punishment, is the punishment of death by the state for committing a crime. It has been abolished in the UK and other countries. But some countries that still practice the death penalty are Iran, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.



## Reasons people commit crime

There are many reasons why someone might turn to crime but there are usually some key influencing factors. For example, poverty, unemployment, addiction, lack of education or peer pressure,.



## Religious arguments supporting the death penalty are:

Some Christians believe the death penalty is in keeping with the OT. The Bible states: 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. This means that the punishment should match the crime committed. Some would argue that failure to show the seriousness of certain crimes leads to criminals not fearing serious punishments. This allows them to become more prone to committing serious crimes.

Traditionally the Catholic Church has allowed (but not encouraged) capital punishment. In 1997, the Vatican issued a statement saying that execution was acceptable where the identity of the criminal was absolutely confirmed and where execution was the only means to protect society from the aggressor.

Islam as a whole accepts capital punishment. Muslims believe that capital punishment is a severe sentence and one that can only be issued for the most severe crimes. Qur'an states: 'Never take a life' but adds, 'except for a just cause'. And it is thought that murder, or attacking Islam are such causes. Islam teaches that while criminals will be punished by God on the day of Judgement they should also be punished on earth.

## Religious arguments against the death penalty are:

Jesus taught that 'if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also'. This means that to take someone's life would make us no better than the criminal. (This goes against the 'eye for an eye' belief)

Liberal Christians favour that only God can give or take life, and one of the ten Commandments is: 'Thou shall not kill'. The death penalty goes against this teaching.

A growing number of Muslims disagree with the death penalty calling for it to be abolished because in the Qur'an it states, 'Never take life, which God has made sacred'. This means the death penalty is destroying a life that God created..

Forgiveness and reconciliation are stressed by some Muslims. As all humans make mistakes. The death penalty does not reform an individual or allow them to make up for their crimes. Many agree that punishment is integral to the principle of justice but that there are better ways to punish a criminal and keep law and order in society.

## Secular or non-religious arguments supporting the death penalty are:

It is an appropriate punishment for very serious crimes like murder.  
It may discourage others from committing serious crimes.  
It is less expensive than life imprisonment.  
It provides closure and justice for victims' families.

## Secular or non-religious arguments against the death penalty are:

The death penalty is inhumane, it is wrong for the government to take a life.  
There's a risk of executing innocent people who are wrongly convicted.  
Studies suggest it doesn't significantly reduce crime rates.  
Death penalty cases often cost more than life sentences.  
Many developed countries have banned the death penalty.

| Key words   | Definition  |
|-------------|---|
| Sin         | Breaking a religious law or doing something which goes against God.     |
| Crime       | Breaking a law.   |
| Punishment  | A consequence for committing a crime                                    |
| Retribution | A punishment that is inflicted as vengeance or revenge.                 |
| Deterrence  | A punishment that aims to discourage an action through instilling fear. |
| Reform      | Changing the character of a criminal                                    |
| Protection  | Keeping society safe from criminals                                     |

## Types of crime

There are three key types of crimes:

- Crimes against the person-** offences causing direct harm to a person. For example, murder, GBH and hate crimes.
- Crimes against property-** offences that damage or deprive people of their property. For example, arson, burglary, trespassing.
- Crimes against the State-** offences that potentially endanger everyone or affect the smooth running of society. For example, terrorism, selling state secrets, perjury.

It is difficult to say which of these is the worst. A victim of assault may say that crimes against the person are the worst as they have personal experience. Whereas when a country is put at risk by someone's actions, millions can be affected, so maybe it is crimes against the state. However, no matter which type, each have negative effects.

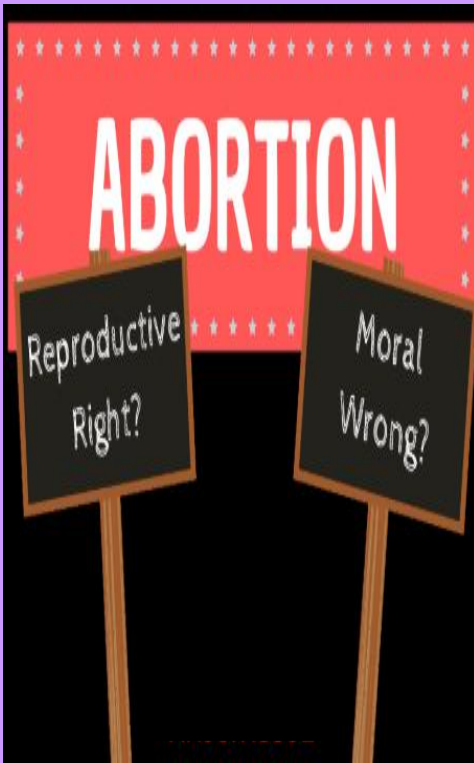
# Year 9: Unit 2- Ethical Issue of Abortion

| Key words        | Definition  |
|------------------|---|
| Conception       | The moment life begins, i.e. When the sperm fertilizes the egg                  |
| Abortion         | A medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy                                    |
| Free Will        | Humans have the ability to make their own choices and are responsible for these |
| Quality of life  | The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable                          |
| Sanctity of life | The belief that life is special, sacred and a gift from God.                    |
| Pro-Choice       | Supporters of abortion, they believe abortion should be allowed.                |
| Pro-Life         | Disagree with abortion, they believe abortion should NOT be allowed.            |

## The Law surrounding abortion in the UK

that prior to 1967 abortion was illegal unless the mother's life was at risk. However, many abortions still took place and are commonly referred to as 'backstreet' abortions. They were often performed by untrained people and in environments lacking minimal medical standards. An unsafe abortion is a life-threatening procedure and can cause many complications for a woman including infertility, infection and even death. Abortion became legal in UK in 1967, but the most recent law was passed in 2014.

An abortion can take place up until 24 weeks of a pregnancy, sometimes later if there are complications. For an abortion to take place certain conditions must be met such as the mother's life is in danger; the mother's health is at risk; the health of existing children is at risk; the baby may be seriously ill or have a disability. As well as this, two doctors must agree for an abortion to take place. The procedure must take place in a government recognised medical facility by a trained doctor.



## Reasons people might choose to have an abortion

There are many reasons why someone might choose to have an abortion. For example, mother's life is at risk, age, disability of the unborn child, financial issues etc. However, in the UK the only valid reasons for an abortion being permitted is the mother's life is in danger; the mother's health is at risk; the health of existing children is at risk; the baby may be seriously ill or have a disability.



## **Religious arguments supporting abortion are:**

Church of England does not encourage abortion but believe it should be permitted if a woman's life is in danger. In the Bible Jesus states, 'He who has not sinned cast the first stone'. It is up to each individual to make their own decision based on the situation that they are in.

## **Religious arguments against abortion are:**

Some Christians such as Roman Catholics view abortion as murder. This is because one of the 10 Commandments is 'Do not kill'. Some Christians disagree with abortion. They believe that life is a gift from God and only he has the right to take it away.

Some Muslims are against abortion because they believe life is sacred. In the Qur'an it states, 'Do not take a life which God has made sacred'.

## **Secular or non-religious arguments supporting abortion are:**

If the baby is severe disability life would not be worthwhile. The quality of a baby's life should be considered.

Women have the right to choose whether they have a baby or not, it is their body and therefore it is their choice.

Some people believe abortion should be allowed as the girl might be too young to cope with a baby. They also might not be financially secure.

## **Secular or non-religious arguments against abortion are:**

Unwanted babies can be adopted, not everyone is able to reproduce. Every child has the right to life.

Even disabled people can lead happy, fulfilled lives. For example, Stephen Hawking lived a successful life despite his condition/disability and contributed majorly to science.

Every foetus is a potential hero or genius. What if someone aborts a baby that is destined to cure cancer?

Every child deserves to be loved and wanted. Abortion should be allowed so every life brought into this world experiences this love.