

Year 7: Unit 3- The Life of Jesus

Key Words	Definitions
Nativity	The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.
Baptism	Baptism is a Christian ceremony which welcomes somebody into the Christian faith
Miracle	An extraordinary event that cannot be explained by science. Religious people believe they are caused by God.
Crucifix	When a person is killed on a cross. Jesus was killed in this way.
Resurrection	To rise from the dead. The term which describes how Christians believe Jesus came back to life after death on the cross.

Miracles

Feeding the 5000

Jesus was teaching a crowd of over 5,000 people, and they were hungry. The only food available was a boy's five small loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took the food, thanked God, and began breaking it into pieces. Miraculously, the food multiplied, and everyone ate until they were full! After, the disciples collected 12 baskets of leftovers!



The Greatest Miracle

After Jesus was crucified and buried, His followers were heartbroken. But three days later, His tomb was found empty! An angel told the women who visited that Jesus had risen from the dead. He later appeared to His disciples, proving He was alive. This miracle showed His power over death and fulfilled God's promise. Jesus' resurrection gives hope that those who believe in Him can have eternal life with God.



Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

One day, Jesus met a man who had been blind since birth. His disciples wondered why he was blind, but Jesus said it was so God's power could be shown. Jesus made mud with His saliva, spread it on the man's eyes, and told him to wash in a pool. When the man did, he could see for the first time! This miracle showed Jesus' power and that faith in Him can bring light into our lives.



Nativity

The birth story of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew:

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him that Mary's child was from God. Joseph and Mary, who were engaged, later married and travelled to Bethlehem. Jesus was born in a house, and three wise men followed a star to find Him. They brought gifts and worshipped Him. King Herod, fearing Jesus as a future king, wanted to kill Him.

Warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died.



The birth story of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke:

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would have a baby named Jesus. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn.

That night, an angel appeared to shepherds in the fields, announcing Jesus' birth. The shepherds went to see Him and were filled with joy. They praised and thanked God for sending the Saviour.

Why are miracles important?

- They show God's compassion and love for humanity.
- They remind people that God can do the impossible, like healing the sick or feeding thousands with little food.
- They prove that he was the Son of God, the miracles were signs of how Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- Jesus performed miracles to provide people with a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. The miracles were used to open the eyes of humans to what was to come.

Abraham

Judaism began nearly 4,000 years ago in a place called the Middle East. This is a large area on the border of Asia, Africa and Europe. A man named Abraham is considered the founder. Abraham was the first person to believe there was only one God - an important belief to Jews as well as Christians and Muslims.



Why is Moses important for Jewish people?

- Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt
- He was a leader in all aspects and his people respected him for his courage and determination in setting them free from Pharaoh's rule.
- He was determined, faithful to free the Israelites and had his people at the centre of his heart.
- Moses received the Torah, including the Ten Commandments, from God at Mount Sinai. This body of law forms the core of Jewish religious practice and ethics.

God's Covenant with Abraham

A covenant is a promise or agreement with God.

- God made three major covenants with Abraham, each with a specific promise:
- 1. The Promise of Land** - God promised Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.
 - 2. The Promise of Descendants**- God assured Abraham that he would have numerous descendants, as many as the stars in the sky, even though he and Sarah were old and childless.
 - 3. The Promise of Blessing to All Nations** -God declared that through Abraham's offspring, all nations of the earth would be blessed.

Moses

Moses was a Hebrew baby born in Egypt at a time when Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew boys to be killed. His mother hid him in a basket on the Nile River, where Pharaoh's daughter found and raised him as a prince. As an adult, Moses killed an Egyptian for mistreating a Hebrew and fled to Midian, where God spoke to him through a burning bush, telling him to free the Israelites from slavery. With God's power, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt through miracles like the ten plagues and parting the Red Sea. He received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, guiding the people in God's laws.



The Ten Plagues and how they could be explained by science

Plague	How it can be explained by science
River Nile turns to blood	Floods washed soil down the river.
Frogs everywhere	Frogs couldn't live in the polluted river.
Maggots	Frogs died on land and rotted, and flies laid maggots in dead frogs.
Flies	Maggots hatched into flies.
Disease of Egyptian cattle	Flies spread disease to cattle.
Disease of Egyptians	People caught the disease from cattle.
Lightning and storms	In spring strong winds blow.
Locusts eat crops	Strong winds blew locusts from desert to Egypt.
Darkness	The winds blew up sand into thick sandstorms blotting out the sun.
Death of Egyptian firstborn	Firstborn ate the grain and were poisoned by mould.

Year 8: Unit 2- Does God exist?

Key Words	Definitions
Omnibenevolent	God is all loving.
Omniscient	God is all knowing.
Omnipotent	God is all powerful.
Designer	Someone who creates and plans how something looks or work
Moral Evil	Suffering which has been caused by humans.
Natural Evil	Suffering which has been caused by nature.

Examples against the Existence of God

Types of Evil	
Moral	Natural
Murder Theft The Holocaust 9/11	Tsunami Earthquakes Volcanic eruptions



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.

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.



Examples of perfect order used to prove the Gods Existence

Solar System	Oxygen Cycle
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.	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.



Shahadah: The First Pillar
Statement of faith

What is it? Shahadah means there is only one God and Muhammad is his Prophet. It is said multiple times throughout the day in prayer. It is also the first words whispered into a baby's ear and the last words a dying Muslim hears.

Why is it important? It is the central and core beliefs of Islam and is the foundations of the Islamic religion. Islam is a monotheistic religion; this means there is only one almighty God. It also states the acceptance that Muhammad was the final messenger sent by God to reveal the divine path to life (the Shariah Law).

Salah: The Second Pillar
Prayer

What is it? Muslims have a duty to worship God 5 times a day. Before a Muslim prays, they perform Wudhu (washing ritual). Muslims can worship at home or in a Mosque but always face the direction of Makkah when they pray.

Why is it important? Prayer is a constant reminder of the presence of God, as it is direct communication with Him. It shows the devotion and submission to God. Muslims stand shoulder to shoulder in the Mosque during Friday prayers this represents that all Muslims are united; this community is known as the ummah.

Zakat: The Third Pillar
Charity

What is it? Muslims have a duty to donate 2.5% of their income after expense to charity.

This goes to help orphans, widows, travellers, and the poor.

Why is it important? Muslims do not own the world; we are here to look after it for God. Therefore, possessions such as money are not our own but belong to God so should be shared with those who need it the most.

Muhammad practiced Zakat, he instructed that Muslims giving and helping orphans and widows.

Sawm: The Forth Pillar of Islam
Fasting

What is it? Sawm means fasting, not eat or drink, between sunrise and sunset during the month of Ramadan. Muslims can only take part if they are healthy and do not take part if pregnant, ill, travelling.

Why is it important? Sawm allows Muslims to feel what it is like to be in poverty. It teaches Muslims self-discipline and self-control. Muslims follow the example of Muhammad who fasted as it is commanded in the Quran. It remembers the month when Muhammad receive the first words of the Quran from God (through the angel Jibril) during Ramadan. The Quran gives Muslims guidance in life on how to be a good Muslim.

Hajj: The Fifth Pillar of Islam
Pilgrimage

Hajj is a sacred journey to Makkah. Hajj is the only Pillar Muslims do not have to complete as they must be mentally and physically healthy enough to make the trip.

The stages of Hajj

A diagram illustrating the stages of Hajj. It features a central illustration of the Kaaba in Mecca, surrounded by various landmarks and activities. The stages are numbered 1 through 5, each with a description and an illustration. Stage 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. Stage 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. Stage 3: Run between As-safa and Al-Marwah - Allows Muslims to remember Hagar's search for water for her son. Stage 4: Visit Arafat - Muslims stand on the plain of Arafat on the Mount of Mercy and pray for Allah's forgiveness. Stage 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. There are also two side boxes: 'Who can take part in hajj?' and 'Some people also cut their hair'.

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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.

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.

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.