



# *Sources of Wisdom for Edexcel*

## *Christianity – answers and examples*

These answers and examples should help you to learn more about the Bible passages which relate to the Christianity component of your GCSE RS course. You can use them to get help if you are stuck and to check your answers when you have finished them, and to improve your work if you can.

For many of the questions, there could be more than one way of writing a good answer – in these cases, we've given some examples of what a good answer might say, but there are also other things that you could correctly use in your answer.

The questions are in bold, and the answers and examples are in italics.

### **An overview of the Bible (pages 1-3)**

**What does Paul say about why Christians should use the Bible?**

*'It is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error (which means correcting wrong ideas), correcting faults and giving instruction for right living (by which Paul meant living in accordance with God's guidance and expectations).'*

**What do you think Paul would say about how Christians should use the Bible?**

*Your answer will depend on what you think, but the things that it seems likely he might have said could be: trusting in what it says, praying to read it wisely and listening to what it says carefully.*

**Why might Christians describe the Bible as containing wisdom and having authority?**

*Things you could say might include: They believe it is inspired by God and that it is one of the ways that God guides humans. They might believe that it reports actual events and that things happened just as it describes, or they might believe that it is OK to interpret it for modern times and read parts of it at least in non-literal ways.*

**For Christians, is the Bible like ...?**

*They might say that it is like a mirror, because it helps them to see and understand themselves more clearly. They might say that it is like a gateway, because it can be the entrance to a Christian way of living. They probably wouldn't say that it is like a revolving door, because it tells a story rather than going round in circles. They might say that it is like a cloak, because in places it uses cryptic language and is hard to see through. They might say that it is like a guidebook for life, but not one with easy answers. They probably wouldn't say that it is like a bag of Lego, because it's not supposed to be something that you can make whatever you want to out of it. They might say that it is like a packet of seeds, because it can plant new ideas which grow. They might say that it is like the internet, because some Bible books refer to each other, a little bit like hyperlinks.*

### **Creation (pages 4-6)**

**Highlight a reference to 'the Spirit of God'.**

*You can find it on line 3 where it says '... and the Spirit of God was moving over the water.'*

**At the end of each day, how does God feel about creation?**

*God is pleased with what he saw. On the sixth day, God is 'very pleased'.*

**Highlight where God appears to be plural – ‘we’ and ‘us’.**

*You can find this at the start of the sixth day, where it says ‘Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.”’*

**At each stage of the story, God makes creation happen by commanding it to happen. List all of God’s commands in order.**

1. *Let there be light.*
2. *Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places.*
3. *Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that land will appear.*
4. *Let lights appear in the sky to separate day and night*
5. *Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.*
6. *Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life.*
7. *And now we will make human beings.*

**Which lines from Genesis chapter 1 describe these beliefs which all Christians hold in common?**

- a) *Creation was initiated by God – ‘In the beginning, when God created the universe ...’*
- b) *God is supremely powerful – any of the times when God commands something to come into existence, such as ‘Then God commanded, “Let there be light”’*
- c) *God is pleased with his creation – at the end of most of the days, it says that God is pleased with what he has made.*

## **The Garden of Eden (pages 8-9)**

**How does God make the man?**

*He takes some soil from the ground and forms the man’s body out of it, before giving him life by breathing ‘life-giving breath’ into his nostrils.*

**What role does God give the man?**

*The man’s role is to look after the garden – God tells him to cultivate and guard it.*

**What does God forbid the man to do?**

*God tells him not to eat the fruit from the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and bad.*

**What does God say about why two humans are created?**

*God says ‘It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.’*

**How does God create the woman?**

*He makes the man fall into a deep sleep and removes one of his ribs. From the rib, God forms the woman.*

## **The Fall of Mankind (pages 10-13)**

**What role does the snake play in Genesis 3?**

*The snake, which is often identified as being the devil, tempts Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and bad, which God had told them not to do. The snake convinces them that God didn’t want them to eat the fruit because it would make them like God.*

**Highlight the ways in which the snake tempts Eve to eat the fruit.**

*The snake says that what God had said was not true, and suggests that God had a different reason for wanting them to leave the fruit alone – that the humans would then become like God.*

**How does this next part of the story show that the relationship has been damaged?**

*Earlier in the story, the man and the woman walked and talked with God in the garden. Now, they hide from him. When God finds them, they make excuses about why they ate the fruit rather than being honest. The relationship has gone from trust to suspicion and deceit.*

**Christians believe that sin has consequences. Highlight the ways in which Adam and Eve are punished for eating the fruit.**

*For Eve, childbirth will be painful and she will be 'subject' to Adam. For Adam, he will need to work hard to produce enough food to support them, and when he dies he will go back to the soil again.*

**Which of these would you say are evidence of human sin?**

*Apart from 'earthquakes', they are all possible answers. Sometimes it might depend on the circumstances in which they have happened. For example, a drought might be caused by weather conditions but be made worse by human greed or a lack of concern for those who are suffering, whereas bullying and racism are things which are very widely seen as always being wrong.*

## **The Story of Job (pages 14-16)**

**Highlight where the answers to these questions can be found in the story of Job.**

Who suggested to God that Job was only faithful because he was wealthy?

*Satan*

Did God recognise that Job was a faithful and good man?

*Yes; God says "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is."*

What was Satan trying to get Job to do?

*"He will curse you to your face!"*

What did Job lose?

*His wealth, his children and household and his health.*

What did Job's friends say about why God allowed him to suffer?

*That his suffering was a punishment for wickedness.*

What did Job ask God for?

*An explanation about why he had allowed such misfortune to happen to him.*

How did God respond to Job's question?

*He reminded Job that he was a mere human without the vast knowledge of God.*

**Box 8, the end of the story, has been left blank. You will find out how Job answered God on the next page. For now, fill in the box with your thoughts on what Job might say.**

**What might he have learned about why suffering happens in the world?**

**How might his suffering have changed him or his beliefs?**

**What questions might he still have?**

*How you do this will depend on how you think Job might have been affected by what has happened to him in the story so far, so there are no right or wrong answers here.*

### What does Job say he now knows?

*Job says that he knows that God is omnipotent – he is all-powerful and that he can do anything he wants to.*

### What does Job say about being 'ashamed'?

*He says that he is ashamed of all that he has said, and this causes him to repent – he is sorry that he took God to task over the suffering he experienced.*

### Which question does the book of Job provide a better answer to – why suffering happens or how to cope with suffering when it happens to you?

*How you answer this question depends on your view of the story of Job, and there is no right or wrong answer as long as you have explained your reasons. The best answers will have referred to parts of the story to back up what you have said.*

## Psalm 103 (page 17)

**Three types of suffering are mentioned in this Psalm: sickness, death and injustice.**

**Find the references and highlight them.**

*Sickness: 'The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick' (lines 5–6)*

*Death: '... and protects us from death' (line 7)*

*Injustice: 'For those who are mistreated, the Lord brings justice.' (lines 12–13)*

**Use a different colour to highlight examples of God's benevolence.**

*You could have highlighted God's forgiveness (line 5), his healing (line 6), his protection (line 7), his kindness and love (line 8), his providing for needs (line 10), his justice (line 13), his mercy, kindness and patience (line 16) and his love which never fails (line 17).*

**As well as benevolent, Christians also believe that God is omnipotent, meaning 'all powerful'. Give two examples where God's power can be seen in this Psalm.**

*Your examples might be that, as the writer of the Psalm believes, God heals the sick and provides for our needs.*

**What would you say the Psalmist's feelings about God are? Choose three words and/or add some of your own.**

*There are no fixed right or wrong answers here. Words you could circle are 'worship', 'adoration', 'love', 'loyalty', 'awe' and 'gratitude'.*

## Psalm 119 (pages 18–19)

**Highlight both of these passages to show what forms of suffering the author of Psalm 119 mentions. Draw a box around what you think is the worst form of suffering.**

*You could highlight 'I am worn out', 'My eyes are tired' and 'how much longer must I wait?' Which of them you think is worst is up to you.*

**Use a different colour to highlight all of the actions which could be described as 'wicked'. Draw a box around what you think is the most wicked action.**

*You could highlight 'The proud are always scornful of me', 'breaking your law', 'those who persecute me, who do not obey your law', 'have dug pits to trap me' and 'They have almost succeeded in killing me'. Which of them you think is worst is up to you, but 'They have almost succeeded in killing me' is the most obvious answer.*

**In verses 19–56, the author mentions both the ways he remains loyal to God, and the ways God brings comfort in hard times.**

**Draw a heart shape over the phrases which show the author’s loyalty to God.**

*These could be ‘I follow your law’, ‘I remember your instructions’, ‘I obey your commands’ and ‘obedience to your law brings me happiness’.*

**Draw a cloud shape around the phrases which show the comfort the author gains from God.**

*These could be ‘Your promise has given me hope’, ‘Your promise gave me life’ and ‘Your laws comfort me’.*

**In verses 81–88, the author continues his assurances of loyalty to God, but his words reflect more anxiety.**

**Draw a jagged cloud around the phrases which show the author’s worries and anxiety.**

*These could be ‘I am worn out’, ‘I ask you to help me’, ‘I am waiting for you to save me’, ‘My eyes are tired from watching for you’, ‘I ask you to help me’ and ‘I feel useless’.*

**Draw a heart shape over the phrases which show that he is still loyal to God.**

*These could be ‘I ask you to help me’, ‘I trust you’, ‘I have not forgotten your commands’ and ‘I have not ignored your laws’.*

**The ways in which the author of Psalm 119 digs deep into his faith to help him to cope with suffering are also applicable to modern-day Christians.**

**Despite suffering, does the author lose faith in God?**

*It seems as if he doesn’t.*

**Does he come to hate the people who are making him suffer?**

*He certainly wants God to punish them for what they have done wrong, but he doesn’t use hate-filled language about them, so it seems as if he thinks that punishment would be justice rather than wanting them to suffer because they have made him suffer.*

**From reading the Psalm, do you get the impression that the suffering he has faced has made the author’s faith in God weaker or stronger?**

*How you answer here depends on the impression that you get from the Psalm. Perhaps you think that he is getting worn down and desperate, and that he feels that he has waited for God’s help for a long time. On the other hand, you might think that as his suffering goes on, he has remained faithful to God.*

**How might a modern-day Christian find his or her faith comforting if they are experiencing suffering?**

*That will depend on their individual circumstances and how they respond to them. Perhaps they would, like the author of this Psalm, look to God for justice against anyone who is making them suffer. They might try to follow the common theme of the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament to forgive those who are making them suffer, and pray for God’s help in doing that. Of course, not all suffering is caused by other people. They might pray for strength to get through it, or for wisdom in deciding what to do to try to make it stop.*

## The Word of God (pages 20-21)

**Draw lines to show where the following Christian beliefs about Jesus can be found in John chapter 1.**

Jesus had always existed, since before God created the world – *'In the beginning the Word already existed'*

Jesus took part in creation – *'Through him God made all things'*

Jesus brings life – *'The Word was the source of life'*

Jesus is the light – *'The light shines in the darkness'*

Jesus became human (incarnation) – *'The Word became a human being'*

**What do verses 15–18 tell us about Jesus?**

*They tell the reader that Jesus' arrival was announced by John the Baptist, that he is associated with grace and truth and is somehow a continuation of the Law of Moses (the Old Testament laws followed by the Israelites), and that he was seen by John as God's Son who made God known (.ie. Christians believe that they can come to understand God better by seeing what Jesus was like).*

**Match up the part of the creation story on the left with what Christians believe about the Holy Trinity on the right.**

*Sometimes God is referred to in the plural, as 'we' or 'us' = Christians believe that God exists in three 'persons', Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*God created all things by his 'Word'. = Christians believe that Jesus was part of God from the start of time, and that he had a role to play in creation.*

*The 'Spirit of God' moves over the water at the beginning of creation. = Christians believe that the Holy Spirit was part of God from the beginning of time.*

## The Last Supper (pages 22-23)

**Which words from the passage might a Catholic use to explain what he or she believes about transubstantiation?**

*"This is my body" and "This is my blood".*

**In some more informal Holy Communion services, the bread and the wine are passed from one worshipper to another. Which words from the passage might explain why this is done?**

*"Take this and share it among yourselves".*

**How could a Christian use this passage to show that Jesus was willing to be a sacrifice? (For an extra challenge, try to use the word 'omniscient' in your answer.)**

*The events in this passage take place just before Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested, after which he will be killed. He seems to know that this will happen to him – what he says about his body and blood foreshadows his death. Yet he doesn't do anything to avoid being betrayed and arrested. Instead, he lets it happen to him. To be 'omniscient' is to know everything.*

## The Arrest of Jesus (pages 24-25)

**Who is Jesus speaking to when he says 'Father'?**

*Jesus is praying, so he is speaking to God, who he calls 'Father'.*

**God offers Jesus strength. In what form does it come?**

*It comes from an angel, who comes from heaven to strengthen Jesus.*

**Jesus was in 'great anguish', because he knew that he would very soon be arrested and put to death. How does this show his humanity?**

*Jesus' anguish that he will soon be arrested and put to death is a normal human reaction to such a serious impending fate and is no different to how other people facing something so serious might feel.*

**The disciples fell asleep because they were 'worn out by their grief'. How might a modern-day Christian find strength or help if he or she is feeling worn out by grief?**

*Christians usually find that they face just as much difficulty in life as anyone else might do. For strength and help, they might turn to: fellow-Christians or their vicar, priest or minister; to God through prayer; or to reading their Bible to see examples of how people in its stories weathered very difficult times. The ultimate example for them of someone who faced great suffering and endured it is that of Jesus in the time leading up to his death.*

## Jesus is put on trial (pages 26-27)

**What decision does the crowd want Pontius Pilate to make?**

*In Luke's account of Jesus' trial, Pilate tries to put responsibility for Jesus' death onto the crowd, hoping that they will tell him to release Jesus and execute Barabbas.*

**Why does Pilate not want to sentence Jesus to death?**

*Pilate says to the crowd, "I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of. Nor did Herod find him guilty."*

**What impression do you get about each of the main characters in this story? How far were each of them responsible for Jesus' being sentenced to death?**

*How you answer this question will depend on how you feel about each character and how you understand their role in the story. Usually, the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law are given most of the blame, as in the Gospel stories of Jesus' trial they plot to bring about his death. The crowd are usually seen as being easily led, and Pilate as being weak and giving in to their demands. But there are other interpretations as well.*

## The Crucifixion (pages 28-30)

**The crown of thorns and the 'king of the Jews' sign were supposed to be a mockery of Jesus. Highlight them and the other ways in which Jesus is mocked.**

*When Pilate's soldiers make him wear a scarlet robe and a crown out of sharp thorns, force him to carry a stick and say to him "Long live the king of the Jews", they are sarcastically mocking Jesus. They spit on him and hit him with the stick. When he was on the cross, they put up a sign saying "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."*

**Christians may wear a cross or crucifix as a symbol of their faith. Explain what it might mean to them.**

*Although they are sometimes just worn as fashion items, for Christians wearing a cross or crucifix can be both a reminder to themselves of what they believe was Jesus' sacrifice, and also a badge which proclaims their beliefs to others.*

**Jesus died in a terribly painful, drawn-out and humiliating way. Christians believe that Jesus was omnipotent. Why didn't he just come down from the cross as people suggested?**

*If Jesus was omnipotent, then he could have come down from the cross. On a different occasion, earlier on in the story, when he is cornered by a hostile crowd he simply walks through them and they are unable to harm him. However, Christians believe that Jesus' death was necessary in order to atone for human sinfulness and wrongdoing. They believe that if he hadn't gone through with it then salvation would not be possible for anyone, and that he did so shows God's love for humankind.*

**A strange event occurs around Jesus' death. Highlight this in the text.**

*'At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours.'*

**Jesus speaks to God before he dies. Highlight his words.**

*"My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" In the stories of the crucifixion in the Gospels, Jesus does not go to his death eagerly, but with great courage. He suffers on the cross, including by being deeply distressed and even experiencing this sense of abandonment.*

**Highlight the ways in which Joseph and the women treated his body respectfully.**

*They wrap it in a linen sheet, place it in a tomb and prepared spices and perfumes to apply to the body, which was how burials were carried out in Jesus' time.*

## **The Resurrection and Ascension (pages 31-32)**

**Write words and draw emojis to describe how the women were feeling at different points in the story.**

*There are lots of different ways to do this, but your words and emojis probably include sadness, surprise, fear, happiness, and possibly being puzzled about what was happening when they saw the angels and even being annoyed when the other disciples wouldn't believe them at first.*

**What two things had changed since Jesus' body had been placed in the tomb?**

*The stone was rolled away so that the entrance was open, and Jesus' body was gone.*

**How do the events of this passage seem to fulfil this prophecy of Jesus from earlier in his ministry: 'The Son of Man (meaning Jesus) must be handed over to sinners to be crucified, and three days later rise to life'?**

*By this stage in the story, all of those things had happened – Jesus had been betrayed by Judas and arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and crucified before he was resurrected on the third day after the crucifixion. Some Christians might see that he knew what the future held for him as an indication of omniscience (being all-knowing) on Jesus' part.*



## Salvation and Atonement (pages 33–34)

Highlight what this verse says about what motivates God to offer salvation to people.

*'... God loved the world so much ...'*

In a different colour, highlight the sacrifice which God makes to make the atonement for human sin.

*'... that he gave his only Son ...'*

In a third colour, highlight what is required of people to ensure that they can enter into new, eternal life.

*'... believes in him ...'*

In this passage, John uses light as a symbol for Jesus.

Give an example from today's world showing that 'people love the darkness'.

*There are lots of examples which you might have given here, such as committing crimes, bullying or lying.*

**Why do you think people often seem to love the darkness more than the light?**

*Your answer will depend on what you think about this. A conventional Christian explanation for why people sometimes do things which are wrong even when they know them to be wrong might be that they are all fallen from a state of perfection (as told or symbolised in the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter 3), which means that they are imperfect beings who sometimes do imperfect things. This means that atonement is necessary, and atonement, which Christians believe was brought about by the death of God's Son Jesus, means that salvation is possible.*

**Can there be salvation for some without judgement for others? Try to use quotes from the Bible passage (and other passages you have studied if you can) in your answer.**

*This is a deep and difficult question to which there is no certain answer. A response which might be given by most Christians could be that the Bible teaches that it is possible for everyone to be saved if everyone becomes a follower of Jesus, which is what God wants, but that God is also just and fair so anyone who doesn't live in the right way won't be saved. A few Christians believe that God's mercy is so great that in the end everyone will go to heaven, including those who don't follow Christianity (this is known as 'universal reconciliation').*

*There are different kinds of answer in the Bible about how someone is 'saved'. In places it seems to stress right conduct, while in others, such as John's Gospel, it seems to emphasise believing in Jesus. Some Christians think the Bible is clear, and that everyone who doesn't believe in Jesus is 'lost'; others focus on what the Bible says about right conduct and leave it open for God to forgive people who do their best to do right, even if they might never have heard of Jesus.*

## Easter (pages 35–36)

Highlight what the Christians in Corinth were saying about the dead being raised to life.

*'... that the dead will not be raised to life.'*

Paul explains that if the dead will not be raised to life, then that means that Christ was not raised.

Highlight four things which he says will follow from that.

*The phrases which you could have highlighted are: '... our message is worthless, and so is your faith.', '... we have told lies about God ...', '... your faith is useless you are still living in your sins ...', '... those people who die after putting their faith in him are completely lost' and '... we are worse off than anyone else.'*

**Try to fill in the gaps for yourself to reconstruct Paul's message.**

Sin and death were brought into the world by *Adam* and *Eve* in the *Garden of Eden*.

Jesus' death *atoned* for sin and made *salvation* possible for his *followers*.

If Jesus was *resurrected*, then it shows that he has power over *death*, and that *death* isn't the end.

But if he wasn't *resurrected*, then there is no *atonement*, no *salvation* and no *hope* of life after death.

Therefore, believing in the resurrection is an essential part of being a Christian.

**'Without the resurrection, there would be no point in being Christian.' How far do you agree?**

*There are different ways for you to answer this question, and how you answer it depends on your view of the argument which Paul makes.*

*Without the resurrection, Jesus' moral teaching (things such as to love your neighbour, put others before yourself, put looking after people before blindly following unnecessary rules) can still be seen as valid. Christians believe that following Jesus' moral teaching is important, but it's not at the very heart of their religion.*

*Christianity emphasises that the resurrection is the central event of all of all history. For Christians, belief in the reality of Jesus resurrection, which they commemorate every year at Easter, is the foundation to their faith, not just one aspect of Christianity. If Jesus did not himself rise from the dead, then the promises he made about life after death are unfounded, it makes his death a tragedy rather than a victory over death and evil, and it makes him just a wise teacher rather than, as Christians believe, the Son of God.*

## The Sheep and the Goats (pages 37-40)

**Who do people need to help in order to be called 'righteous'?**

*They need to help those who are in need and who are less well-off than they are, such as the hungry and strangers.*

**What do you think is meant by the 'eternal fire'?**

*This is usually taken to mean hell, where Christians believe that those who do not attain salvation go after death.*

**List three actions that Jesus describes as righteous.**

*You could have: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; welcome strangers; clothe those who are in need; take care of the sick and visit prisoners.*

**List three actions that Jesus describes as unrighteous.**

*You could have the opposites of any of the things which Jesus describes as righteous.*

**What will happen to the righteous people?**

*They will 'possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world' i.e. eternal life.*

**What will happen to the unrighteous people?**

*They will go to 'the eternal fire' i.e. hell. Jesus often used figurative language to describe hell, and not all Christians see it as a literal place where bad people burn forever. Many understand hell in other terms, such as being cut off from God forever, rather than as eternal suffering.*

**What does this passage tell Christians today about how to treat others?**

*It tells them that treating others well, especially those who are in need or in danger, is important in whether they are judged fit to receive eternal life. Most Christians believe that faith in God, trying to follow Jesus' teachings and repenting (saying sorry for) things they have done wrong are also important in this.*

**How might they put this into practice in their everyday lives? Try to relate your answer to the work done by charities and how Christians could be involved with it.**

*Christians might put these teachings into their everyday lives by being mindful of the need to help others and finding ways to do so, which might include supporting or volunteering for charities which bring relief in disaster areas, provide shelter for the homeless or provide support for those who are desperate. Some of those charities have a Christian identity, but Christians will equally support or volunteer for those which don't.*

**Answer the following questions by drawing lines to the right part(s) of the passage:**

What image does Paul use to describe the body?

*'... this tent we live in ...' (line 1)*

What image does he use to describe death?

*The tent "... is torn down ...' (line 2)*

What image does he use to describe heaven?

*'... a house in heaven ...' (lines 2–3)*

Where does he recognise that life on earth can be difficult?

*'... we groan with a feeling of oppression ...' (lines 7–8)*

Where does he say that the Holy Spirit guarantees what God has in store?

*'... he gave us his spirit as the guarantee ...' (lines 12–13)*

Where does he say that his readers should look forward to being in heaven?

*'We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord.'  
(lines 16–18)*

What images does he use to describe what happens after death?

*'We will each receive what we deserve, according to everything we have done, good or bad, in our bodily life.'  
(lines 21–23)*

**What does Paul suggest should give his readers courage?**

*He reminds them that as Christians, they believe that there is the possibility of eternal life, and that their current life is only a temporary thing before a permanent eternal life.*

**Who will judge humans at the end of their lives?**

*Paul says that it will be Christ, i.e. Jesus, whom everyone must appear before and be judged by.*

**Match these words to tent/house to explore what Paul saw as the differences between what life on earth is like and what heaven will be like.**

*Tent – temporary and fragile*

*House – permanent and comfortable*

## **The Great Commission (pages 41–42)**

**Highlight the instances when the disciples doubt or disbelieve the news of Jesus' resurrection.**

*'... when they heard her say that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe her.' and 'They returned and told the others, but they would not believe it.'*

**Highlight the instructions that Jesus gave to his followers.**

*“Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to the whole human race.”*

**Highlight an event in this account which might prove to Jesus’ followers that he is divine.**

*‘... he was taken up to heaven and sat at the right side of God.’*

**How might modern Christians continue to carry out Jesus’ Great Commission through evangelism?**

*Evangelism can mean anything which helps to tell others about Jesus’ teachings and the ‘Good News’ which Christians believe that he brought, which has the aim of bringing them to be Christians. It might involve directly speaking about Jesus to individuals or to crowds in public, but many Christians might see trying to live a good life and being an example as evangelism as well. Christians don’t see everything they do as evangelism. For example, charitable work is seen as a good thing in itself and as following Jesus’ teaching to ‘love your neighbour as yourself’.*

**In this passage, until Jesus actually met with the disciples and walked and talked with them, they had doubts and found it difficult to believe that he really had been resurrected.**

**Following a religion and believing all of it can be difficult. Sometime modern-day Christians might also have doubts about some aspects of Christianity. What things in the UK today might make it more difficult, or easier, for someone to believe in what Christianity teaches?**

*There are lots of ways in which you could have answered this question, and how you answered will depend on your own ideas. Some examples of things which you might have included in your answer might be:*

*The UK has been becoming a less religious country. Half of people in the UK say that they have no belief in any form of god, so to be seen as ‘religious’ might be embarrassing or make someone worry that people might think they are out of the ordinary. However, to have a religious belief is still sufficiently common for it not to be that unusual.*

*Science gives a way of understanding the world which is often in disagreement with a literal understanding of the Bible. This is sometimes given as a reason to not believe in Christianity. It poses more of a challenge to Christians who take a literal view of the Bible than to those who understand passages like Genesis chapter 1 as poetic or mythical explanations of the nature of God and humanity. Christians might say that to simply set science against religion is a shallow and simplistic approach to understanding both the Bible and the world.*

*Some people might find it difficult to believe in Christianity because they disagree with some of the Bible’s teachings, or that they doubt that a book from so long ago can be relevant today. For instance, some of what it says about sexual morality is out of step with how many people live today in the West, which might make people wonder if it is still a useful guide to life.*

## **Pentecost (pages 43–45)**

**Number these parts of the story from Acts chapter 2 to put them in the correct order.**

3 touched each person

1 noise like wind

2 tongues of fire

5 speaking other languages

6 large crowd gathered

4 Holy Spirit filled them

**Which parts of Acts chapter 2 verses 1-6 might a member of a Pentecostal church use to explain why they worship in this way?**

*Acts describes how when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the people began to speak in other languages even though they did not know them. A Pentecostal Christian might associate ‘speaking in tongues’ with this event at the time when the first Christians spoke in tongues when they experienced the Holy Spirit.*

## Is a cornerstone a good way for Christians to represent Jesus? Why?

*Most Christians would say that it is, and they use the idea of Jesus being the cornerstone as a way of emphasising his central importance to their faith. If you don't agree, what metaphor would you use to describe the central importance of Jesus to Christians?*

## How do you think that being full of the Holy Spirit might have helped Peter to answer the teachers of the Law?

*How you have answered this question might depend on your own opinions. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is God's presence in the world today, inspiring them, guiding them and helping them to grow in faith and understanding. When Peter answered the teachers of the Law and was 'filled with the Holy Spirit', he did so with confidence, he spoke clearly and persuasively, and he did not back down from saying what he believed to be the truth about Jesus.*

## How does God, through Jesus or the Holy Spirit, attempt to help humans in Acts chapters 2 and 4?

*In Acts chapter 2, God sends the Holy Spirit to the disciples for the first time, and they experience his power by seeing flames and speaking in tongues. In Acts chapter 4, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit, which gives him confidence and somehow empowers him to speak better and more persuasively. As you follow the story from the Gospels into Acts, the arrival of the Holy Spirit seems to transform Peter – before, he is an often-confused follower of Jesus, afterwards he emerges as a confident and bold leader of the Christians.*

## 'Carry your Cross' (pages 46–47)

### Jesus says those who follow him must do two things. Circle the correct statement.

*Forget yourself and carry your cross*

### What was the original cross and who carried it?

*When the New Testament, and also Christians today, refer to 'the cross', they mean the cross on which Jesus was crucified. The condemned person had to carry the cross-beam on their back to the place of execution. Jesus would have had to do this. Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's Gospels all describe how a bystander called Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry it for him for some of the way, perhaps because Jesus was too exhausted to do it for himself. 'Carrying your cross' is used as a metaphor for bearing or enduring suffering.*

### What examples can you give of how a Christian in Britain today might 'carry their cross'? For a challenge, try to link your ideas with other topics and Bible passages you have studied.

*Carrying your cross is a shocking metaphor for discipleship, implying that following Jesus could come at an extreme cost. Unless they are in dangerous circumstances, Christians often understand Jesus' metaphor of carrying a cross in terms of self-denial – doing without things which they would like but which aren't helpful or good for them. This might be physical things, perhaps such as doing things to reduce their impact on the planet, which they see as God's creation. It might be in resisting the temptation to join in gossip or rumour-spreading. Christians might see self-denial as a way of trusting in God more and insisting on doing things their own way less.*

*Christianity usually teaches that to 'carry your cross' doesn't involve going looking for ways to suffer or imposing suffering on yourself unnecessarily. Sometimes, Christians going on a pilgrimage will help themselves to remember this teaching of Jesus by literally carrying a cross with them on their journey.*

## Baptism (pages 48-49)

Highlight what Jesus says would be needed to 'see the kingdom of God'.

*"... no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."*

What do you think is meant by 'above'?

*'Above' is a reference to heaven.*

Why do you think that John says he ought to be baptised by Jesus, not the other way around?

*John was recognising that Jesus was more important than he himself was, being the Son of God.*

Which lines from the passage would lead Christians to conclude that they should be baptised?

*Either of these is the correct answer: 'Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: No one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."' Or "I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."*

Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of God's presence at Jesus' baptism.

*The correct answers are 'a voice' and 'heaven opened'. You might also have 'My Son' and 'I am pleased'.*

Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence.

*The correct answer is 'a dove'. A dove is one of the symbols used to represent the Holy Spirit.*

Circle the parts of the story which Christians see as evidence of Jesus' connection with God.

*The correct answer is 'My Son'. You might also have 'I am pleased.'*

## The Lord's Prayer (pages 50-51)

Highlight in one colour lines from both prayers that are identical.

*Both Matthew's and Luke's versions of the Lords Prayer have 'May your holy name be honoured', 'may your kingdom come', 'Give us today the food we need' and 'Do not bring us to hard testing'*

Highlight in another colour lines from both prayers that are similar but not identical.

*Matthew's version has 'Our Father in heaven' while Luke's has just 'Father' and Matthew has 'Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us' while Luke has 'Forgive us our sins, for we forgive everyone who does is wrong.'*

In Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer, underline two things that should be avoided when praying.

*They are 'do not be like the hypocrites!', who pray in public as a way of showing off, and 'do not use a lot of meaningless words'.*

**Write the words or phrase, from either of the versions of the Lords' Prayer, which match these meanings:**

Christians know they are talking to God – *'Our Father in Heaven' (Matthew) or 'Father' (Luke)*

Christians ask for help to make earth like heaven: just, loving and peaceful – *'May your kingdom come'.*

Christians believe that God loves and cares for them – *'Give us today the food that we need' (Matthew) or 'Give us day by day the food we need' (Luke).*

Christians ask forgiveness and promise to forgive others – *'Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us' (Matthew) or 'Forgive us our sins, for we forgive everyone who does us wrong' (Luke).*

**What do you think are the benefits for a Christians of praying using the words of Jesus in the Lord's Prayer, and of praying using their own words?**

*Christians use both of these sorts of prayer. The Lord's Prayer is used in many church services, especially where the service follows a liturgy (a set order of service), but it might also be repeated by Christians praying individually. The Lord's Prayer offers a familiar prayer which includes the important elements of Christian prayer – praise of God, repentance (saying sorry for faults and seeking forgiveness), requests (bringing ones own needs and the needs of other to God) and thanksgiving. Informal prayers, where a person praying uses their own words, are more flexible and are perhaps better suited for Christians to speak to God about particular circumstances.*

## The Church as the Body of Christ (pages 52–55)

**Highlight the different types of people Paul refers to and the parts of the body he mentions.**

*People: Jews, Gentiles, slaves and free people*

*Parts of the body: foot, hand, ear and eye*

**All different parts of the body are needed for it to function properly. As the body represents the church and the different parts represent individuals within the church, what can Christians say about the importance of all members of a church?**

*Paul uses the human body and its different parts as a metaphor for how he thinks a church ought to be. His point is that members of churches should see each other as equally important no matter who they are. Churches are made up of people who are different to each other and who might have different roles, but who are all equally important, in the same way that different body parts he mentions perform different functions and are equally important in the working of the body.*

**Paul refers to 'different gifts'. Which gifts does Paul name?**

Paul gives the examples of: to prophesy, to serve, to teach, to encourage, to give, to lead and to be good.

**Highlight the five roles which Paul says were given as 'gifts'.**

*They are: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.*

**Match up each 'gift' Paul mention in Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11–12 with the descriptions in this table.**

*Evangelist* – To travel around, spreading the word of Jesus' teachings

*Prophet* – Someone chosen by God to communicate God's wishes to the people

*Pastor* – To support and care for groups of people

*Teacher* – To help others learn and understand

*Apostle* – To be a follower of Jesus

**Modern-day Christians might still refer to something they do really well as a 'gift' from God.**

**Can you think of any other 'gifts' which a Christian could use to help their church to carry out its work? You could think about worship, mission and evangelism, working with children, helping people in need and preparing people for baptism and marriage.**

*There are lots of examples you could have used in this answer. In a typical church, there will be people from a wide variety of backgrounds with different skills, which they might put to use there. People with musical talent might play instruments or sing as they lead the worship. Those with practical skills might help to look after the church building or grounds. Those who are confident speaking in public might do the Bible readings. Most churches have committees of church-goers who are in some way responsible for the running of the church, such as the PCC (Parochial Church Council) in Anglican churches, so they might serve on one of those. Most churches have a treasurer who looks after the church's finances, which is a role which might be filled by someone with experience working in the financial sector.*

**When Peter writes about Christ's sufferings, which part of the Gospel stories is he referring to?**

*He is referring to Jesus' crucifixion.*

**Peter talks about a 'shepherd' and a 'flock'. These are symbolic terms. In John's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as 'the good shepherd', but in this case he is referred to as 'the Chief Shepherd'. Which people does the 'shepherd' represent and who are his or her 'flock'?**

*The shepherd represents the leaders of the churches who Peter was writing to and the flock represents the Christians who are in their churches. Christian leaders and followers today would see what Peter wrote as applying to them as well.*

**List all of the advice given to the 'shepherd' when looking after a 'flock', both what they should do and what they should not do.**

*Things they should do: take care of it willingly, work for a desire to serve rather than just for the pay, set an example*

*Things they should not do: try to rule over (i.e. boss around) other people.*

## **Paul and the Role of Women in the Church (pages 56–57)**

**Highlight what Paul says about how women should conduct themselves in meetings.**

*'They are not allowed to speak ... they must not be in charge.' ... they should ask their husbands at home.' 'It is a disgraceful thing for a woman to speak in a church meeting.'*



**In a different colour, highlight what Paul says about how everyone should behave in meetings.**

*'... in harmony and peace', 'set your heart in proclaiming God's message, but do not forbid the speaking in strange tongues. Everything must be done in a proper and orderly way.'*

**Read just verses 34–35 (in blue). Sum up what they say in no more than ten words.**

*One way of doing this might be 'Women should be quiet until after church is over.'*

**Now read the whole passage again. Sum up what it says in no more than ten words.**

*This is a bit harder to do! One way of doing it might be 'People should worship God seriously, in harmony and peace.'*

**Do you think that reading the entire passage seems to change what Paul says about women in the church?**

*How you answer this question might depend on how you understand the passage. Sometimes, reading only a few verses of the Bible means that the wider context is lost, and knowing what comes before and after them can help to unravel what the verses mean. In this case, Paul's rather harsh instructions to the women in Corinth are part of a wider section of writing in which he set out his expectations for everyone when they are in church.*

**Highlight the names of the women who Paul mentions in his letter (they are all in bold).**

*Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis and Julia.*

**In a different colour, highlight the things about the women which Paul praises.**

*He says that Phoebe has been a good friend to him and others. Priscilla lets the local church meet in her house. Mary works hard. Tryphaena and Tryphosa and Persis have all done good work.*

**Overall, what do you think that these passages say about what women can (or can't) bring to the Christian church?**

*What Paul said about women in church is understood differently by different Christians, and also by different Bible scholars, and your answer will also depend on what you think he meant. Some look at what he wrote to the Corinthians and think that Paul disliked women and wanted them to have no role in churches other than as quiet spectators. On the other hand, perhaps he was just telling off some women in Corinth who interrupted worship by chatting or asking questions. In his letter to the Romans he praises women for what they have done and this seems to show that they did have roles in churches after all. In the culture Paul lived in, chauvinism by men to women was commonplace. The role of women in the church is something which can still cause divisions among Christians today. In many churches, women were not allowed to be priests until fairly recently, and in some they still aren't.*

## **The Importance of Love (pages 58–59)**

**Use this space to do drawings or write keywords which summarise what Paul says.**

*There are lots of different ways you could have done this. The key points which you might have included are: That being without love makes other things meaningless and shallow; that love's good qualities include being patient, kind not keeping records of wrongs and being truthful; that love and its effects are eternal, and that along with faith and hope, love is one of the greatest things.*

**What does Paul say is temporary and will cease or pass?**

*Inspired messages, speaking in tongues and knowledge.*

**What does he say will remain?**

*Love, because it is eternal.*

**The central importance of the quality of love which this passage shows inspires churches and individual Christians to reach out to help people both locally and globally, whether they are Christians or not. Think of some examples of ways Christians in the UK could support people overseas who need help.**

*In Christian teaching, charity is as an expression of love and an essential part of faith rather than an obligation or duty. Christians believe that God's love and generosity towards humanity inspires them to love and be generous in response. Usually, Christians provide charitable support for those who are less fortunate for themselves in the same ways as people from other religions and people who don't follow a religion do – by donating their money or giving their time as a volunteer. Some of the charities they might support have a Christian identity and are themselves motivated by Christian beliefs.*

**Choose two 'love is' sayings from the Bible passage. Think about how this vision of love could be expressed in charitable work or action to help others, either at home or overseas. Create two postcards which could be used to publicise the church's work in these areas.**

*There are lots of ways that you could have done this task, and no particularly right or wrong ways to have approached it.*