



Sources of Wisdom for OCR

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 Nature of God and Jesus (pages 14-15)

Highlight what the first verse says about how God feels about the world.

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

In a different colour, highlight what it says he gave.

'... he gave his only Son...'

In a third colour, highlight what is required of people to ensure that get eternal life.

'... believes in him ...'

How could the two verses on this page from John's Gospel be used as an example of God's omnibenevolence?

They say that the cause of Jesus coming to earth and dying was that God loved the world, and that he did not send him to judge the world but to save it.

Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about God's omnibenevolence, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

What word you choose and what which emoji you draw is up to you. John was writing to Christians, so the word should probably be something like 'pleased', 'gratitude', or 'joy' and the emoji should show this.

Who does Jesus mean by 'the Father'?

By 'the Father', Jesus means God.

Who is 'I' in this passage?

The 'I' in this passage is Jesus.

Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about this, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

What word you choose and what which emoji you draw is up to you. The idea that a god could become human was unlike other religious ideas at the time when John wrote, so the word could be something like 'surprised' or 'shocked'.

I am the Father and the Father is in me.' What line from John 10 is echoed here?

It echoes when Jesus says 'The Father and I are one' earlier in John's Gospel.

Jesus' phrase 'I am the way the truth and the life' refers to specific ways Jesus' followers believe they can trust him.

The way = Jesus represents the only path that leads to God.

The truth = Jesus' teachings come from God are and totally reliable.

The life = Jesus offers and new future and a new hope for humanity.

The Story of Job (pages 16-18)

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 given your reasons why. The best answers will have referred to parts of the story to back up what you have said.

The Ten Commandments (page 19)

Highlight in one colour information about God.

In the 1st to 4th commandments, God speaks to the Israelites. He tolerates no rivals. He punishes those who hate him or misuse his name, but shows love to those who love and obey him.

Highlight in another colour information about how humans should behave.

According to the 5th–10th commandments, humans should observe the Sabbath by resting, respect their parents, not commit murder, adultery or theft and not falsely accuse others or desire someone else's stuff.

On the dotted line below, mark where you think the Ten Commandments fit best.

There is no right or wrong answer here – how you do this depends on your own view of the Ten Commandments.

Incarnation (pages 20-21)

Highlight a passage in Luke chapter 1 which explains God's relationship to Jesus.

"He . . . will be called the Son of the Most High God."

Highlight lines that show God's plans for Jesus.

"The Lord God will make him a king . . . his kingdom will never end!"

Highlight the lines that show Jesus was a descendent of King David.

" . . . as his ancestor David was . . ."

Which sections of these passage show that Jesus' birth was

- miraculous? *The angel tells Mary that she will become pregnant despite her being a virgin, which, of course, is impossible.*
- humble? *Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable and laid him in a manger (a food trough) because there was no room for them to stay in the inn.*
- royal? *Jesus was descended from David, one of the kings of Israel in the Old Testament. He is the same David who killed the giant Goliath.*

The word 'incarnate' means 'into flesh', or 'taking on a body.' *Christians believe that Jesus was God who became fully human.*

Write one line from either of the passages which shows Jesus was divine.

You could have "He will be called the Son of the Most High God" or "For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God".

Write one line from either of the passages which shows Jesus was human.

You could have "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son" or "She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby".

The Word of God (pages 22-24)

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 Greatest Commandments (page 25)

Write in your own words what Jesus says is the most important commandment.

There will be different ways of explaining this in your own words. The key points are: that there is only one God, who should be put first and loved with all that you have got.

Write in your own words what Jesus says is the second most important commandment.

Again, there will be different ways of explaining this in your own words. The key point is that the needs of others should be seen as equally important as your own.

What word is at the heart of both?

The word which Jesus places at the heart of both of the greatest commandments is 'love'.

The Beatitudes (pages 26-27)

List all of the types of people who Jesus said would be blessed: *The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted.*

What sort of person is Jesus describing? Choose five words from below.

The words you choose could be: humble, kind, confident, innocent, loving, meek and peaceful.

What sort of blessing does Jesus say will be given to those people? Choose five words from below.

The words you choose could be: holiness, heaven, happiness, mercy and satisfaction.

Blessed are . . .	What this means . . .
the poor in spirit	Oppressed, downtrodden and without hope.
those who mourn	<i>Sad and sorrowful over something or someone lost.</i>
the meek	<i>Gentle and humble.</i>
those who hunger and thirst for righteousness	<i>Trying to behave in a pure, fair and just way, wanting God to put things right.</i>
the merciful	<i>Being forgiving and compassionate.</i>
the pure in heart	<i>Blameless and having the best intentions.</i>
the peacemakers	<i>Stopping arguments and disagreements.</i>
those who are persecuted because of righteousness	<i>Being treated cruelly and unfairly because they try to do what is right.</i>

A Christian might use the beatitudes to guide them in trying to live their life in the way that Jesus would want them to.

Choose two types of people mentioned in the beatitudes and describe how a Christian could live like that today.

Some of the characteristics found in the beatitudes are things which a Christian might see as goals (e.g. being a peacemaker or being merciful). Others are misfortunes which they might find happening to them (e.g. mourning or being persecuted).

You can write about any two of the types of people mentioned. Here are some examples:

As well as trying to bring peace between others, a Christian might try to be a peacemaker by reaching out to someone who they themselves have fallen out with. They might also think about how to bring about peace in the wider world. They believe that this is what Jesus would want them to do not only from the beatitudes, but also from his other teachings and his example.

A Christian who is 'poor in spirit' might draw comfort from Jesus saying that 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. They might see this as a promise that their suffering now will not affect their ability to achieve salvation by following Jesus.

Christians sometimes understand the beatitudes as being, at least in part, about that happens after they die – for example, while the merciful might not themselves receive mercy from others in this life, they will experience God's mercy then.

The Good Samaritan (pages 28–29)

List everything the Samaritan did for the wounded man.

He gave him first aid by pouring oil and wine on his wounds and bandaging them.

He transported him to an inn and continued to take care of him there.

He gave him time by staying with him rather than continuing on his journey.

He gave him money by paying for further treatment.

Before he went on his way, he made sure that the innkeeper would take care of him, and promised to cover any costs.

Summarise the key events of the story – you can write, draw or both

There are lots of ways you could do this. Key points to include are:

Jesus is asked a question by a teacher of the Law: “What must I do to receive eternal life?” The question is intended to catch Jesus out.

Instead of giving an answer, Jesus asks a question of his own: “What do the Scriptures say?”

In reply, the teacher of the Law quotes from the Old Testament about loving God and your neighbour.

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a priest and a Levite ignore an injured man and a Samaritan, one of the Jews' enemies, helps him. He asks the teacher of the Law a further question: “Which one of these three acted as a neighbour towards the man?”

The teacher of the Law, perhaps reluctantly, admits that it was the Samaritan.

Jesus answers his original question by telling him to go and do the same.

Who would a Christian say is their ‘neighbour’ in today’s world, and how might they show 'agape' towards them?

According to the teaching of Jesus, everyone is to be considered your neighbour. Therefore, Christians should treat everyone else as if they were their neighbour, especially if they are in need. That includes people who, for whatever reason, they might not like very much, which isn't always easy. Some Christians use another teaching of Jesus, sometimes known as the golden rule, to help them in this – try to do to others the same as you would want them to do for you if you were in their situation (It is from Matthew chapter 7 verse 12).

Why do people sometimes find it difficult to treat people they see as their enemy as their neighbour?

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a strong attack on some of the reasons why people find it difficult to treat others as their neighbour, such as prejudice and bigotry. Other reasons might be that there is ongoing anger over an injustice suffered, or even simply that both sides are too proud to take the first step in reconciliation. Christianity recognises that people can tend to be un-neighbourlike and even hostile to others. It teaches that it is wrong but that forgiveness from God and change are possible.

The Parable of the Lost Son (pages 30–31)

What did the younger son do that was wrong?

He is impatient (he wants his inheritance now), he cuts himself off from his family so that he can go and have fun and he wastes his inheritance. He seems to be ungrateful to his father despite being allowed to have his inheritance early. These things would have seemed even worse to Jesus' listeners because they lived in a society where loyalty to your family, especially to your father, was seen as being very important.

How does the father in the story react when his son comes home?

The father is extremely pleased to see his son. He immediately rushes up to him and welcomes him home, and puts on a feast to celebrate.

Choose at least three adjectives which describe how the father responds when his son returns and asks for forgiveness.

The adjectives which you choose might be words like overjoyed, delighted and relieved.

The Last Supper (pages 32-33)

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 34-35)

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 36-37)

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 38-40)

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."

Some Christians 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 dies 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.

Joseph of Arimethea made sure that Jesus was buried . . . 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 41-42)

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 (page 43)

What two things does Paul describe as 'free gifts'?

God's grace (things Christians believe that God does for people even though they don't deserve them) and eternal life.

Atonement = The idea that despite people's sins having put them far from God, Jesus dealt with their punishment for them by dying on the cross.

Salvation = Being 'saved' and able to go to eternal life in heaven.

Pentecost (pages 44-46)

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.

The Great Commission (page 47)

Write out below the four separate parts of the instruction Jesus gave to his followers.

Go to all peoples everywhere. Make them Jesus' disciples. Baptize them. Teach them to obey everything which Jesus has commanded (ie. follow Jesus' teachings).

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'.

The Sheep and the Goats (pages 48-51)

How do people need to help others in order to be called 'righteous'?

They need to help those who are in need and who are less well-off than they are.

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

Baptism (pages 52-53)

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.'

Worship (pages 54-55)

What promise does Jesus make?

Jesus promises to be present when those who are his followers gather together.

Which of the pictures does this verse match up to?

It could match to any of the pictures which shows Christians together as they worship, which is all of them apart from no.3.

Does what Jesus says here mean that worshipping by yourself is unimportant?

Most Christians would say not, and that sometimes being with others and at other times being alone are both important elements of worship. For example, an individual Christian might find it good to be part of lively and outgoing worship in his or her church and also good to worship alone quietly, prayerfully and reflectively.

How is God described in this passage?

God is described as 'Spirit'.

Which of the pictures does this verse match up to?

It probably matches best to nos. 4 and 6, which show the sort of lively worship style found in charismatic and Pentecostal churches, which place a lot of emphasis on the presence of the Holy Spirit in worship.

In John, what does Jesus say is necessary for worship?

He says that the power of the Spirit is necessary for people to worship God as he really is.

Highlight the instructions Jesus gives about how his followers should remember him.

"Do this in memory of me." and "Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me."

Which of the pictures does this passage match up to?

It matches no. 2, which shows someone receiving the Eucharist (Communion) in a Catholic church.

What event is Paul (author of this letter) referring to in this passage?

The passage is about the Last Supper, which is remembered in churches in the Eucharist.

The Lord's Prayer (pages 56-57)

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.