

Christianity



What is Christianity?

Christianity is the religion with the most followers in the world; almost a third of the world's population are Christians.

Like Jews and Muslims, Christians believe in just one God who created the world and all that is in it.

Christians follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, a preacher and healer who lived in the Middle East more than 2000 years ago. Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God, sent down to earth to save people by dying on the cross and taking the punishment for their sins. It is through looking at Jesus's life and example that Christians believe they can learn what God is like.

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Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God.

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Jesus chose 12 men to travel with him and be his special companions; they became known as his disciples.

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Jesus was crucified, which meant he was nailed to a wooden cross and left to die. The cross is a very important Christian symbol: it reminds Christians of how and why Jesus died.



Christians celebrate Jesus's birth every year on 25th December - Christmas Day - but no one knows exactly when he was born. The first Christians did not celebrate Jesus's birth.



Christians think that God can be seen in three ways, which is known as the Holy Trinity:

God the Father, who created and cares for the world and everything in it.

God the Son, who came down to earth as Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit, which symbolises God's power living within Christians.

Facts about Christianity

The Bible is the holy book of Christians. The Christian Bible contains the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains the same books as the Jewish Bible (although Christians have a different view of what is written down) and was written before Jesus's birth. The New Testament contains stories about Jesus written by people who met him or had heard of him.

Sunday is a time when most Christians meet to worship God, whether in a church, a hall or someone's house.

A church can be big, small, old, new, plain or highly decorated. You will find that the floor plan of many churches is in the shape of a cross. Church services usually include prayers, hymns and readings from the Bible.

Christians believe that praying to God allows them to say sorry for the things they have done wrong and thank you for their blessings, to

pray for other people (for example, for healing) and to pray for his help and strength for themselves. Christians believe that God wants them to be like Jesus Christ and carry on the good work he did in the world.

Websites:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/christianity>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4/articles/zvfnkmn>

TOP TEN FACTS

- Christianity is the world's largest religion.
- People who follow Christianity are called Christians.
- **Christians have one God**, who they believe created the world in just six days and continues to watch over it.
- Christians believe that God is everywhere and sees and knows everything.
- Today there are about 2.2 billion Christians in the world – almost a third of the world's population.
- **Christians got their name because of their belief in Jesus Christ**, a preacher and healer who lived more than 2000 years ago in Israel in the Middle East.
- Jesus was born to an ordinary Jewish couple, Mary and Joseph, in Bethlehem. Most children know the famous Nativity story which describes his birth.
- Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God, sent down to earth to save people and teach them about God.
- The word Christ comes from a Greek word meaning Messiah, God's chosen one.
- A **church** is a building where Christians worship.