Religious Studies: People of God

Year 7 Term 2

Trinity MAT

Key People

Abraham	Abraham was a prophet who is described as the 'Father of all nations' . He was asked by God to leave his home town and in return, God promised him and his infertile wife (Sarah) a child. When Isaac was born, God asked him to sacrifice him, however, this was just a test of faith and Isaac was spared,
Moses	Moses was a Hebrew who grew up as an Egyptian prince. After being banished from the palace, he was given a message from God through a burning bush, to free all of the Hebrew slaves. God sent ten plagues and on the last, the Hebrews were finally freed. Moses parted the Red Sea so the Hebrews could run free. Many years later, God gave Moses the 10 commandments which said the right rules to follow in life.

Key teachings

Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus	The rich man lived his life full of luxury whilst Lazarus did not have much money and lived his life needing help. During his life the rich man ignored Lazarus and did not help him. When they both died, Lazarus was sent next to God to be healed and looked after whilst the rich man was sent to hell for not looking after Lazarus. The key teaching is that you should help those who need help or you may suffer at some point yourself.
Parable of the Sheep and Goats	The core message of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats is that God's people must care for others. Good things come from the relationship to the Shepherd. Followers of Christ ("sheep") will treat others with kindness, serving them as if they were serving Christ Himself. The "goats", those who do not follow Jesus, do not perform acts of kindness and charity, their hearts are not right with God, and their actions are not for the right purpose – to honour and worship God.

Key Terms

Prophet	A prophet is a person who reminds the people about the agreement between God and his people. The prophet announces God's good news to the community, denounces (tells them) what is wrong and calls for goodness and justice.
Covenant	A promise made between God and one of his chosen messengers.
Commandment	A rule to be observed, for example: 'Thou shalt not murder'.
Trinity	The Christian belief that God exists in three forms- God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.
Jesus	Jesus, considered by Christians to be the Son of God as he was God in flesh. He is the Saviour of all.
Incarnation	The Christian belief that Jesus is God in human form (living as a human being).
Radical	A person who goes against authority in order to change society. (For example, Martin Luther King challenged the legal racism of American society in the 1950s and 1960s.)
Sin	An action that goes against religious teaching.
Crucifixion	The killing of Jesus Christ nailed on the cross.
Salvation	Being saved from sin and wrongdoing. Christians believe the death of Jesus was the sacrifice for their wrongdoing.
Resurrection	On the third day after his crucifixion, Jesus was raised to new life. He appeared to his disciples for 40 days before he ascended back to his Father in heaven.

What was so special about Jesus?

Why do Christians believe Jesus is God on Earth?

- Christians believe that Jesus was God on Earth through a number of miracles that he performed.
- Jesus turned water into wine, he healed a sick boy, he walked on the sea, he fed poor people, he raised a dead man.
- Jesus Christ taught that he was Son of God. His teachings can be summarised, briefly as the love of God and love of one's neighbour.
- Jesus said that he had come to fulfil God's law rather than teach it.

What did Jesus do?

- Jesus had an overwhelming impact on those around him. The Gospels speak regularly of huge crowds following Jesus.
- Perhaps they gathered because of his reputation as a healer.
- Perhaps they gathered because of his ability as a teacher.
- Whatever the cause, it seems likely that the authorities' fear of the crowd was a major factor leading to Jesus' crucifixion. In a world where there was no democracy, mobs represented a far greater threat to the Romans' rule than anything else.

What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?

- Throughout his life, Jesus taught that being able to forgive was of the upmost importance.
- He said 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone'. This means that if everyone has done something wrong at some point in their life, nobody is perfect, therefore , we must always give people an opportunity to say sorry.
- Jesus taught that if you repent (say sorry) for your sins, God will always forgive you.

How did Jesus die?

- Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9 o'clock on a Friday morning. He had been up all night with the trial. Death by crucifixion could last 2-3 days but Jesus was dead by Friday afternoon.
- Three days after he died, Jesus was resurrected. He was alive again. When Jesus died, his spirit left his body. When he was resurrected, his spirit came back into his body. Jesus was the first person to be resurrected.
- Many people saw Jesus after he was resurrected. Jesus taught his friends and showed them his resurrected body. He ate food, and he let his friends touch him so they would know that his resurrected body had flesh and bones. After teaching the people, Jesus 'ascended' to live with Heavenly Father again.