

Year 4 Christianity (God)

Year 4 Key Question (to be used all year): How should we live our lives?

Focus Question (for this investigation): How and why might Christian use the Bible?

Does it matter if I am a moral person?

Search for personal meaning

How should we live our lives?
Why do people have different views about right and wrong?

Pupils should investigate the differing sources of authority that a Christian might look to when making moral decisions (i.e. the Bible, Church leaders, conscience) and the impact that following these might have on the life of a believer.

Beliefs and values

Pupils will explore different Christian beliefs about the Bible as the word of God. They should consider how and why Christians might try to follow the teachings of the Bible.


How and why might Christians use the Bible?

Pupils should understand that the Bible is a collection of books, containing different types of literature – and that Christians have different beliefs about how it should be interpreted.

Pupils should learn about how Christians use the Bible – both in congregational worship and in private as a source of wisdom and guidance.

What do we mean by a source of authority?
What authorities do we follow and why?

Who or what should I obey?



How should I live my life?

Focus Question: How and why might Christians use the Bible?

This unit investigates how and why Christians use the Bible today and why the Bible is seen as a source of inspirations and authority by many Christians. Pupils should understand that the Bible is not one book but a collection of books, written by different people at different times. They should know that the Bible contains two main sections – the Old Testament (which is the Jewish scriptures) and the New Testament (about Jesus and the early Church). Pupils should explore the idea that the Bible has authority for Christians because it is ‘the Word of God’, but that Christians have different views about what this means – some take it as a literal truth, whereas others take the liberal view that it contains truths about God and how God wants people to live but that the stories themselves may not be literally true.

Pupils should be able to recognise and use specialist terms such as Gospel, parable, literal and liberal. They should also develop their skills in reading and interpreting religious texts.

Pupils should also learn about other sources of wisdom and authority that may guide Christians in making moral decisions.

Field of Enquiry	Possible Teaching Ideas
Shared Human Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at a pictures representing the idea of authority (eg. police uniform, Judge’s wig/gavel, photograph of the Headteacher, Lollipop man/man). Pupils to suggest what the pictures have in common. Discuss examples of authority within the school, home and community and suggest examples of different ways that this might influence a person’s life.

<p>Beliefs and Values</p> <p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorm different types of writing found in a library. Draw out categories, eg adventure stories, historical stories, science fiction, poetry. Discuss why people write in different forms – consider purpose of different types of writing. Look at the contents page of the Bible and remind pupils that it was compiled over a long period of time and is really a collection of books, written by different authors at different times. Identify some of the types of writing, eg story, history, law, poetry, letters, proverbs. Give pupils two sheets, one with extracts from the Bible, the other with a box for each literary genre. Ask the pupils to match the Bible extract with the correct genre. Discuss why authors choose to write in a particular genre and how this relates to the Bible. (Extracts should be taken from translations which can be easily accessed by the children. For example, the Good News Bible has a reading age of 8–9 years. Possible extracts: Genesis 1:1–4 (narrative), Psalm 23:1–2 (poetry), examples of Proverbs (wisdom), the crucifixion of Jesus – Luke 23 (history), The Parable of the lost sheep – Luke 15 (parable), A New Testament letter such as 1 Corinthians 1:1–3 (letter), Amos – a prophecy (prophecy))
<p>Living Religious Traditions</p> <p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how Christians might use the Bible. This clip might be a good introduction https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvGTbVP_jIA&index=28&list=PLcvEcrcF_9zJxDHG9JtcCmiAgwVFRW3uK Compare different Bibles – a children’s Bible, a comic-book Bible, a Gideon’s Bible, an adult Bible. Discuss why Christians might think it important to create Bibles that children are able to read. Look at the story of Daniel (referred to in the video clip) and discuss what wisdom and guidance children might learn from this story. Discuss if children think this story would still have a meaning to Christians today – or if it is outdated as a source of guidance. Ask them to think about other sources of guidance that Christians might use when thinking about how to live.
<p>Search for Personal Meaning</p> <p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children to list the people who have influenced their own sense of right and wrong and to suggest why these people are a good source of wisdom and authority. Ask them to imagine that they had the last piece of paper in the world. They have been asked to use it to pass on the best guidance for life they have ever been given – what would they write? These answers could then be compared and discussed, leading to the question of why people might have differing ideas about how to live well.

<p>Y1 Learning - pupils will:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * explore different Christian beliefs about the Bible as the word of God * explain why the Bible can be described as a library and give examples of the different types of writings found in the Bible * describe why some Christians might view the Bible as an important source of authority and moral guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * explain why Christians might have different views about how to interpret and apply the Bible * explain why Christians might also look to other sources of authority when making decisions about how to live (eg. church leaders, prayer, conscience) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * discuss why people might have different views about what is right and wrong – and where these views might come from * describe the different sources of authority that humans might look to when making decisions about how to live their lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * reflect on their own understanding of morality and where it comes from * raise questions and discuss responses to different ideas about how to live well
<p>Beliefs and values</p>	<p>Living religious traditions</p>	<p>Shared human experience</p>	<p>Search for personal meaning</p>