

The key end points for this unit are:

- The Bible can be seen as a guidebook for life for many Christians.
- The Bible contains laws that many Christians follow.
- The Bible is the 'big story' of God and his people, starting from Creation.

This is the seventh Christianity unit in the series, following Year 2's focus on Jesus' teachings and symbols and artefacts, both of which introduced the Bible as Christianity's sacred text. This unit looks more closely at the origin, history, and development of the Bible as it exists today. Children will build on prior knowledge of:

The historical context of early Christianity (conflicts between Romans, Jews, and early Christians)

The division of the Bible into the Old Testament (shared with Judaism) and the New Testament (specific to Christianity)

Jesus' parables, including a deeper exploration of the Parable of the Lost Sheep, focusing on God's care from a Christian viewpoint

This unit deepens understanding of the Bible's role in shaping Christian identity and its continued significance. Children will learn that:

The Bible has helped unite Christian denominations around shared teachings and despite differences in church practices, the Bible remains a constant authority for Christians. They will understand that ceremonies and celebrations often include Bible readings for guidance and comfort, marking important life stages for Christians.

As with all RE units, children will be encouraged to reflect personally and respectfully, relating Christian concepts to their own lives:

- What does "sacred" mean to them?
- What helps guide their decisions?
- How do they view authority?

Reflections will be inclusive of all backgrounds and supported with sentence stems such as: *"Personally, I feel..."* or *"In my experience..."*, with teachers modelling thoughtful responses.

Lesson Sequence:

Lesson 1; Building on Y2 learning, children revisit the idea of sacred texts; writings believed to be connected to God or divine authority. They'll learn that many were originally shared orally before being written down. Sacred texts act as guidance for many religious communities. Teachers should show a range of formats (books, scrolls, translations) to illustrate variety.

Lesson 2: In this lesson children explore the Bible as Christianity's sacred text, believed by many Christians to be the word of God. They'll learn it teaches Christians about God and life through stories and parables. Children will build on this in the next lesson.

Lesson 3: This lesson explores the Bible as a narrative of God's relationship with humanity. Children revisit familiar parables and understand the Bible's structure:

- The Old Testament begins with creation and predates Jesus
- The New Testament shares the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

Lesson 4: Children explore how the Bible is used in Christian rites of passage (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals). They'll understand Bible readings offer guidance and reassurance, marking key life stages for many Christians. Teachers highlight how the Bible acts as a spiritual guidebook.

Lesson 5: Parables and Moral Teachings; Children look deeper into parables as moral stories used by Christians to understand God's love and values. They reflect on the meaning behind messages, linking to earlier learning and previous RE reflections. Teachers guide exploration of how parables communicate faith, ethics, and hope.

Lesson 6: Assessment – The Bible's Influence

Children create a fact file to summarise their understanding. They learn that under Emperor Constantine, Christianity spread through the Roman Empire. They're introduced to Martin Luther's reforms, including the belief that:

- The Bible alone holds authority
- Salvation comes through faith, not works

This lesson lays the groundwork for Year 5's Christianity in History unit.

Key concepts: guidance, worship, sacred

Key terms: Bible, New testament, Old testament, parable, scripture, ceremonies