



Overview

-Jesus (also known as Jesus Christ or Jesus of Nazareth) was a preacher and religious leader.

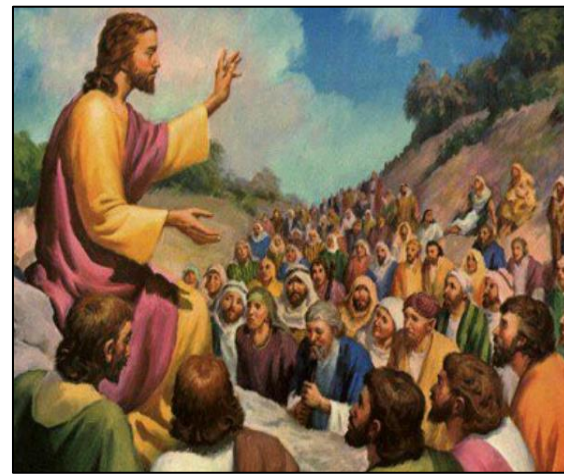
-He is the central figure of Christianity. Jesus was born a Jew, but went on to begin Christianity.

-Jesus preached wherever people could gather together. He often taught through telling short stories with important messages, called parables.

-Jesus also taught people to follow the ten commandments, especially the most important two.

-He also stressed the importance of praying to God.

An artist's impression of Jesus preaching to a group of his followers.



The Parables and their Meanings

The Parable of the Sower

-A man sowing corn was scattering the seed in a field. It fell in several different places.
-Some fell along a path, where the birds ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground. When the plants sprouted from here, they quickly died because they had no moisture. Some seed fell in thorn bushes, which choked the growing plants. The rest fell in good soil - the harvest from which was good.
-In the parable, the sower is Jesus and the seed is the word of God. The seed on the path stands for those who hear God's message, but it is taken from them by the Devil. The seed on the rocky ground stands for those who do not believe deeply. The seed in the thorn bushes represents those who are too anxious about living the way Jesus recommends. Finally, the seed in good soil stands for those who truly follow the message, and because of this bear the fruit.



The Parable of the Lost Sheep

-In this parable, Jesus speaks of a shepherd with one hundred sheep.
-If one of the sheep were to go missing, the shepherd would leave the other ninety-nine to find it. He would feel incredible joy if he found the one sheep.
-Jesus explains that the shepherd is God and that 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.'
-Through this parable, Jesus showed people that hope is never lost for those who have sinned.
-He encouraged those who had sinned to 'repent:' to show remorse for their sins and follow God.



The Commandments

The Ten Commandments

- 1.Worship no god but me.
2.Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.
3.Do not use my name for evil purposes.
4.Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5.Respect your father and your mother.
6.Do not commit murder. 7.Do not commit adultery
8.Do not steal. 9. Do not accuse anyone falsely.
10. Do not desire anything that another owns.



Love the Lord

-Jesus explained that the most important commandment was to love the Lord.



-He said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."
-Jesus taught that this was the most vital thing a person could do.

Love thy Neighbour

-The commandment that Jesus taught was the second most important was loving one another.



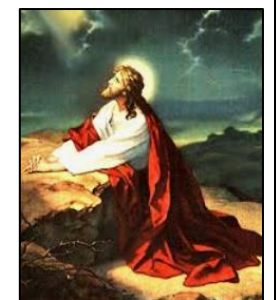
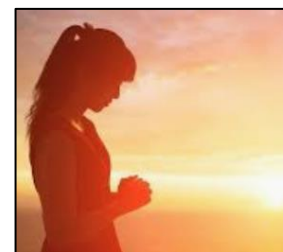
-Jesus said "The second most important commandment is this: Love your neighbour as you love yourself."
-This stressed the importance of equality & treating all with respect.

Key Vocabulary

- Jesus
Christ
Parable
Commandments
Prayer
Parable of the Sower
Represent
Parable of the Lost Sheep
Sinner
Repent
Neighbour

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

- What messages are in the parables? How are they important in your life?
Which people guide you in your life?
How do people guide you in your life? What is 'good guidance?'
What do you think of the moral messages in the parables?
How do you treat the poor, the sick and the unpopular?
How do your communities make you feel?
What does it mean to love and be loved?
What are your feelings about prayer? How do you pray?
What are the most important relationships in your life?