

### ***How Christians Use the Bible***

The Bible is, for Christians, the source of inspiration as well as the inspired Word of God. For generations Christians have studied the Bible, both corporately and individually, to gain fresh insights into their own lives and times – this can be broken down under a number of different headings e.g:

- i. As the main basis for doctrine. The Church always goes back to the Bible as the source for its teaching, although, of course, passages in the Bible can sometimes appear to contradict each other (or be open to several interpretations) and then conflicts of belief can arise.
- ii. As the basis of worship and liturgy. The Eucharist or Holy Communion service is the obvious example of a service firmly based upon the Biblical record. The Psalms are also frequently used in worship, and individual verses in the Bible have been the inspiration for hymns and songs.
- iii. Understanding God's vision for humanity and the world. Clergy and other religious leaders will help believers understand God's message through sermons, theological books and counselling etc.
- iv. For guidance on Christian living. Individual Christians use the Bible as a source of advice and guidance in their day to day lives, whether this is to direct their own lifestyles or to guide the life of their whole community.

As well as hearing the Bible read in church, Christians may meet together for Bible study in church house groups, or possibly even at work. Individual Christians use the Bible for daily reading, comfort, reflection and worship – some will use daily Bible reading notes to support this. The Christian community considers the Bible to be of such importance that the organisation known as the "Gideons" aim to provide a Bible for every hotel room. Parishes with church schools will often buy a copy for each child as they leave the school.

Christianity is unlike other "Religions of the Book" such as Islam or Sikhism, where believers will learn the language in which the scriptures are written in order to read them, as Christians are keen to put the Word of God into the languages of people everywhere. 32% of the people of the world are Christians and so the Bible has been translated into over 330 languages, and the New Testament into a further 800+ languages, while individual Gospels have been translated into more than another 920 languages – a total of well over 2,000 languages. The Bible Society is at work to translate the Bible into every language in the world. Many languages have been given their first written form by Bible translators. There are currently at least 20 versions of the Bible in English.

<b>The Bible – the special book of the Christians</b>	<b>Year Group: Y2</b>	<b>No. of lessons: 2</b>
<b>Learning Objectives:</b> To know that the Bible is a special book for Christians which is used in worship. To hear and explore some passages from the Bible in an appropriate context.		
<b>Questions for reflection:</b> What books are special to me? How do we look after books? What stories are important to me and other people?		
<b>Activities and experiences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Share some of the class' special books. Talk about the way books are treated and cared for. Discover if the children have any special family books at home and whether these can be brought in to be shared, and may include Bibles.</li> <li>◆ Talk about books been given as gifts for special occasions – e.g. your school's leavers' service. Christians often receive a copy of the Bible at special times e.g. when they are baptised (even although the baby cannot read it!) or confirmed. Talk through together why it is the Bible that is chosen.</li> <li>◆ Visit the church to discover the special place the Bible occupies in the building and the use of the lectern. Find out how this is used in a service. What does this tell you about the importance of the Bible? Hear the Bible read from the lectern and discover other books used in the church (do they include sections of the Bible?) and how the Bible is used in stained glass windows etc. Select one of the Bible windows from the church to draw (and photographs?).</li> <li>◆ .Back at school hear / read the story which accompanies the Bible window. You may also like to look at other representations of the story in fine art. Talk about the window and the art in the context of the story e.g what are different characters thinking etc. and also why this particular Bible story may have been chosen for the window (what is its message?). Talk about other Bible stories you have heard / know and design stained glass windows to share these stories also (tissue paper in a black card surround, actually attached to your classroom windows, can be very effective!).</li> </ul>		
<b>Websites &amp; Resources:</b> Note: Ely Cathedral has a special "Bible windows" tour for KS1 pupils contact 01353 659668. The National Gallery is at <a href="http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/">http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/</a> see also <a href="http://biblia.com/jesusm/gospels.htm">http://biblia.com/jesusm/gospels.htm</a>		

<b>Christians love the Bible</b>	<b>Year Group: KS2</b>	<b>No. of lessons: 2</b>
<b>Learning Objectives:</b> To explore how the Bible can be used in a variety of different ways by Christians. To be aware that the Bible is the most widely read book in the world.		
<b>Questions for reflection:</b> Which books or stories that I enjoy will “stand the test of time”? What are the important Bible stories for Christians? What parts of the Bible do I find difficult to understand? Why do I think the Bible is so popular?		
<p><b>Activities and experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discuss which books people are reading at the moment for pleasure, and see if you can remember which your favourite books were at an earlier age, and whether you still like them. Guess what the most popular book in the entire world might be (see notes above).</li> <li>◆ Collect together all the versions of the Bible and individual Bible storybooks available in the school library, and that pupils may lend, to make a display. A request of this kind may bring in a number of special Bibles such as christening gifts etc. Chart which stories or symbols have been used as the cover illustrations for these books, and see if a “favourite” emerges. You can supplement this by visiting your local church and similarly “collecting” stories from the stained glass etc. Are there any stories you have collected which you cannot identify – whose help might you need to do this? Also note the special position the Bible occupies in the church building on the lectern, and discover how it is treated in the home. (You may wish to make comparisons with the way Holy Books of other faiths are treated by believers.)</li> <li>◆ Together read and discuss whichever story (stories) has emerged at the top of your story poll. Why might this be a favourite story for Christians? What example might the characters in the story be giving to Christians to follow? Or what Christian belief might be highlighted?</li> <li>◆ Look at a globe or world map. Understand that the Bible Society aims to translate the Bible into every language of the world (see statistics above). Select some translations of the Lord’s Prayer from the Christus Rex website and identify which countries these languages are spoken in (a display would be possible if a map is used).</li> <li>◆ Pupils select one of the “Christus Rex countries” and design a Bible bookcover for that country / language. They can also write up the rationale behind their design, using their knowledge of the Bible and that country.</li> <li>◆ Work in small discussion groups to rank the Bible cards (below) in order of importance, to show why pupils think the Bible is the world’s number one best seller. Record your decision. This works best if pupils can be encouraged to “think like a Christian” (empathy)</li> </ul>		
<b>Websites &amp; Resources:</b> <a href="http://www.christusrex.org/www1/pater/index.html">http://www.christusrex.org/www1/pater/index.html</a> the Lord’s Prayer in 1323 languages – and rising!		

<p>The Bible is popular because it helps people answer puzzling questions like "What happens when we die"</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because some people like to read it every day. They look for a message from God in its words.</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because it is the book that the churches give to people such as prisoners, school children and couples getting married, or babies being baptised.</p>
<p>The Bible is popular because a lot of people like to have their own copy at home, even if they don't read it.</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because it is about God and Jesus and tells people how much God loves them.</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because when people read it they feel better about themselves and their lives.</p>
<p>The Bible is popular because it has a lot of really good stories in it.</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because it is the Christian holy Book, and one third of the people in the world are Christian.</p>	<p>The Bible is popular because it is full of things Christians love, like prayers, stories and teaching.</p>