

## Year 7 - Introduction and Trinity Knowledge Organiser

### What is religion?

There are many religions around the world. They are made up of communities with shared beliefs and values and all share some common features such as

Feature	Example
Belief in a supernatural power	God
Belief in a soul that lives on after death	Going to Heaven/ Hell or being reincarnated
Rituals and customs	Saying prayers and celebrating festivals
Sacred texts	Holy books like the Bible, Torah or Qur'an
Moral rules	The Ten Commandments
The search for ultimate truths	Questions like 'how did the world begin?' or 'why do we suffer?'

**The Bible** is the Christian holy book. The early parts were originally written in Hebrew and the later parts in Hebrew or Greek. It has since been translated into many different languages. Copies were originally hand-written and beautifully illustrated, but once the printing press was invented in about 1500, printed copies were easy to make and it is now the world's best-selling book!

**The Bible** is actually not one book, but a collection of 66 different books, written by more than 40 people over a very long time. There are different kinds of books in the Bible, including

- history
- law
- prophecy (messages from God)
- poetry and prayer
- biography (life stories)
- letters

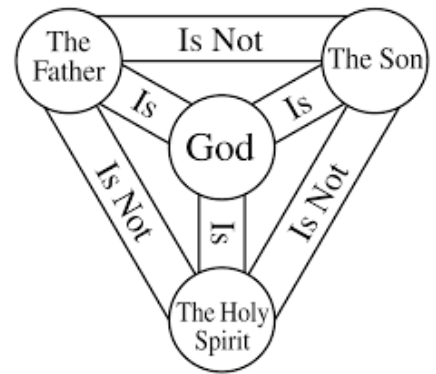


The Bible is split into two main parts - the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of Jewish holy books and the New Testament starts with the birth of Jesus.

### The Big Story of the Bible tells us about God's relationship with the world

<p><b>Creation</b> At first, just God existed, then he made the world</p>	<p><b>The Fall</b> Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were punished</p>	<p><b>The Chosen people</b> God chooses Abraham's descendants to worship him and follow his laws. He rescues them from slavery in Egypt and takes them to Canaan. For hundreds of years, they sometimes follow God and sometimes forget about him. God sends prophets to remind them of his will and tell them of his plans.</p>	<p><b>The Messiah</b> Jesus is born to teach us God's will, die on the cross and rise again.</p>	<p><b>God's kingdom</b> A vision of what the world will be like when everyone follows God</p>
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Christians have a special belief about God which is that he is Trinity. This means that they believe that there is One God who has Three Persons. This diagram shows you that they think of God as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These are all separate Persons of God, although God is all of them at the same time. Believing in God like this helps Christians to know him and understand him better. The three Persons show them how God is involved with us in different ways. Between them all, they show Christians a fuller vision of what God is like.



Christians believe God is	who	The Bible says
The Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• created time and space</li> <li>• created the world and everything in it</li> <li>• loves us</li> <li>• gave us his law to follow</li> <li>• sent prophets to guide us back to his way when we forgot about him</li> </ul>	Lord my God, how fantastic you are! You established the Earth on its foundations so that it will never ever fall. (Psalm 104)
The Son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• was born in Bethlehem</li> <li>• lived as a human being in the form of Jesus Christ</li> <li>• was the Messiah (God's chosen special leader)</li> <li>• taught us what to believe and how to live</li> <li>• gave us his example to follow</li> <li>• died for us on the cross to rescue us from the punishment for sin</li> <li>• rose again from the dead and lives in Heaven with God the Father</li> </ul>	While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5)  In Jesus, all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form. (Colossians 1)
The Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is the power of God on Earth today</li> <li>• inspires us to do good</li> <li>• encourages us to be faithful</li> <li>• comforts us by allowing us to feel God's presence among us</li> </ul>	The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5)

Christians use images to express their beliefs about the Trinity in artwork, like the examples on the next page. These help Christians to think about what they believe about the different persons of the Trinity. Altogether, they show Christian beliefs about God.



**The Holy Spirit** is often shown as a dove or a flame. Here, it is a dove. The dove is a symbol of peace and a flame shows God's power and energy.



In this picture, **God the Father** is represented by a crown to show he is our ruler. **The Son** is represented by a cross to remind us of his death on the cross and **the Holy Spirit** by a dove again.



In this image, **The Father** is represented by God's hand and **the Holy Spirit** by a dove and some flames. A lamb represents **the Son**, to link to the belief that Jesus was sacrificed for our sake, as lambs used to be sacrificed to God in ancient times.

## Key terms

**Bible** - The Christian holy book

**Holy Spirit** - God's power and presence on Earth. One of the Persons of the Trinity.

**Jesus** - in the Trinity, he is the 'Son'. Christians believe he was God born as a human who lived and died on Earth and rose again from the dead.

**Messiah** - A special leader sent by God to save the world. Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

**Old Testament** - the first part of the Bible, made up from Jewish holy books.

**New Testament** - the second part of the Bible, starting from the birth of Jesus.

**Prophets** - People chosen by God to deliver his messages to us.

**Trinity** - the Christian belief that God is three persons in one - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Try researching more Trinity symbols online. Type in 'Trinity artwork' and see what comes up!