

Year 5&6 Key Stage 2



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

**Year 6** units of work - Belief - Christian beliefs





# Lesson 3 Christian beliefs

## The big picture

This lesson focuses on the key beliefs of most Christians. The creed used in this lesson is from the Church of England, but some other Christian churches use a similar one.

People are given the opportunity to express some of their own beliefs and views. It is important to discuss how lots of people will have different beliefs and will decide on them at different times in their lives. You should emphasise that any beliefs or views expressed within the lesson should be treated with respect.

## Learning objective

### Learning about:

- To understand and explain some of the key beliefs of many Christians.

### Learning from:

- To consider, reflect upon and express personal commitments and beliefs.

## Success criteria

### Learning about:

- Pupils will have described and explained some of the key beliefs held by many Christians.

### Learning from:

- Pupils will have described and explained their own commitments and beliefs and considered the effect that those commitments and beliefs have on their own lives.

## Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2 3, B2, B£, C2, C3

## Resources

- The song 'I believe in Jesus'
- **Resource sheet 2:** 'The Nicene Creed'
- Interactive whiteboard (optional)
- **Resource sheet 3:** 'Thought bubbles'

## Vocabulary

Apostolic, ascended, baptism, begotten, catholic, creed, crucified, glorified, incarnate, prophet, resurrection, salvation

## Key questions ?

*What are the key statements of the Nicene Creed?  
What is your creed?*

## Introduction

Introduce the learning objective: 'In this lesson we will look at and explain the key beliefs held by many Christians. You will then consider the things that you believe in and how they affect the way you live your life.'

Ask the class to remind you of some of the key Christian beliefs that they compared with another religion in the last lesson.

Remind them that, as part of most Christian worship, hymns and songs are sung to remind Christians of their beliefs and to worship God.

Play the song 'I believe in Jesus'. After playing the song ask the class to work in pairs and list the different beliefs they can hear as you play the song again. Share people's lists of beliefs.

## Activities

### Stimulus

Ask the class to think about and then discuss with a partner how Christians remind themselves of the things that they believe in. Note down their responses. Share with them any of the following ideas that they don't come up with: taking communion, singing, reading the Bible and reading out psalms and prayers.

Show the class the Church of England version of the Nicene Creed (**Resource sheet 2**). Explain that in some Christian churches the congregation say this creed as part of their weekly worship. If possible, either project the creed on to the board, use an interactive whiteboard to display it, or write it on the board. Go through the creed with the whole class and together write a simpler version. Discuss how it is difficult to change some parts that include challenging vocabulary as they are often the parts that communicate key beliefs. You could then write definitions for this technical vocabulary together.

### Response

Ask people to think hard about what they believe about God.

### Key questions ?

*Do they believe in God?*

*If so, what is God like?*

*What does God do?*

*Do they believe that God doesn't exist?*

*If so, who or what is in control of what happens in the world?*

*Perhaps they are not sure what they believe. If so, what are they unsure about?*

*What do they need to find out more about?*

Explain that you would like them to write their own creed or poem of their beliefs. In the first verse they should share their feelings and beliefs about God. In the second and third verses they should express some of their other beliefs about things such as how to live their life, treat other people, etc.

If it will support them in their work, you could offer them one of the following three sentences to start their writing:

- I believe in God.
- I believe there isn't a God.
- I know I need to think more about whether I believe in God.

Offer them the following sentence starters which they may want to use to start some of the phrases in their writing:

- I believe in...
- I think...

## Plenary

Ask the class to get into pairs and share some of their beliefs that they have written about in their personal creed. It is important for them to share their creed with someone they are comfortable sharing their ideas with.

After they have done this, give everyone a blank thought bubble (**Resource sheet 3**) and ask them to write on it one idea or belief that they are still not sure about. This might be a big idea, such as whether God exists or what happens when we die, or a smaller belief such as: 'I think people should try to walk or go on a bus rather than drive cars'.

## Differentiation

(By task) less able people may need to write a series of three or four separate statements rather than an extended piece of writing.

## Extension

More able people could write about how their beliefs affect the decisions they have to make in their lives.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Nicene Creed

**The following version of the Nicene Creed is licensed for use in the Church of England:**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, he was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thought bubbles

