

## KEYWORDS

**Salvation** = being freed from sins, and its consequences (hell)

**Incarnation** = God becoming flesh

**Miracle** = an action or event that does not seem to be scientifically possible

**Sin** = something that breaks one of God's laws

**Crucifixion** = being killed on a cross

**Resurrection** = coming back to life

**Messiah** = a word used to describe Jesus, meaning that he was the saviour of humankind

**Disciple** = a follower of Jesus

**Gentile** = a person who is not Jewish

**Faith** = having complete belief in something, even without evidence

**"For God so loved the world He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life." John 3:16**

# Life of Jesus

## HISTORY

The land of Israel had been attacked and invaded since its creation.

From 63 BCE, the Romans were the occupying power. **The Jewish people hoped for a saviour, a messiah, who would defeat their enemies and restore them to their homeland to live in peace under their own laws.**

Expectations were high at the time of Jesus, who was himself Jewish. The Messiah was widely expected to be a prophet who would re-establish the line of King David on the throne in Jerusalem, site of the Temple of God, and bring all nations to God.

As the extraordinary events of his life unfolded, **Jesus' followers started to think he could be the Messiah.** When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, there was much excitement at the possible arrival of a new king!

The early Christians found their Messiah in Jesus, who was not an earthly king or a warrior but a peaceful man; more amazing still, Jesus was someone whose life, words and deeds made people believe that he was actually God in the flesh, and the **final and most important part of God's plan of salvation.**



## THE BASICS

- Jesus lived in the first century CE in an area which is now called Israel.
  - Jesus and his followers were Jewish.
- The religion of Christianity did not develop until after the death of Jesus.
- **Christians believe that Jesus is God incarnate** (in human flesh).
- **Christians believe that Jesus' teachings should be followed when making moral decisions** – deciding right from wrong.



## JESUS MIRACLES

Christians learn a lot about Jesus through the miracles he did, like walking on water, healing a blind man, and coming back from the dead!

- Miracles **showed the love Jesus had for people.** He did not want to see them suffering unnecessarily. For example, when he healed a people.
- Miracles **provided examples for people to follow.** This can be seen when Jesus healed the paralysed man because of the faith of his friends. This teaches us to have faith and help others.
- Miracles **demonstrated the power he had,** and for many it **proved that he was God.**
- Miracles **proved that Jesus' teachings were true.** Jesus was who he said he was.

## OPPOSITION TO JESUS

**Jesus welcomed all types of people,** even those that Jewish religious leaders considered to be sinners.

**Some religious leaders thought that Jesus' teaching was wrong** and that it was leading people astray. Others feared that he might start a political uprising, and that this would lead to great trouble—they were **worried that they would lose their power.** The leaders decided to have Jesus put to death.

Jesus knew that opposition to him was growing and that one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, was turning against him.

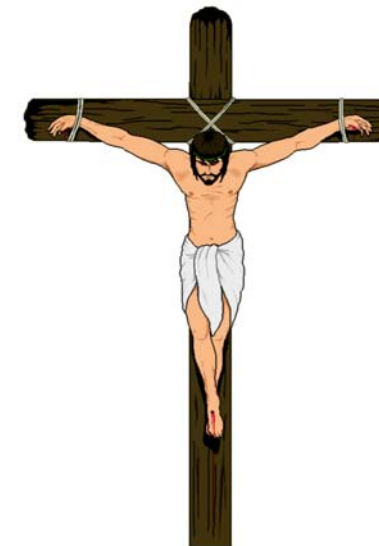
Jesus gathered the apostles together for a meal, known as the **Last Supper.** He told them that his death was necessary because it would establish a new bond between God and humans. Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them, and shared them with his disciples.

**Christians remember this in Communion.**

Later that night, Judas brought men to arrest Jesus, and Jesus was sentenced to death. He was crucified, or nailed to a cross. He **died on the cross and was buried.**

On the third day after that, a group of women went to Jesus' tomb and found the body gone. The Gospels tell that Jesus then appeared to one of the women, Mary Magdalene, and to the disciples. He spent 40 days on Earth after his **Resurrection,** or return from the dead, and then was taken up to heaven (called the ascension).

The story of Jesus' Resurrection is central to Christian belief. **His apostles continued to teach his message after his death, and as that message spread, Christianity was born.**



## JESUS' TEACHINGS

Jesus began preaching when he was about 30 years old. He gathered a group of 12 followers, or disciples, called the apostles, who helped him spread his message. Because Jesus was a Jew, and many of his teachings grew out of Judaism.

**He taught people to forgive others, to live a good life, and to honour God so they could enter God's kingdom** (heaven).

He often taught by using parables, or short stories that illustrated his message.

Jesus' messages were **designed to help people clearly understand how to live in the way that God wanted them to, and how to have a relationship with God.**



One of the most famous talks that Jesus gave was called the Sermon on the Mount. They were practical lessons that were about the way the people at the time were living. One of the most famous things that he said in this sermon was to **"treat people as you want to be treated"**. This is known as the Golden Rule.

He also taught:

- **"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."**
- **"You have heard that it was said 'Eye for eye and tooth for tooth', but I tell you, do not resist and evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."**
- **"Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."**