

# The Word of God

## Christians believe that Jesus was 'the Word' – what does that mean?

John's Gospel was probably the last of the gospels to be written. John doesn't include the same story of Jesus' birth that Matthew and Luke used. Instead, in this opening passage, John uses the concept of 'the Word' to mean Jesus, and to tell his readers about what Jesus was like and about his relationship to God.

### To do...

John wrote his Gospel in Greek, and he used the word 'Logos', which means 'the word', to represent Jesus.

 In the passage below, every time it refers to 'the Word' highlight it and write 'Jesus' next to it.

### To do...

 Draw lines to show where the following Christian beliefs about Jesus can be found in John chapter 1.

Jesus had always existed, since before God created the world

Jesus took part in creation

Jesus brings life

Jesus is the light

Jesus became human (incarnation)

*In the beginning the Word already existed; **the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humanity. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.***

*The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.*

***The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us.** We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.*

**John chapter 1 verses 1-5 and 10-14**

## To do...



In the space below, turn what you have learned about the Word into a diagram to explain:

- what the Word is
- the Word's relationship with God
- what the Word offers to human beings

You could use words, symbols and drawings. Decide on a title for your diagram.

Christians believe in the Holy Trinity. This is a complicated idea, but it is central to understanding Christianity. It says that there is one God, but that the one God has three different 'persons' – God the father, Jesus the son and the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians believe that there are references to the Holy Trinity in the Creation story (pages 4-6), where the 'Spirit of God' moved over the water and God is referred to as 'we'.

## To do...



Match up the part of the creation story on the left with what Christians believe about the Holy Trinity on the right.

Sometimes God is referred to in the plural, as 'we' or 'us'.

God created all things by his 'word'.

The 'Spirit of God' moves over the water at the beginning of creation.

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit was part of God from the beginning of time.

Christians believe that Jesus was part of God from the start of time, and that he had a role to play in creation.

Christians believe that God exists in three 'persons', Father, Son and Holy Spirit.