

The Nature of God and Jesus

What do Christians believe God and Jesus are like?

Jesus is the central figure of Christianity. He was born in Israel in about 6 BCE, and lived until about 30 CE. The last three years of his life were spent as a wandering preacher. His story is told in the four Gospel books of the New Testament, which describe him as a healer and miracle-worker as well as a religious teacher. They state that he was executed by being crucified, but that he rose from the dead three days after his death, and that he was the Son of God. Jesus was Jewish, and his life led to the foundation of Christianity.

This verse sums up the central message of Christianity.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

John chapter 3 verses 16-17

John chapter 3 verse 16 is probably the most famous Bible verse of all, and it is the most widely quoted Bible verse. It is from the Gospel of John, which was written in about 90 CE, 60 years after the lifetime of Jesus.

To do...

-  Highlight what the first verse says about how God feels about the world. In a different colour, highlight what it says he gave. In a third colour, highlight what is required of people to ensure that they get eternal life.

The Christian belief that God is always kind and loving towards humanity is sometimes known as 'omnibenevolence'.

To do...

-  How could the two verses on this page from John's Gospel be used as an example of God's omnibenevolence?
-  Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about God's omnibenevolence, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

'The Father and I are one.'

John chapter 10 verse 30

To do...

 Who is 'I' in this passage?

Christians believe that Jesus and God are indivisible – Jesus was God, but he became human and lived on earth.

 Write one word to express how John's audience might have felt about this, and design an emoji to express this reaction.

To do...

 Who does Jesus mean by 'the Father'?

The next passage comes towards the end of John's Gospel. In it, Jesus is preparing his followers, the disciples, for his imminent death by execution.

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need."

Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do."

John chapter 14 verses 6-11

Philip was one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

To do...

'I am in the father and the Father is in me'

 What line from John 10 is echoed here?

To do...

 Jesus' phrase 'I am the way, the truth and the life' refers to specific ways his followers believe they can trust in him. Match these headers and footers.

The way	Jesus' teachings come from God and are totally reliable
The truth	Jesus offers a new future and a new hope for humanity
The life	Jesus represents the only path that leads to God