



# Christianity:

## Why does Easter matter to Christians?

### Topic Overview

- Christians believe Jesus builds a bridge between God and humans.
  - Christians believe Jesus did more than teach people how to live; he also showed how to live.
  - Christians say that Jesus died to 'save' us, to pay the price of sin in the world and reunite people with God.
  - Christians believe that God has the power to forgive sins.
  - Jesus showed that he was willing to forgive all people, even for putting him on the cross.
  - Jesus shows what God is like and his example of forgiveness reminds Christians that God will forgive them and that they should forgive others.
  - Christians try to follow Jesus' example and look after other people.
  - Jesus wants Christians to help those who are suffering too.
- On **Maundy Thursday**, Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples. It was called The Last Supper because it was the last meal Jesus had with his disciples before he died. They ate bread and wine which Jesus said was his body and blood. Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show that everyone is a servant of God.
  - Even though Jesus was good there were people who hated him. They did not like it when he said he was the King of the Jews. Some people hated Jesus so much that they found a way to have him put on **trial** and sentenced to die on a cross.

### Links with other religions

- **Passover** (Judaism). Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples at The Last Supper.
- **Teshuva** (Judaism). Jews believe if they make a wrong choice, they must ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness can only be given from the person they have wronged (the victim). Jews repent (say sorry) and try to make up for the wrongs they have done.
- **Allah** (Islam). The Qur'an strongly encourages Muslims to forgive wrongdoing. Muslims believe they should forgive others, just as Allah (God) will forgive people on the Day of Judgement for the wrong things they have done.
- **Gurus** (Sikhism). Sikhs believe in forgiveness because this was the teaching and example of the Gurus. The Guru Granth Sahib encourages Sikhs to be forgiving;
- **Forgiveness** (Hinduism). Hindus believe that forgiveness is essential to a Hindu's life and that it brings about good, peace and happiness.
- **Forgiveness** (Buddhism). Buddhists believe that forgiving others as well as ourselves is an important step on the path towards a better life and enlightenment. Forgiving the harm done to us by others allows us to move on and to achieve peace of mind.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Forgive	To stop being angry with someone who has done something wrong.
Sin	Bad things people do that makes God sad.
Salvation	The saving of a person from sin or evil.
Reunite	To come or bring together again after being apart.
Crucifix	A representation of a cross with a figure of Christ on it.
Chalice	A large cup or goblet.
Paten	A plate, typically made of gold or silver.

