



# Christianity:

Could Jesus heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other kind of explanation?

## Topic Overview

- Christians believe Jesus is God in a human body so has the power of God and can do anything, including healing people.
- Christians believe Jesus is the incarnation of God and that he had a special ability to heal people.
- As part of his ministry (described in the New Testament), Jesus performed many miracles.

### • The Blind Man

Jesus and his disciples saw a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva and put it on the man's eyes. He told him to wash the mud off and when he did, the man could see.

### • The Paralysed Man

Jesus was preaching the word of God to a large crowd of people. Some men came, bringing a paralysed man with them but they could not get him to Jesus. They made an opening in the roof and lowered the man into the room. Jesus told the paralysed man his sins were forgiven. He told the man to get up and go home. The paralysed man got up and walked home.

## Links with other religions

- **Trinity** (Christianity). Christians believe there is one God who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **The Qur'an** (Islam). Muslims believe that Jesus performed miracles. The Qur'an mentions several of Jesus's miracles, including giving sight to the blind.
- **Allah** (Islam). Miracles are important in Islam and there are many examples of miracles recorded in the Qur'an, for example when the Prophet Muhammad was taken through the heavens to meet Allah. Muslims believe that Allah (God) can perform miracles.
- **The Tanakh** (Judaism). Descriptions of miracles appear in the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible), for example Moses and the Plagues of Egypt.
- **Chanukkah** (Judaism). When the Maccabees returned to the Temple, they lit a lamp which had enough oil for one day. The oil lamp burned for 8 days. This can be considered a miracle.
- **Miracles** (Hinduism). There are many examples of miracles in Hindu scripture. Miracles related to the gods, for example Lord Shiva bringing his beheaded son back to life with an elephant's head. Some Hindus believe that these events actually happened. Others interpret miracles as a way to express messages.
- **Gurus** (Sikhism). Most Sikhs believe God has the power to perform miracles but that the Gurus did not approve of using miracles to impress people. This teaches Sikhs that God is more important and amazing than any miracle. However, Sikhs have many traditional stories of miracles performed by the Gurus for example Guru Nanak Dev Ji made the bitter soapnuts sweet.
- **Buddha** (Buddhism). Buddhists believe the Buddha performed miracles, for example when he issued fire and water from his body. Buddhists do not believe these miracles were from God.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Miracle	An extraordinary event that happens outside the usual rules of science or nature.
Heal	*To make free from injury or disease. *To make well again.
Incarnation	*To become flesh. *For Christians it describes what happened when God was born as a human being (Jesus).
New Testament	The second part of the Christian Bible, written originally in Greek and recording the life and teachings of Christ and his earliest followers.
Trinity	The Christian belief that: There is One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Paralysed	Unable to move.
Preach	To give a religious speech.
Sin	An act of disobedience against God.
Forgive	To stop blaming or being angry with someone for something that person has done, or not punish them for something.

