



Christianity:

What did Jesus do to save human beings?

Topic Overview

- The New Testament says that Jesus' death was 'for us'.
- They believe Jesus' death was a sacrifice - he gave his life for others.
- Jesus willingly sacrificed his own life for the greater cause of taking punishment for sins away from humans for all time.
- Christians believe that Jesus died to save people - to rescue them from their sins and to bring them back to God.
- Christians remember Jesus' sacrifice for them every time they take Holy Communion.
- Christians believe that Jesus calls them to sacrifice their own needs to the needs of others, and some are prepared to die for others and for their faith.
- Christians also believe that Jesus does not just show them the way to heaven, he actually is the way. Through Jesus' sacrifice, he opens the way to heaven.
- Christians believe that God loves them and that Jesus saves them from a terrible fate — life without God after they die. As a result, they want to please Jesus, and show gratitude for his sacrifice on the cross. This means that they want to follow Jesus' teachings.

Links with other religions

- **Abraham** (Judaism). According to the Torah, God commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice as a test of his faith.
- **Eid ul-Adha** (Islam). Eid ul-Adha is a festival which remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when ordered to by Allah (God). By taking part in this festival, Muslims show that they too are prepared to sacrifice their lives for God.
- **The Khalsa** (Sikhism). The Khalsa remembers five volunteers who were prepared to offer their lives for Waheguru (God) and Guru Gobind Singh. Their commitment is an example of SEWA - a willingness to serve others without thought for their own wellbeing.
- **Guru Arjan and Guru Tegh Bahadur** (Sikhism). Both Guru Arjan and Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed their lives for what they believed in. Guru Arjan was killed for refusing to stop preaching Guru Nanak's message and Guru Tegh Bahadur was killed while standing up for the rights of Hindus.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Gospels	The Gospels in the New Testament give accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection.
Sacrifice	*To give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person. *To kill an animal or a person and offer them to a god or gods.
Holy Communion	Christians take Holy Communion at church (bread and wine) in remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus that was broken and poured at the cross.
Stations of the Cross	A series of images showing Jesus on the day of his crucifixion.
Responsible	Being the cause of something.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
Salvation	The saving of human beings from death and separation from God by Jesus' death and resurrection.
Martyr	A person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs.

