

Christianity: How does the Bible help shape Christians' lives?

Key features of the Bible

Christians believe that the words in the Bible are important and were revealed by God. This is known as a revelation.

The Bible has been translated into more than 600 languages.

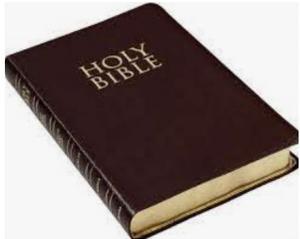
The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years. It contains 66 books written by around 40 authors

The Bible is split into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament

The Old Testament contains stories and writings from before the birth of Jesus. The first five books of the Old Testament (the book of Moses) are also sacred texts to Jewish people.

The New Testament is about the life and teachings of Jesus and his followers. The final book in the Bible is a prophecy about how Jesus will return one day.

The Bible is one big story and teaches Christians about God and how to live.



The Good Samaritan

The story of The Good Samaritan teaches Christians that they should be kind to each other. One of Jesus' most important teachings was to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

In the story the priest and the Levite did not help the injured Samaritan - they were not 'loving their neighbour as themselves'.

The Samaritan was the only person who helped the man. At this time Jews and Samaritans were enemies but the Samaritan 'loves his neighbour' and helps the injured man.

Jesus showed kindness when he healed the paralysed man.

Zacchaeus

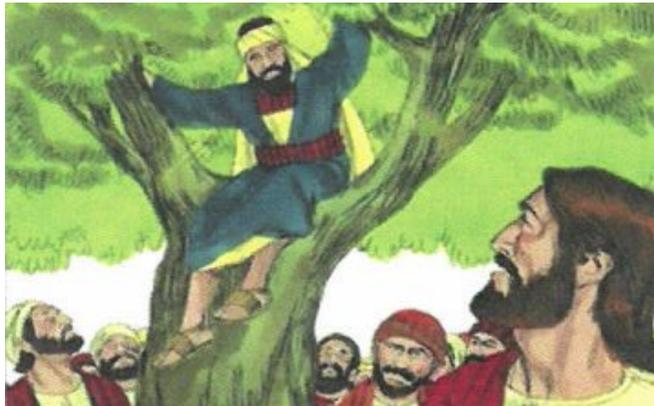
Zacchaeus lived in a town called Jericho. He was very wealthy.

Zacchaeus was hated because he was a tax collector.

He wanted to see Jesus but was too short so he climbed up a tree.

Jesus saw him and asked to visit Zacchaeus' house. This made people very unhappy.

After seeing Jesus, Zacchaeus said that he would give half of his money to the poor. He was soon liked by everyone.



What does the Bible teach Christians about heaven?

Christians believe that death is not the end.

Christians believe that in heaven you will be in the presence of God forever. Heaven is not considered a physical place but a state of being.

Jesus told his disciples that God was preparing a place for them 'my father's house will have many rooms'.

Jesus said that 'no sickness, no sadness, no pain, no fear.' will exist there.

Christians believe that Jesus has gone back to God in heaven, but that he will return one day to judge the world.

Key Vocabulary

Bible	The collection of sacred writings of the Christian religion, comprising the Old and New Testaments.
Old Testament	The first of the two main parts of the Christian Bible (written before the birth of Jesus).
New Testament	The collection of the books of the Bible that were produced by the early Christian church.
sacred	Very holy and special.
revelation	The Christian belief that God reveals himself to people through words and actions.
parable	A story told by Jesus, to teach a particular lesson.
samaritan	A charitable or helpful person.
tax collector	A person who collects money

