

# Jesus – Who was he and why is he important?

## Key Vocabulary

**Crucifixion** – Roman method of execution where criminals were fixed to a cross.

**Disciples** – 12 men that Jesus chose to be his followers.

**Fact** – Something known to exist or to have happened. A truth known by actual experience of observation.

**Gospel** – 4 books each from a different disciples viewpoint of the life of Jesus.

**Law of Moses** – The Ten Commandments

**Messiah** – Anointed one.

**Ministry** – name given to the period time of Jesus and his disciples spent together.

**Miracle** – An extraordinary and welcomed event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws.

**New Testament** – The last 27 books of the Bible, written shortly after Jesus' lifetime.

**Old Testament** – The first 39 books of the Bible, written before the birth of Jesus.

**Opinion** – a belief or judgement that rests on the grounds insufficient to produce certainty. A personal view or attitude.

**Parable** – Stories which use imagery/symbolism to convey a deeper meaning.

**Rabbi** – Jewish teacher.

## Key facts

- Christianity began in present-day Israel nearly 2000 years ago. It began with the belief that Jesus had died to forgive people's sins and was resurrected from the dead so that all people could have eternal life.
- Christianity developed out of Judaism, but at the Council of Jerusalem it was decided that both gentiles (non Jews) and Jews could become Christians.
- Christians are monotheists who believe in the Trinity – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The Christian holy book is the Bible, which is divided into the Old and New Testaments. These were written by many people over centuries. Christians of different denominations interpret the Bible in different ways.
- The Gospels within the New Testament include the books Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They tell of the disciples time living alongside Jesus and key parts of Jesus' life and ministry.

## Key people

**CS Lewis** – Christian author. Wrote 'The Chronicles of Narnia.'

**Eusebius 240 – 309** – Christian historian

**Jesus** – A Jewish man, believed by Christians to be the Messiah and the Son of God.

**Josephus 37-100** – Jewish historian.

**Muhammad** – Muslims believe him to be the final prophet sent by God.

**Pontius Pilate** – Roman governor in charge of Palestine at the time of Jesus.

**Tactitus 55-117** – Roman historian.