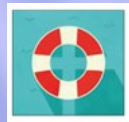


What did Jesus do to save human beings?

In this unit, I will:

- ❑ Explain how Incarnation and the need for God to save people (Salvation) fit into the 'Big Story'.
- ❑ Explain what Christians mean when they say that Jesus' death was a sacrifice.
- ❑ Suggest meanings for narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection, comparing their ideas with ways in which Christians interpret these texts.
- ❑ Make clear connections between the Christian belief in Jesus' death as a sacrifice and how Christians celebrate Holy Communion/Lord's Supper.



Glossary

Christian	Belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and who follow his teachings.
Incarnation	Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh, and that, in Jesus, God came to live amongst humans.
Salvation	Christians believe that through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.
Sacrifice	Surrender or give something up for the sake of something else
Holy Communion	A ceremony to remember and celebrate the Last Supper.

Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross, he was sacrificed for the sins of humankind. They believe that through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.

Christians remember the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the cross through a ceremony in church called communion, which is also known as the Eucharist.

How might sacrifice be important in our lives?

Who was responsible for Jesus' death?

Judas – he betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and gave them the opportunity to arrest him.

Pilate - he sentenced Jesus to death even though he thought he was innocent. He knew that the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus but he wanted to prevent a riot.

The disciples – they did not defend Jesus, but instead ran away during his arrest. They were not present at his trials or his crucifixion.

The crowd – it was the crowd, stirred up by the religious leaders, who asked for Barabbas to be released and who shouted "Crucify him!"

Religious leaders – they were jealous of Jesus' popularity. They were angered by the laws that Jesus broke and the criticisms he made of them. They did not believe he was the Messiah and they wanted him dead.

God - it was all part of God's plan of salvation. Jesus had to die for our sins and to bring us back into a relationship with God.