

Unit L2.5 Why do Christians call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’? [Salvation]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Learning outcomes (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

Make sense of belief:

- Recognise the word ‘Salvation’, and that Christians believe Jesus came to ‘save’ or ‘rescue’ people, e.g. by showing them how to live
- Offer informed suggestions about what the events of Holy Week mean to Christians
- Give examples of what Christians say about the importance of the events of Holy Week

Understand the impact:

- Make simple links between the Gospel accounts and how Christians mark the Easter events in their communities
- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about Jesus in worship in different ways

Make connections:

- Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about why Christians call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’, giving good reasons for their suggestions.

Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

- Remind pupils that Christians believe humans are separated from God because they all sin – that is, they prefer to go their own way rather than God’s. Most Christians say that Jesus came to show people how to live a life of love and obedience – saving or rescuing them by helping them to live God’s way. (Some Christians say Jesus did more – that he actually died to pay the penalty for all people’s sin. This will be explored more in Unit U2.5.)
- Recap work on Holy Week from Unit 1.5 – what can pupils remember? Get pupils to prepare to write a diary entry for Mary, the mother of Jesus, for three important days in Holy Week: Palm Sunday (entry to Jerusalem: Matthew 21:7–11); Good Friday (Jesus’ death: Luke 23:13–25, 32–48); and Easter Sunday (Jesus is raised to life: Luke 24:1–12). Use active strategies to tell the story of each day, discussing how Mary might be feeling – perhaps through some hot-seating, freeze-framing and role-play; explore questions pupils have about the stories, and any surprises for the characters and for pupils. Create an emotion graph for Mary for the week. Use these to help pupils write a simple diary for the three days, showing ideas about what happened, how Mary might feel, and why she thought it happened. Would Mary call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’? Would she say something different on Sunday?
- Talk about pupils’ responses and reaction to the story: how did it make them feel? How do they think Christians will feel as they read this account? What would Christians learn from Jesus’ example and teaching in these accounts?
- Use visits, visitors, church websites and church programme cards to find photos and other information about what different churches do on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday (e.g. types of service, music, readings, actions and rituals, colours, decorations). Use this BBC clip to explore these ideas more fully: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mww94. Record how Christians (e.g. Nathan and Lara in the clip) might feel on each Good Friday and Easter Sunday – perhaps compare their emotion graph with Mary’s. Talk about what Christians think about Jesus and the idea of ‘salvation’: one idea is that Christians see Jesus shows them how to live a life that pleases God, a life of love for all – ‘saving’ them from going the wrong path in life. Design a display to show the importance of each day – linking the texts, various Christian practices, and the meanings for Christians.
- For people at the time, these three parts of the story provoke hope, sadness and joy. Why was there hope as Jesus arrived as king? (E.g. the people were expecting God to rescue them and restore their land.) Why was there sadness? (E.g. their king was killed and everything seemed lost.) Why was there joy? (E.g. Jesus was alive!) You could annotate Mary’s emotion graph with these explanations. Explore why these stories still provoke these emotions in Christians today. Compare with what brings hope, sadness and joy to pupils. Reflect on the key question: Why do Christians call the day their king died ‘Good’ Friday? (E.g. They think that Jesus rose from death – so Friday was not the end; and he opened up a way to heaven too, which Christians say is good news for all.)

Why do Christians call
the day Jesus died
'Good Friday'?

Lesson 1



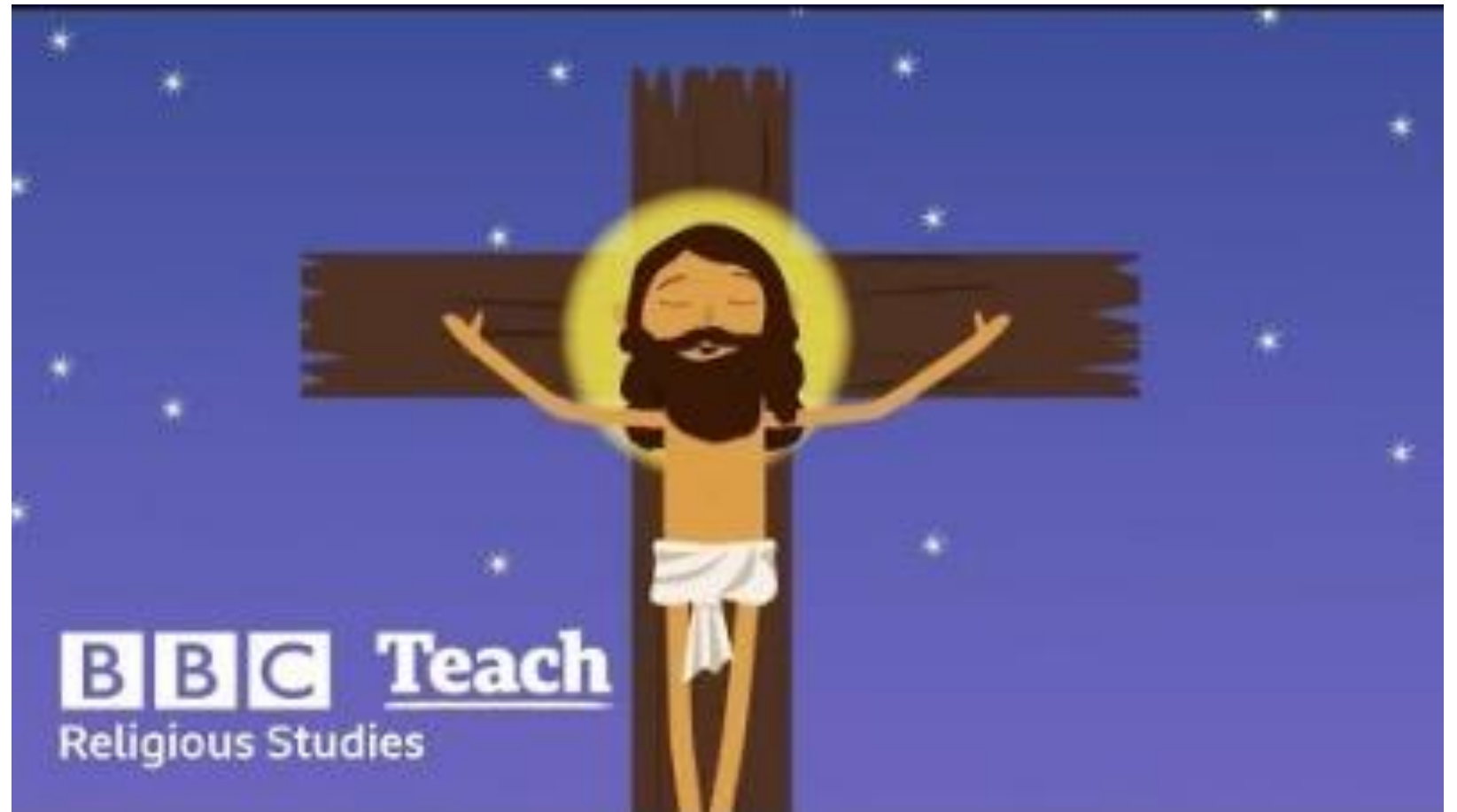
Can you remember?



What are the two main books in the Christian Bible?

What is the book that is important for Muslims called?

Watch:



<https://youtu.be/Wnbo2AmS3OI>

Key Question 1: What do Christians think salvation is?

What is...

SALVATION?

deliverance

pardon

release

emancipation

escape

forgiveness

liberation

But what are humans being freed from of forgiven for?

Listen to the story The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross read by its illustrator. On your whiteboards note down:

What was it like in the garden?

Why did God throw the humans out?

What was it like outside of the garden?

Why did God ask the people to build a temple?

Why was a curtain put up in the temple?

What did the people continue to do?

Who was Jesus?

Did Jesus behave like other humans?

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

What happened to the curtain when he died?





- Christians believe humans are separated from God because they all sin- that means they choose to go their own way rather than God's way.
- Most Christians say that Jesus came to show people how to live a life of love and obedience- saving or rescuing them by helping them to live God's way.
- Some Christians say Jesus did more- that he died to pay the penalty for all people's sin.



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What happened to the curtain when he died?

What do Christians think salvation is?

Write a paragraph to summarise the story. Then explain how Jesus allowed people to be saved and allowed to return back to God. Use your notes to help you.

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Lesson 2



Can you remember?



What are the Gospels?

How many Gospels are there?

Who wrote the Gospels?

Key Question 2: What happened during Holy Week?

Today we are going to think about Holy Week- the week leading up to Easter Sunday. We are going to consider how Mary, Jesus' mother might have been feeling and thinking at different times during that week.

Can you remember which were the main events during Holy week?

Palm Sunday and the entry to Jerusalem: Matthew 21:7-11

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus. They laid their coats on the donkeys, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ Many people spread their coats on the road before Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. All the people were shouting,

“Praise^[a] to the Son of David!

God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise to God in heaven!”

¹⁰ Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. The city was filled with excitement. The people asked, “Who is this man?”

¹¹ The crowd answered, “This man is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee.”



Good Friday (Jesus' death: Luke 23: 13-25, 32-48)

Jesus Must Die

¹³ Pilate called all the people together with the leading priests and the Jewish leaders. ¹⁴ He said to them, "You brought this man to me. You said that he was making trouble among the people. But I have questioned him before you all, and I have not found him guilty of the things you say. ¹⁵ Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him; he sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing for which he should die. ¹⁶ So, after I punish him, I will let him go free." ¹⁷ [Every year at the Passover Feast, Pilate had to release one prisoner to the people.]^[a]

¹⁸ But all the people shouted, "Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!" ¹⁹ (Barabbas was a man who was in prison because he started a riot in the city. He was guilty of murder.)

²⁰ Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he told this to the crowd. ²¹ But they shouted again, "Kill him! Kill him on a cross!"

²² A third time Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I can find no reason to kill him. So I will have him punished and set him free."

²³ But they continued to shout. They demanded that Jesus be killed on the cross. Their yelling became so loud that ²⁴ Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. ²⁵ They wanted Barabbas to go free, the man who was in jail for starting a riot and for murder. Pilate let Barabbas go free and gave Jesus to them to be killed.



³² There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be killed. ³³ Jesus and the two criminals were taken to a place called the Skull. There the soldiers nailed Jesus to his cross. They also nailed the criminals to their crosses, one beside Jesus on the right and the other beside Jesus on the left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.”^[a] The soldiers threw lots to decide who would get his clothes. ³⁵ The people stood there watching. The leaders made fun of Jesus. They said, “If he is God’s Chosen One, the Christ, then let him save himself. He saved other people, didn’t he?” ³⁶ Even the soldiers made fun of him. They came to Jesus and offered him some vinegar. ³⁷ They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ (At the top of the cross these words were written: “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”) ³⁹ One of the criminals began to shout insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Christ? Then save yourself! And save us too!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal stopped him. He said, “You should fear God! You are getting the same punishment as he is. ⁴¹ We are punished justly; we should die. But this man has done nothing wrong!” ⁴² Then this criminal said to Jesus, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!” ⁴³ Then Jesus said to him, “Listen! What I say is true: Today you will be with me in paradise!”

Jesus Dies

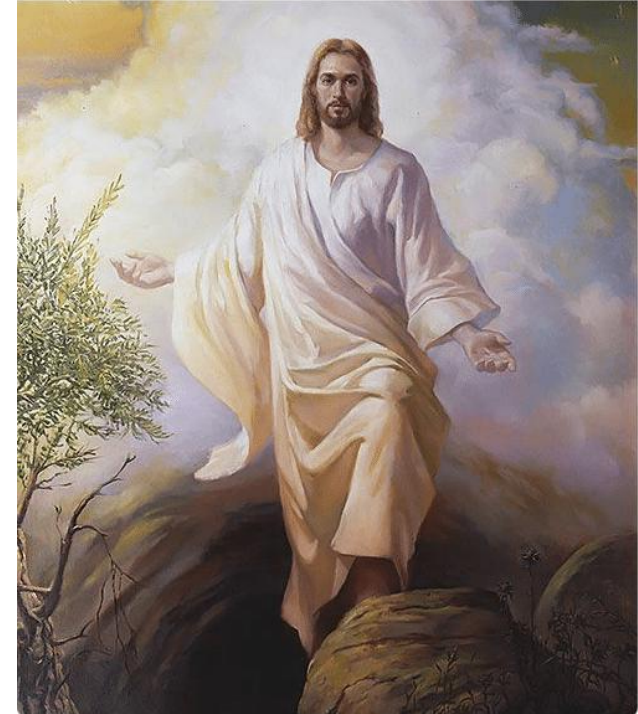
⁴⁴ It was about noon, and the whole land became dark until three o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁵ There was no sun! **The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces.** ⁴⁶ Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, I give you my life.” After Jesus said this, he died. ⁴⁷ The army officer there saw what happened. He praised God, saying, “I know this was a good man!” ⁴⁸ Many people had gathered there to watch this thing. When they saw what happened, they returned home. They beat their chests because they were so sad.

Luke 24:1-12

Jesus Rises from Death

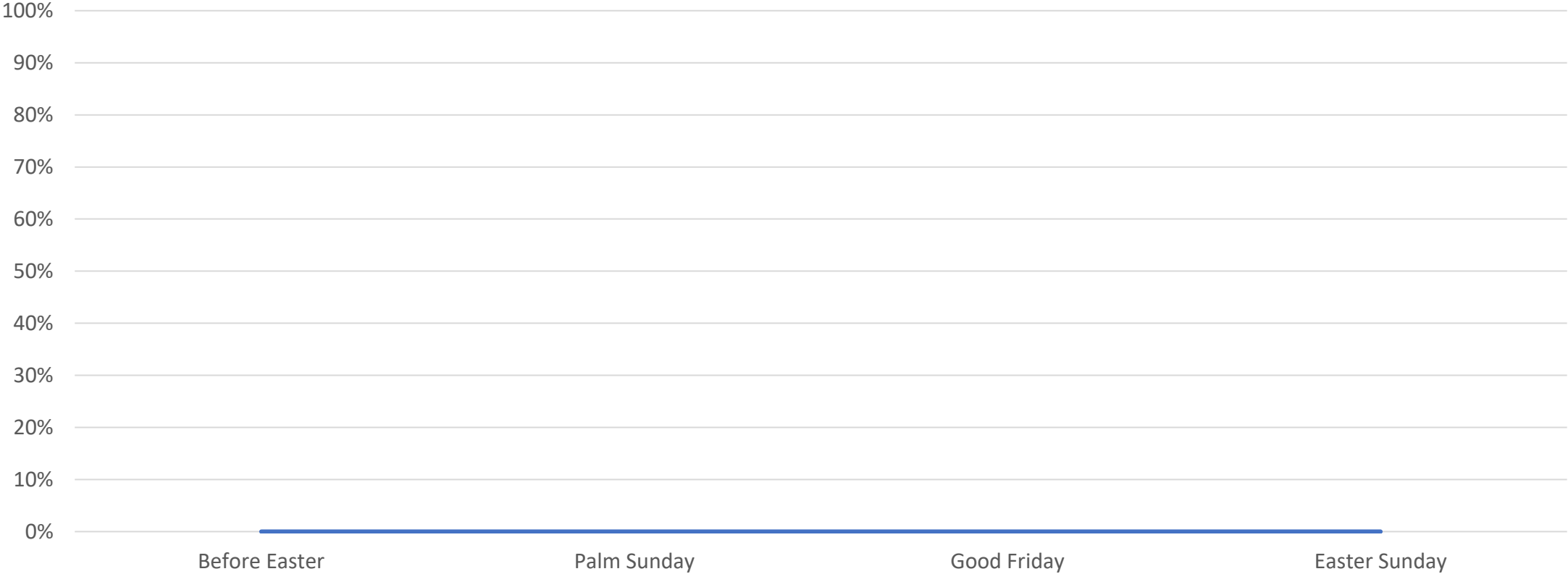
24 Very early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. They brought the spices they had prepared. **2** They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. **3** They went in, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them. **5** The women were very afraid; they bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to the women, "Why are you looking for a living person here? This is a place for the dead. **6** Jesus is not here. He has risen from death! Do you remember what he said in Galilee? **7** He said that the Son of Man must be given to evil men, be killed on a cross, and rise from death on the third day." **8** Then the women remembered what Jesus had said.

9 The women left the tomb and told all these things to the 11 apostles and the other followers. **10** These women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women. The women told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. **11** But they did not believe the women. It sounded like nonsense. **12** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He looked in, but he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. Peter went away to be alone, wondering about what had happened



Thinking about Mary, Jesus' mother, lets draw a graph to show her emotions during the week.

Mary's Mood, where 0%= very upset and 100%= overjoyed



Hot Seating

We are now going to have a go at hot seating to investigate what Mary might be feeling and thinking during the events of Holy week.

- Write down several questions you would ask Mary about her experiences or feelings. Remember she would have witnessed all of the events written about in the gospels.

- One person in the class will Act as Mary and she is asked Questions.

Are you happy with..?

How does.. make you feel?

Why didn't you..?

Why did you..?

Explain why you acted in that way

What do you think about..?

Have your views changed and why?



WALT write a diary entry for Mary, the mother of Jesus, for three important days in Holy Week



In the diary writing, show ideas about what happened, how Mary might feel and why she thought it happened. Do you think Mary would call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? What would she say about Sunday?

Why do Christians call
the day Jesus died
'Good Friday'?

Lesson 3



Can you remember?



What are the parts of the Holy Trinity?

Can you describe each part?

Key Question 5: Why does this story provoke hope, sadness and joy?

The three main parts of the Easter story provoke:

- hope
- sadness
- joy

Can you explain why?



There was **hope** on Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived as King- the people were expecting God to rescue them and restore their land.

There was **sadness** on Good Friday when their King was killed and everything seemed lost

There was **joy** on Easter Sunday when Jesus was alive again.





WALT: to draw three pictures to illustrate Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

- Think about the three emotions.

How could these emotions be depicted in pictures showing the three parts of the story?

Think about the colours you would use to emphasise the emotions.

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Lesson 4



Can you remember?



Who baptized Jesus?

Where was he baptized?

Why are people baptized today?

So Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?



Watch this clip:

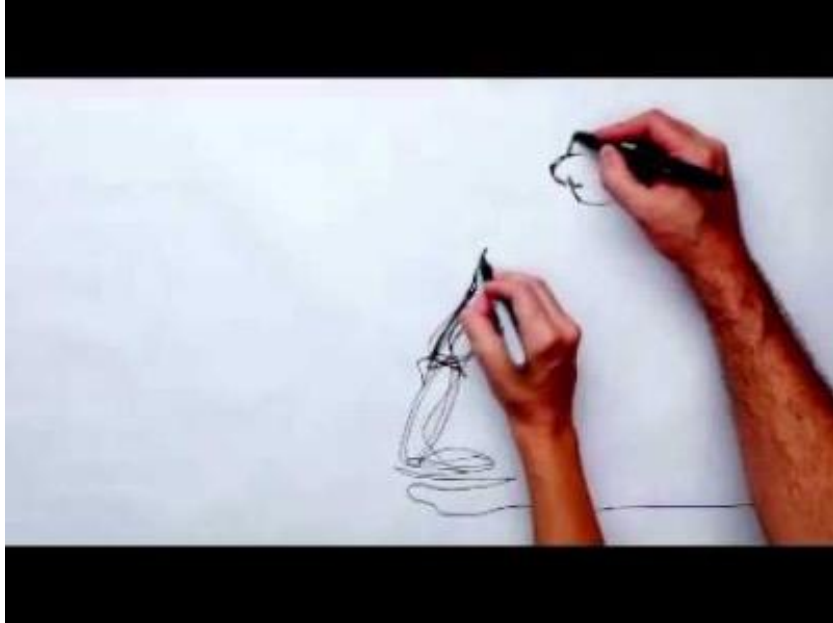
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mww94>

Christians today often believe that the day is called Good Friday because **Jesus died so that everyone could be forgiven for the things they had done wrong.**

This means that it's the forgiveness that's good, not Jesus's death.

The day could also be considered to be good because it's what led to the Resurrection of Jesus.

Why do humans need to be saved?



<https://youtu.be/o5qdXWnvynE>

What do Christians think about Jesus and the idea of 'salvation'?

One idea is that Christians think that Jesus shows them how to live a life that pleases God, a life of love for all- 'saving' them from going down the wrong path in life. Jesus teaches people how to be **good**.

TASK

Explain why the day that Jesus died is called good Friday.

Think about:

Was it good that Jesus was tortured and killed?

Was it good that God came to Earth as Jesus and why did God do that?

What do Christians believe is the significance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection?

