

Christianity and Islam

This term our RE focus is on why people believe God exists. We will be exploring key Christians and Muslim arguments in favour of God's existence, gaining an understanding of how God is represented across these two religions. In addition to theist beliefs, we are going to compare the beliefs of atheists (who do not believe in God) and discuss their beliefs about God's existence too.

Key facts

- What other names is Jesus known by? Son of God, Light of the World, Lamb of God, The Good Shepherd.
- Christians believe that there is only one God, but that this one God consists of 3 "persons": God the Father, God the Son, The Holy Spirit
- Christians believe that God made the world.
- The basic belief of Islam is that there is only one God, whose name in the Arabic language is Allah, and who is the sole and sovereign ruler of the universe
- Allah is the name Muslims use for the supreme and unique God, who created and rules everything. The heart of faith for all Muslims is obedience to Allah's will
- Muslims have a belief in Predestination...That Allah has already decided what will happen.

Key Vocabulary

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| Atheist | a person who disbelieves in any God or Gods |
| Agnostic | a person who is unsure what to believe in as they don't think it is possible to know anything about the nature of God |
| Theist | a person who believes in deities (God) |
| Afterlife | (in some religions) life after death |
| Trinity | the three persons of the Christian God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit |
| Design argument | An argument which proves the existence of God. It assumes that earth and nature is so perfectly created it must have a creator |
| Predestination | The idea that God has ordained all that will happen |
| Miracle: | A miracle is a wonderful and surprising event that is believed to be caused by God. |

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Prior Learning

Year 1:

> Christianity

What makes someone a Christian and what do they believe?

Year 2:

> Christianity

What makes someone a Christian and what do they believe?

Year 4:

> Christianity and Islam

Why is the bible important to Christians today?

Following on:

Year 5:

> Christianity and Islam

Why do some people think that God exists?

Year 6:

> Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism:

What do religions say to us when life gets hard?

Design argument

The design argument is an argument for the existence of God or, more generally, for an intelligent creator based on perceived evidence of deliberate design in the natural world.



Predestination

A Muslim belief that Allah has already decided what will happen. However, Muslims believe that this doesn't stop human beings making free choices as Allah granted free will.

