

## The 'big' ideas and the 'big' story

## Eight core concepts of Christianity and God's salvation plan.

Throughout this syllabus pupils will be introduced to and given opportunity to explore the big ideas of Christianity. These are eight core concepts at the heart of Christianity that together tell God's big story.

The eight core concepts in this syllabus match those identified by the authors of Understanding Christianity (RE Today Services) so that the two resources are compatible. The core concepts are expressed in the Bible and lived out by Christian people each day. These big ideas reveal God's salvation plan, the big story.

Concept	Story
God	In the beginning God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit	
Creation	created the heavens and the earth and everything was good.
Fall	Humankind spoilt creation and broke the relationship with God.
	Therefore, humans became in need of rescue.
People of God	In the Old Testament God tries to restore his relationship with
	people, choosing particular people to work with him. He spoke
	through the words of the prophets, but the people did not listen
	and were awaiting the Messiah.
Incarnation	The arrival of the Messiah, the Saviour, to rescue the people
	from the results of the fall and restore their relationship with
	God. Jesus, the Son of God, who came to live among us.
Gospel	Jesus' good news for everyone. His life, ministry and teaching,
	showing people what it means to live in relationship with God
	who is their father, and loves them.
Salvation	The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate rescue plan.
	God's people are saved because through Jesus sin is dealt with
	and forgiveness offered. People can now choose to follow the
	way back to God.
Kingdom of God	God's kingdom is the world as God intended it to be. Christians
	look forward to the day when God's kingdom fully comes and
	earth and heaven are transformed. Until that time they strive to
	build the kingdom in their communities, empowered by the Holy
	Spirit and reflecting Jesus example in the world.