

## R.E. Learning for Week 4 (LF5 & 6)

### SOURCES – The Bible, the special book for the Church

LO: Understand the purpose of Biblical letters in the work of St Paul and the early Church

- You will need a Bible (or access to <https://www.biblegateway.com/> Good News Translation)

The Bible contains different styles of writing. The New Testament contains lots of letters.

Paul was a prolific letter writer – he wrote and wrote and wrote! He wrote letters to many of the early Christian communities before, and sometimes after, he visited them e.g. those in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi and Colossae.

**Q: Why do you think Paul wrote to the communities before he visited them?**

Paul wrote to explain his understanding of the Christian faith and its practical implications for the lives of Christians. The Bible also contains letters Paul wrote to some of his fellow workers i.e. Timothy, Titus and Philemon.

In the Bible (New Testament), there are also letters written by other people, the e.g. letters to the Hebrews by an unknown author and the letters from James, Peter, John and Jude.



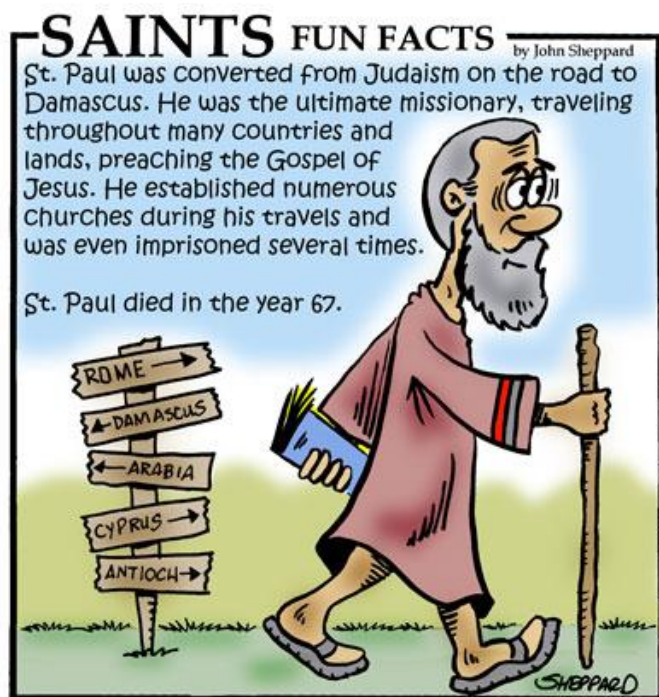
The 'Acts of the Apostles' – a book of the Bible – is the story of the beginning of the Christian community, the Church – how it began among the Jewish people and went on to become a faith for the whole world.

The purpose of the Acts of the Apostles is to tell how Jesus' early followers, led by the Holy Spirit, spread the Good News about him. It tells of the joys and difficulties that the early Christian community encountered and how they overcame them. One of things that had to be sorted out was whether new Christians who were not Jewish, had to take on all the Jewish laws as well as being a Christian. It was decided at a meeting in Jerusalem that these new followers could 'belong' to the new Christian faith without taking on the Jewish customs and rules (Acts Ch15).

**Q: Why do you think it was important that the story of the beginning of the Christian community was recorded by being written down?**

**Q: What is the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit?**

'Revelation', the last book in the Bible was written at a time when Christians were being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus. It gave its readers hope and encouragement during difficult times and urged them to remain faithful. It contains lots of symbolic language which would have been understood by the Christians of the day but would have remained a mystery to others.



TASK:



Look up **1 Corinthians 13: 4-7**. This is the First Letter of St Paul to the people of Corinth. Notice that it tells us **what love is** and **what love isn't** – highlight these in two different colours to make it clear.



If this passage was taken seriously by world leaders, or people in your town, or in your class, describe how you think life might be changed, giving examples and explain how you think people might feel. Try to include a quote from the reference. At the end, reflect on your own life and how reading this part of St Paul's letter will influence you.



Here is an example structure that you might choose to follow; the \_\_\_\_\_ often needs more than one word

If people such as/in \_\_\_\_\_ read St Paul's letter to the people of Corinth, they might change some of their behaviours and attitudes. For example, instead of \_\_\_\_\_, they might \_\_\_\_\_ because verse \_\_\_\_\_ says: "\_\_\_\_\_." This passage from Scripture might influence the way they \_\_\_\_\_. If people did heed the message in this letter, life would/could be different as \_\_\_\_\_.

When first reading what St Paul wrote, people may feel \_\_\_\_\_ and realise that if they lived out the message, life would \_\_\_\_\_.

Having read these four verses, I think I should try to \_\_\_\_\_. This would make my life \_\_\_\_\_. Others would \_\_\_\_\_.

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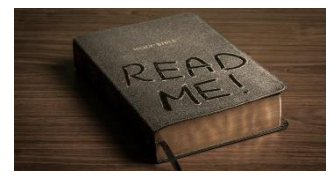
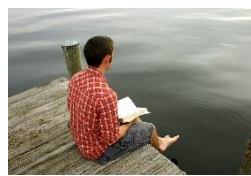
LO: Make links between scripture and Christian beliefs; give reasons for when and how Christians use the Bible

The Bible is important because it brings the reader or listener into the presence of God. It is God who speaks through the words of Scripture. Through Scripture, Christians are given strength and courage in their lives, not only to hear the Word of God, but to put it in action in their lives.



It is also important that, as Christians, we know our story, where we have come from and where we are called to go. We know we share in the story of those who have gone before us.

For Christians, the Bible is a guide for living. Through the Bible, Christians begin to know more about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and try to discover how they should live their lives.



Sometimes in groups, sometimes alone in quiet reflection, Christians use passages from the Bible to help them to pray to God and reflect on their lives.



How do you think Scripture brings Christians into the presence of God?

Why is it important that Christians know the Bible?

Which is the most important Biblical text (story) for you and why?

Choose a task from the list below – whichever one you choose, try to think about/mention the different types of writing in the Bible (refer back to previous lessons)



- TASK A: Make a list of all the reasons why the Bible is important to Christians, like us.
- TASK B: Answer the three questions above about the importance of the Bible and how Christians use it.
- TASK C: Describe how the Bible helps a Christian's belief in God. Include your own ideas, feelings and experiences and make links between them.