

Theme: Christian beliefs and practices – People of God.

Key question: How can following God bring freedom and justice?

Keywords

Freedom - The condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited.

Justice - Fairness in the way people are dealt with or treated.

People of God – the **Israelites**.

Israelites – originally a nomadic tribe that settled first in Israel, then Egypt before relocating back to Israel.

Slavery – forced to work with no payment.

Moses – a prophet that freed the **Israelites** from the **slavery** of the Egyptians.

Plague – an unusually large number of insects or animals infesting a place and causing damage.

Exodus – a mass departure of people; also, the name of an **old testament** book.

Old Testament – the first half of the bible, divided into books, based before Jesus' birth.

New Testament – the second half of the bible, divided into books and **gospels**, based after Jesus' birth.

Gospels – the four books of the **new testament** dealing with Jesus' teachings and life.

Covenant – an agreement or contract.

Ten commandments – were a set of rules to guide **God's people** in the best way to live.

New Commandments – Jesus condensed the **ten commandments** into two powerful commandments.

Key questions

- Why might people seek for **freedom** or fight for **justice** in our world today?
- Why might Christians seek for freedom and fight for justice in our world today?
- Why did **God's people** need freedom and justice?
- How does the story of **Moses** from the book of **Exodus** help our thinking about freedom and justice?
- Thinking about the story of Moses, how did following God bring them freedom and justice?
- Why did God give his people the **10 commandments**?
- How do Christians apply the ideas of freedom and justice to their ways of living in the world today?

Key texts.

- Moses birth narrative, **Exodus 2:1–10**
- Moses killing of the taskmaster and fleeing Egypt, **Exodus 2:11–15**
- Moses and the burning bush, **Exodus 3:1 — Exodus 4:17**
- The ten plagues, **Exodus 7:14 — Exodus 12:32**
- Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, **Exodus 12:33–42**
- Crossing the Reed Sea, **Exodus 14:1–31** and also **Exodus 15:1–20**
- Covenant at Sinai. **Exodus 19:3–6 and Exodus 20:1–21.**
- The new commandments **Matthew 22:37-40**

Key people

Tearfund, is a Christian organisation changing lives, by working with local partners, like Friendship Support Association (FSA), to set up solar-powered wells that will provide clean water closer to communities. This will help to restore hope and give new life for all who live there.

Tearfund's mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty.

Key knowledge:

God's people, the Israelites (they were also called Hebrews) were living in Egypt as many of them had moved to live there when a famine hit Israel under the rule of Joseph. The Israelites grew strong and prospered in Egypt.



The Pharaoh was frightened by the growing size of the Israelites and turned them into **slaves** – taking away **freedom and justice**.

Through **Moses** and ten **plagues**, God persuaded the Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery.

After the Israelites left Egypt, they wandered around in the wilderness desert, waiting to go into the land God had promised them.



God spoke to Moses at the top of Mount Sinai in the wilderness and gave him the **10 commandments**. The commandments were a set of rules to guide God's people in the best way to live.

In the **New Testament** Jesus set out his teaching on how God wanted his followers to behave and act. These were called the **new commandments** as they encompassed the 10 commandments from the **Old Testament** into two simple verses.

