



Christianity:

What is it like to follow God?

Topic Overview

- The Old Testament tells the story of a particular group of people, the children of Israel known as the People of God – and their relationship with God.
- The People of God try to live in the way God wants, following his commands and worshipping him.
- They believe he promises to stay with them and Bible stories show how God keeps his promises.
- In the story of Noah, God sent the flood to bring good into the world and wipe out evil.
- After the flood, he promised to stick with people - even though people often make mistakes; God keeps on forgiving.
- The story shows that people have responsibilities given by God - part of being the People of God is trying to live by God's commands.
- When God gives rules in the Noah story, he is making a covenant.
- There is an emphasis on promises and a covenant between God and his people in the Old Testament.
- The covenants show people correct beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that are appropriate for being in a caring relationship with God, but they also show what they can expect from God.
- In the same way as Noah, some Christians give up things to follow God because they believe that everyone can be one of the People of God.
- Christians try to follow God's directions in order to do this.
- Lots of Christians dedicate their lives to acting in ways that they think will please God.
- Whilst they may give up some things, they think loving God is more important and more rewarding.
- A Christian wedding is like a covenant because both parties make promises - to each other and to God.
- Christians say following God includes trusting God, obeying God, believing that God promises to stay with them, forgiving others and believing that God will do this too.

Links with other religions

- **The 10 Commandments** (Judaism). Jews believe God made a covenant with Moses. God gave Moses a set of rules that Jewish people should live by (The 10 Commandments).
- **The People of God** (Judaism). Jews believe that they are the 'chosen people of God' and that He will take special care of them if they do the things He asks them to do.
- **Noah** (Judaism). The story of Noah is an important Jewish story because the covenant promises were made to the Jewish people.
- **Noah** (Islam). Noah is an important figure in Islamic tradition. Muslims believe Noah is a prophet sent by Allah God).

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Bible	The Christian holy book, which is made up of two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
Old Testament	The first part of the Bible. Stories in the Bible which happened before Jesus was born. They often focus on the friendship between the main characters and God.
New Testament	The second part of the Bible. Stories about Jesus and his followers.
Ark	The ship built by Noah to save his family and two of every kind of animal from the Flood.
Covenant	An agreement, pact or promise.
People of God	People of God is a description in the Old Testament that applies to the Israelites and that in the New Testament applies to Christians.
Symbol	Some thing that represents or stands for something else.
Forgive	Stop feeling angry or resentful towards (someone) for an offence, flaw, or mistake.

