

## What is the meaning of Easter?

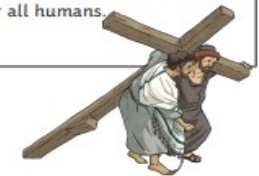
Key Vocabulary	
<b>Easter</b>	A Christian celebration that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. The week leading up to Easter is called Holy Week.
<b>Holy Week</b>	The week before Easter. It starts on Palm Sunday (which is the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem).
<b>Passover</b>	A major Jewish festival that celebrates their freedom from Egyptian slavery. Jesus arrived into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover before he was crucified.
<b>Disciple</b>	One of Jesus' closest followers.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	A way in which people were put to death for crimes, by being nailed to a cross.
<b>Resurrection</b>	Returning from the dead.
<b>Ascension</b>	This is when Jesus rose to heaven after his resurrection.

Key Vocabulary	
<b>Free will</b>	'Free will' is where someone has a choice over their actions.
<b>Determinism</b>	'Determinism' is where a person has their choice dictated to them or where their choice is controlled to some extent.
<b>Morality</b>	This focuses on the difference between right and wrong and being able to do the right thing. Morals are thought of as simple rules for living and helping us make the right decision.
<b>God's plan</b>	The Christian belief that God has a plan for all humans that will lead to their atonement.
<b>Destiny</b>	The belief that your whole life is already planned out for you and that you have no control over the eventual outcomes of your life.
<b>Atonement</b>	The Christian belief that through Jesus' death, God has forgiven humankind's sins.

In Christianity, the concepts of free will and **determinism** are explored, with discussions about whether God has planned out the **destiny** of each human before they are even born. Such discussions lead to questions about **morality**, for if humans do not have free will (and are acting under **God's plan**), can they be held **morally** responsible for their actions? This does not discourage Christians from trying to live a moral life.

## Why are Good Friday and Easter Sunday the most important days for Christians?

The Easter Story	
Jesus arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate <b>Passover</b> with his <b>disciples</b> . As he arrived, people covered the path with palm leaves and shouted 'Jesus is the King'.	
The priests were jealous of how well-liked Jesus was by ordinary people - they saw him as a threat. Judas (one of Jesus' <b>disciples</b> ) betrayed Jesus for money.	
Jesus sat down to a <b>Passover</b> meal with his <b>disciples</b> . He was sad and told his <b>disciples</b> that he would be going away the next day to be with his Father in Heaven - this meal was called The Last Supper.	
Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. As he prayed, his <b>disciples</b> fell asleep.	
Judas arrived with some officers and showed the officers who Jesus was by kissing him. The officers arrested Jesus.	
Jesus was sentenced to death and carried the cross out of the city gates and up a hill nearby. Jesus was <b>crucified</b> as his mother watched him.	
After he had died, Jesus was put into a tomb, which was sealed with a large stone.	
On the third day, the stone was rolled away. An angel told Mary Magdalene that Jesus had risen from the dead and Jesus appeared before Mary and explained that he would soon be with his Father in Heaven.	
Christians believe that Jesus' life was all part of <b>God's plan</b> and that he was aware of it too. The cross is an important Christian symbol as it reminds them of the sacrifice that Jesus made for all humans.	



Christians believe that his death was all part of **God's plan** to save humanity.

The death and **resurrection** of Jesus is at the core of the Christian faith and Christians believe that through Jesus' death, relationships with God are saved.

This belief is called **Atonement**.

**Atonement** is the reconciliation of men and women to God through the death of Jesus. Christians believe this was needed as everybody carries sin, which separates them from God. So, under Christian belief, God and mankind needed to be reconciled. Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and because of this they can be forgiven.

