R.E.
PAMPHELLET
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A- Course Summary Notes
B- Model Questions
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A-Course Summary Notes
These are some notes- learn as much as you can within them for your chosen topics (thinking about it all as you go) and it will provide the foundation for your CE paper. If there are ‘bits’ you are unfamiliar with, look them up. You have all the resources you need and if something is missing, look it up on the internet.

PLAN:

You have already decided which 3 topics per section you are focusing your revision on. Any less and you are leaving yourself vulnerable! Your topics may not come up!

- **LEARN THE FACTS!** For some sections I have included the bible passages so that you are again familiar with the stories.
- Look through the notes in your red folder for the sections you have chosen to focus on.
- For each section I there are possible questions – they have been included on past papers. They are meant as a guide only.
- I have also included helpful applications for the part d questions and possible contemporary issues.

  **Pace yourself with all your work.**

**Section 1: The Old Covenant**

- Creation
- The Fall
- Abraham- Call of and near sacrifice of Isaac
- Moses and Passover
- God’s Covenant with His people- 10 Commandments/Decalogue

**Section 2: The New Covenant**

- The Person of Jesus (some overlaps with Kingdom of God section)
- Discipleship
- The Kingdom of God- Parables and Miracles (Some overlaps with Person of Jesus section)
- The Passion and Resurrection
- Sacraments  (I would recommend you not choosing this section)

**Section 3: The Church**

The Birth and Life of the Church

- Pentecost/ Early Church/ St Paul /English Reformation/The Pope/ Holy orders/Prayer
Community Life in the Church

• Marriage and the family/ Charity/Issues of life and death: euthanasia and war/Attitude to other world religions

The Liturgical Year and Devotion

• Advent/Christmas/ Lent and the Stations of the Cross/Holy Week and Easter/Our Lady/ Pilgrimage

• Eternal Life and the Saints

Remember:

❖ Part (a) briefly tests your factual knowledge or asks for a definition
❖ Part (b) tests factual knowledge of a bible story
❖ Part (c) tests your ability to interpret the story
❖ Part (d) tests your ability to discuss and evaluate a contemporary issue raised by the story

IN PART (d) YOU MUST EXAMINE ARGUMENTS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST THE STATEMENT GIVING EXAMPLES FROM THE MODERN WORLD AND THE BIBLE WHERE APPROPRIATE

SECTION 3 is much more factual- 3 questions worth 6 marks each. Put in enough detail to get the points and you are fine!
SECTION 1: THE OLD COVENANT

The Creation stories: Genesis 1-2 v25
Two creation stories written by two different authors known as P and J.

P (Genesis 1) wrote around 500 BC. It is called P because his writings show that he thought the work of the Jewish priests at that time, was very important. J (Genesis 2) wrote around 1000 BC It is called J because he would always refer to God as JAHWEH (translated Lord). The narrative opens with a description of the Earth, which, in the beginning, has no shape. There is only one raging ocean and total darkness. The story then gives the details of what God does over the next seven days. He creates by the power of His words alone. He begins each of the days of creation with the command ‘Let there be’.

The order of Creation

the first day: light, night and day
the second day: the sea and the sky (heavens)
the third day: dry land, trees and plants
the fourth day: Sun, Moon and stars
the fifth day: fish and birds
the sixth day: animals and man
the seventh day: set apart and blessed as a day of rest (Sabbath)

After each day there is a repeated phrase: and God was pleased with what he saw! God saw that it was good. (Everything was in perfect harmony)

There are different ways at looking at truth:

Theological Truths – things we believe which rely on faith

Scientific Truths – facts that can be proven scientifically

Key points to remember

Genesis, the story of Creation, is true, but not in a scientific way.

It is a statement of faith about God’s relationship with the world and everything in it.

It states clearly that:

• Nothing exists which does not owe its existence to God the Creator;
God is infinitely good and Creation reflects that goodness;
God created humankind in his own image and likeness;
God made humankind the stewards of Creation
God sustains everything he has created
God sustains and does not abandon his Creation.

APPLICATION:

☑ Origins of the universe and Big Bang theory
☑ Darwin and Evolution
☑ Christian responses today- moderate
☑ Atheism and humanist views.
☑ Environmental issues and ethical

Changing things for the better

Charities such as Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children have been working to help poor people help themselves. They send skilled workers to teach good farming practice; encourage local people to build irrigation schemes and pool their labour to feed their families and have some left over to take to market and sell.

GIVE A MAN A FISH YOU FEED HIM FOR A DAY
TEACH HIM HOW TO FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR LIFE

Voluntary workers whether Gap students or adults often give their services free for a period of time.

The J creation story (Genesis 2: The Second Creation Account (c. 1000BC)

God formed man out of dust from the ground and put him in a garden in the east called Eden. A river flowed out of Eden in order to water the garden, and then divided into four separate rivers called the Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. God planted a whole variety of beautiful trees around the man - and in the centre, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God formed birds and animals from the ground then asked the man to name them. The man had total freedom in the garden, except he was not allowed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil on pain of death. God then sent the man into a deep sleep and created a companion out of one of his ribs, and called her 'woman'. The man and woman were both naked, but not embarrassed

Beauty - the garden is meant to represent paradise.
One Rule - the man was given only one simple rule to follow.
Freedom - apart from the one rule, the first man and woman had the freedom to behave however they wished.
Naïve - the man and woman were inexperienced and innocent, without properly formed consciences.
Authority - man was given authority, and was even asked to name the animals.
Creation out of something - in the first account God created by commanding; in the second account God created out of the dust of the ground, and then created the woman from the man's rib.

APPLICATION:

✓ Differing roles taken by men and women in the world/relationships
✓ What is true perfection?
✓ Do we need rules?
Adam and Eve and THE FALL

Adam was put in this wonderful garden to look after it. There is no idea here of idle luxury: he had to work and God, as landlord as it were, would come and see that he was working. In Adam, God did not make a robot. Adam was given free will. When God gave Adam the rule about the tree of knowledge, He also gave him the freedom to disobey that rule. J was not in any way suggesting that the snake was to blame. The writer wanted to make it clear that it was the man and the woman who had to take responsibility for their decision to disobey God.

Their sin serves to divide the man and the woman rather than unite them. The man blames the woman. The woman blames the snake. The punishments serve to answer the questions which the ancient people would have asked about snakes, the pain of childbirth, the rule of man over woman and the hard work needed to survive. That God made clothes for Adam and Eve (Eve means mother of all living) shows he wanted to continue to help, preserve and show His care for them. In spite of it all, they would continue to matter to Him and be deeply loved by Him.Adam and Eve now had to face a life of hardship in order to survive. **The story of the Fall is a parable.**

As St Paul says ‘By one man’s disobedience many (that is all men) were made sinners. By yielding to the tempter Adam and Eve committed a personal sin, a sin that would be transmitted to all mankind. Original sin is a sin ‘contracted’ not ‘committed’ – a state and not an act. Baptism, by imparting the life of God’s grace, erases our original sin and turns us back towards God. The consequences of original sin are that we always have a spiritual battle in our attempts to do what is right.St Thomas Aquinas wrote that ‘God permitted evil in order to draw forth some greater good’.

**Punishments:**

**Snake:**
- Crawl on belly on ground
- Eat dust
- Enemy of humans

**Woman:**
- Increased pain in pregnancy and childbirth
Man:

Ground cursed - have to work hard for food
Weeds and thorns will grow to make this difficult
Man will eventually die and return to the dust from which he was created

God clothed Adam and Eve then sent them out of the garden. He put a flaming sword in place to stop anyone from entering again in order to eat from the tree of life.

APPLICATION:

✓ Human weaknesses and strengths
✓ Obedience,
✓ Generosity
✓ Love
✓ Truth
✓ Reliability
GOD’s COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Abraham, who was first called Abram, was a man of great faith. His faith in God was so strong that he was prepared to give up everything to do God’s will. One day he heard God say to him:

“Leave your country, your family and your father’s house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.” (Gen.12:1-2)

Abram did not want to go but eventually he took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and all his possessions and set off. His journey lasted a long time. From the Negeb desert he went down into Egypt. Years later God spoke to him of a promise:

“I will make a Covenant between myself and you, and increase your numbers greatly.” (Gen. 17:2)

“Here now is my covenant with you: you shall become the father of a multitude of nations. You shall no longer be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I make you father of a multitude of nations...I will establish my Covenant between myself and you, and your descendants after you, generation after generation....and I will be your God."

“As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai but Sarah. I will bless her and moreover give you a son by her.: (Gen.17:15)

The story of Abraham is a story of faith. God made several promises to him:

- That he would have a land to live on
- He would have a son
- A great nation would be descended from him- as many descendants as grains of sand on the floor or stars in the sky.

The Three Visitors-
The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

He said, “If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.” So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.” Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said. Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?” (name Isaac means ‘laughter’)

Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

- Near sacrifice of Issac:
  Abraham was called to sacrifice his young son Isaac by God. Abraham left his servants at the bottom of the mountain- Mount Moriah. Abraham carried fire and a knife, Isaac carried the wood. When at the top Isaac asked “where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Abraham said “God will provide”. When Abraham was just about to sacrifice Isaac an angel appeared to stop him. They found a ram with its horn caught in a bush and instead offered this as a sacrifice to God.

Abraham has become known as our father in faith. We are the descendants of Abraham and we have inherited God’s blessings. God wants us to recognise and love him as our God, to trust him and have faith in him. The story of the near sacrifice if Isaac shows us what God could ask of us.

We are called upon to ‘sacrifice’ things. For us it is in terms of doing without something so that someone else may benefit. It may be money, sweets, something we particularly wanted to do which we allow someone else to do, sacrificing our own needs in some way.

Being obedient can be a sacrifice too. We may (should!) choose a way of life that is not easy but we know it is closer to God or what God would ask of us. People who become priests, nuns, and missionaries give up much and obey what their church tells them.
Think: happiness and fulfilment does not lie in possessions, having expensive things- this is known as ‘materialistic’

APPLICATION:

- Obedience to God and commitment to an ideal
- Being prepared to die for others (eg Bonhoeffer)
- The difficulty of knowing what is right
- Suffering for others (Mother Teresa)
- Jesus’ sacrifice (as atonement)
The story of the Exodus and the Passover

- The call of Moses
- Moses’ relationship with God: Exodus 2-3
- Moses’ character and example
- The Passover: Exodus 12
- The Passover as a symbol of liberation

Abraham and Isaac’s descendants settled in Egypt during the time of the famine (once they were reunited with Joseph). At first all went well but as many years passed they became slaves of the Egyptians and were forced to do very hard work. They had to make bricks and help build the cities of Pithom and Rameses in the Nile delta. The people prayed to God and God answered their prayers. (Exodus 2:23-25) They should leave Egypt and go to a land to be their own. The Egyptians did not want to let them go. The Israelites were good workers and the Egyptians liked them doing all the hard work! Who was to lead them out of Egypt? God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and to bring them into the wilderness so that he could make a covenant with them.

- The birth of Moses
- His escape at birth and his Egyptian upbringing
- His later escape to Midian
- His marriage to Zipporah

- God calls Moses in the Burning Bush: In the burning bush God described himself simply as I AM. In other words, God IS. He never changes. He can always be depended on and trusted. That was the message Moses had to take back to the Israelites and that he was going to lead them out of the land of Egypt
- Moses’ reaction to God’s call

- God gives Moses miraculous power
- Moses tells God that he is not a good enough speaker
  Moses returns to Egypt

Moses and his brother Aaron go to Pharaoh  But Moses and his brother (spokesman) Aaron were not welcomed by Pharaoh. Each time Moses spoke to the Pharaoh he said God asks that you let his people go. Each time a plague was sent as a warning which Pharaoh did not heed.

- God renews the Covenant
The first nine plagues

1. The river Nile turned red with blood and the fish will die.
2. Frogs infested the country.
3. Gnats covered everywhere.
4. Flies will be everywhere except for Goshen where the Israelites lived.
5. The animals died.
6. Boils - open sores will be found on people and animals
7. A heavy hailstorm will destroy livestock and crops.
8. A plague of locusts will eat everything that survived the hail.
9. Darkness fell over all of Egypt.

- The tenth plague: Every first born son of Egypt will die and the Passover
  The Israelites were given instructions to make sure that it was obvious which houses belonged to
  them and they must get ready for their journey.

- Cook and eat a special meal: roast lamb, served with bitter herbs (vegetables) and with bread made
  without yeast, because they would not have time to wait for the bread to rise. (Unleavened bread).
- They had to be ready for a quick getaway after the meal and so have cloaks on and sandals too. They
  should eat standing up, so that they would be able to leave at once.
- Their doorframes must be marked with blood from the lamb prepared for the meal
  The escape from Egypt was the beginning of a long journey to fulfil God’s promise to give them a
  land of their own. The Passover celebrates not just the escape but also the beginnings of a new
  nation with their own land. 3000 years later the Jewish people continue to celebrate the Passover.
  The annual festival of Pesach commemorates their reliance on God and the celebration takes the
  form of a special meal called the Seder. It follows a special order laid down in a book called the
  Hagadah.
- The crossing of the Red Sea

Themes

- **Mountains** – God often spoke to/via his prophets on mountains (e.g. Elijah).
- **Miraculous sight** – the bush appeared to be on fire, but it wasn’t burning up.
- **Fear and Respect** – Moses removed his shoes as a sign of respect for God, and covered his
  face because he was afraid to look at him.
- **God cared for the Israelites** – he wanted to free them from slavery and lead them to a new
  and better land, the one to which Abraham had originally been led.
- **I am who I am** – God’s name for himself seems mysterious and unfathomable. It suggests
  God’s transcendence, eternal existence and other-worldliness.
- **Passover** - this is the first Passover.
- **First day of the month** - God is giving the Israelites a new beginning, freeing them from
  Egyptian slavery.
- **Final plague** - this is the last and most powerful of the ten plagues sent by God.
- **Precise instructions** - in order to be saved, the Israelites had to follow God’s instructions to
  the letter.
• Speed - the Israelites had to eat quickly, dressed ready to leave, so that they could flee as soon as God ordered this.

APPLICATION:

✓ God can be caring; God can also instill fear
✓ Miraculous visions

✓ Does God still care for his people?
✓ Power of God.
✓ Faith and trust in God.
✓ Judgement and punishment of God.
✓ Exodus as liberation (freedom)
The 10 Commandments/Decalogue

- The Ten Commandments
  Covenant = a deal, an agreement.

There are many covenants in the Bible between man and God. The first important one was when God promised Abraham that if he accepted the covenant of worshipping the one true God, he would be the father of a great nation. Abraham agreed and circumcision was given as the sign of the covenant. All Jewish boys are still circumcised on the eighth day after birth. Circumcision is an ongoing reminder of that first promise between Abraham and God.

Second important one is this one between Moses and God in the form of the giving of the Law.

Rules about man's responsibilities towards God:

1. Have no other gods apart from the one true God
2. Do not make images to worship
3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy

Rules about people's responsibilities towards each other:

5. Honour your father and mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery (take another man's wife)
8. Do not steal
9. Do not bear false witness (lie under oath)
10. Do not covet your neighbour's possessions

Themes

- Four rules about responsibility towards God, six rules about responsibility towards each other.
- Authority - God starts by reminding the people exactly what he has done for them so far, and how he has rescued them from slavery.
- Covenant - God is making a new covenant with his people, giving them laws which will enable them to grow closer to him by observing them.
- Law - God is giving the people a set of rules which they must obey in order to keep their side of the covenant. Many (all?) are relevant today, and dictate how people still live their lives in relationship with each other - both Christians and non-Christians.
- Rules are necessary in order to maintain order and fairness for all.
APPLICATION:

✔ Most/least important commandments.
✔ Extra commandments for today's world?
✔ Morals in today's world.
✔ Are people more selfish and less selfless in the twenty-first century?
✔ Are the Ten Commandments still relevant today?
✔ Keeping promises
✔ Respect for others
✔ Human rights
✔ Equality (Martin Luther King/ Trevor Huddleston)
✔ Aims of punishment
SECTION 2: THE NEW COVENANT: JESUS CHRIST AND THE SACRAMENTS

The Person of Jesus

The Incarnation and Birth of Christ: Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew 1:18-24

The Birth of Jesus Christ

His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins. So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to.

A typical Jew in Jesus' time had only one name, sometimes supplemented with the father's name or the individual's hometown. Thus, in the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as "Jesus of Nazareth" (Matthew 26:71), "Joseph's son" (Luke 4:22), and "Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth" (John 1:45). The name Jesus is derived from the Latin 'Iesus,' a transliteration of the Greek (Iesous). The Greek form is a rendition of the Hebrew (Yeshua), a variant of the earlier name (Yehoshua), or Joshua. Yehoshua means “Yahweh Saves/is Salvation”. This helps us understand the connection between Jesus' name and his coming to save his people from their sins, i.e. Jesus is actually Yahweh God that saves!

Since early Christianity, Christians have commonly referred to Jesus as "Jesus Christ". The word Christ is derived from the Greek (Christos), which is a translation of the Hebrew meaning the "anointed" and usually transliterated into English as "Messiah". Christians designate Jesus as Christ because they believe he is the awaited Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). In postbiblical usage, Christ became viewed as a name—one part of "Jesus Christ"—but originally it was a title.

Themes

- Jesus - means "The Lord Saves" or "The Lord Heals": an appropriate name for the Messiah.
- Prophecy - Jesus' birth is predicted by the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament, rooting him firmly within Jewish scriptures.
• **King David** - Joseph (and therefore Jesus) is a member of the Davidic line, like many Israelite rulers in the past. Jews believed that the long-awaited Messiah would be descended from the great Old Testament king, David.

• **Miraculous birth**

• **Danger of having a child outside marriage** - Mary could have been stoned to death for having a child without first being married.

• **Joseph needs to be convinced** - Joseph is described as being an "upright man", and so it is unlikely that he would have wanted to adopt a child with an “unknown” father. He only agrees after an angel appears to him in a dream.

**APPLICATION:**

- ✔ Doing the right thing, even if this is difficult.
- ✔ Following instructions.
- ✔ Radical/extreme views.

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**The Baptism of Jesus**

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “and yet you have come to me!” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”

**The Temptation of Jesus**

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. Then the Devil came to him and said, “If you are God’s Son, order these stones to turn into bread.” But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.’” Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, “If you are God’s Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, ‘God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.’” Jesus answered, “But the scripture also says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. “All this I will give you,” the Devil said, “if you kneel down and worship me.” Then Jesus answered, “Go away, Satan! The scripture says, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!’” Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him.

**Themes**
• **Wilderness, fasting and temptation** - Jesus is preparing himself for his forthcoming mission by spending time in the wilderness fasting, praying to God and focusing his mind.

• **Hunger** - bread can satisfy human hunger, but Jesus came to relieve more than mere human cravings. You need more than simply bread in order to survive - what about the spiritual side of life? Jesus is using a metaphor.

• **Power** - Jesus knows that, as God, he already has power over all - the devil couldn't offer him anything that he didn't have already.

• **Scripture** - Jesus refers to Old Testament scripture in his responses in order to back himself up. Also note 40 days in the wilderness (Moses spent 40 years) and reference to the Temple.

• **Temple** - to jump off this and survive would have been an impressive feat, but Jesus was not going to submit to the devil and prove this. Later on, the temple in Jerusalem was huge: the platform on which it was built was the size of twenty football pitches, and the height upwards from its foundations was around fifty metres. It took forty years to build, and at the end of this time 38,000 workers were made redundant. It had ten bronze-clad gates, each of which required twenty men in order to be opened or closed. It was a massive, magnificent building, and represented Jewish power and authority.

• **Jesus did not give in** - giving in would have been an easy (and more comfortable) "way out" for Jesus. However, he didn’t do so because he knew that he had such an important role ahead of him - his life must be dictated by God, not by the devil. All humans get tempted (and give in); to resist the devil's temptations shows that Jesus was divine.

**APPLICATION:**

- **Temptation in the world, and in school.**
- **Is it right to boast or show off if you have great skills in a particular area?**

**Jesus’ healing ministry - Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man**

A few days later Jesus went back to Capernaum, and the news spread that he was at home. So many people came together that there was no room left, not even out in front of the door. Jesus was preaching the message to them when four men arrived, carrying a paralysed man to Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to him. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they let the man down, lying on his mat. Seeing how much faith they had, Jesus said to the paralysed man, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “How does he dare talk like this? This is blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!” At once Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them, “Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say to this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?’ I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!” While they all watched, the man got up, picked up his mat, and hurried away. They were all completely amazed and praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

**Themes**

- **A miracle is something that is scientifically impossible, but happens anyway.**
- **Great crowd** - many people wanted to hear Jesus' teaching.
• **Illness** - people in Jesus’ day believed that illness was caused by sin, and so they would have perceived the paralysed man not only as a cripple, but also as a sinner. The sin kept him apart from God. Most would have refused to associate with him at all.

• **Faith** - it was because of the strong faith held by the man and his friends that Jesus forgave the paralytic’s sins.

• **Miracle** - when the people wouldn’t believe his authority to forgive sins, Jesus performed a miraculous deed, by commanding the paralysed man to stand up, pick up his stretcher, and walk. They could hardly doubt him then!

• **Proof** - people needed to see proof before they would believe.

• **Which was actually the greatest miracle though?** - the people around were most impressed by the healing, but surely forgiving sins is even more significant? After all it was the sin, not the paralysis, which separated the man from God.

• Temptation in the world, and in school.

• Is it right to boast or show off if you have great skills in a particular area?

**APPLICATION:**

- ✔ Forgiveness.
- ✔ Faith.
- ✔ Forgiveness through faith?
- ✔ Seeing is believing?
- ✔ Types of miracle- Healing/Nature/Raising from the dead
DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

16 The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. 18 Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

Discipleship

Jesus Calls Four Fishermen

As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers who were fishermen, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew, catching fish in the lake with a net. Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people.” At once they left their nets and went with him. He went on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, getting their nets ready. Jesus called them, and at once they left the boat and their father, and went with him.

The Twelve Apostles

Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

Peter’s Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” “Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.” What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” “Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Speaks about His Suffering and Death
From that time on Jesus began to say plainly to his disciples, “I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life.” Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “God forbid it, Lord!” he said. “That must never happen to you!” Jesus turned around and said to Peter, “Get away from me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my way, because these thoughts of yours don't come from God, but from human nature.”

Themes

- **Who do people say I am? - Identity** - Jesus knows full well who he is, but he wants to know what the people at large think about him.
- **Prophets** - people think that Jesus is one of the Jewish prophets. They don't realise his true identity, and even if they did they wouldn't understand the significance of this.
- **Even the disciples don’t understand** - although Peter can give the correct title for Jesus ("Messiah") he shows that doesn't really understand what this means, and is told to keep quiet.

APPLICATION:

- Jesus' identity and message in the twenty first century.
- Difficulties of receiving information 'in confidence', and keeping a secret.

The qualities of being a disciple:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! There is nothing you can give to regain your life. For the Son of Man is about to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his deeds. I assure you that there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Son of Man come as King.”

Discipleship today: Oscar Romero, Jean Vanier
The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God as the transformation of this world
- Jesus’ teaching on: forgiveness, love and reconciliation
- Why Jesus taught using parables
- The Sower and the Seed

The Parable of the Sower

Again Jesus began to teach beside Lake Galilee. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it. The boat was out in the water, and the crowd stood on the shore at the water’s edge. He used parables to teach them many things, saying to them:

“Listen! Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. Then, when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants, and they didn't bear grain. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants sprouted, grew, and bore grain: some had thirty grains, others sixty, and others one hundred.” And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears!”

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Sower

Then Jesus asked them, “Don't you understand this parable? How, then, will you ever understand any parable? The sower sows God's message. Some people are like the seeds that fall along the path; as soon as they hear the message, Satan comes and takes it away. Other people are like the seeds that fall on rocky ground. As soon as they hear the message, they receive it gladly. But it does not sink deep into them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. Other people are like the seeds sown among the thorn bushes. These are the ones who hear the message, but the worries about this life, the love for riches, and all other kinds of desires crowd in and choke the message, and they don’t bear fruit. But other people are like seeds sown in good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred.”

Themes

- **Seed** - this represents the word of God. All the seed is the same, but its fate depends on where it is sown. In the same way, God's word is available to everyone, but people receive it (or not) in different ways.
- **Persevere and don't give up** - everyone can hear the word, but not all persevere, take it to heart and act on it.
APPLICATION:

✓ In what ways are we distracted by our worldly cares, so forget to do what is right, in our preoccupation with less important issues?
✓ Does God still speak to people today?
✓ Are people today like the path, the rock, the thorns or the good soil?

The Parable of the Three Servants - The Talents

Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. ‘You gave me five thousand coins, sir,’ he said. ‘Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’ Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, ‘You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’ Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, ‘Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.’ ‘You bad and lazy servant!’ his master said. ‘You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.’

The Lost Son

Jesus went on to say, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, ‘Father, give me my share of the property now.’ So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses and said, ‘All my father’s hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against
God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and started back to his father. ‘He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’ But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’ And so the feasting began. ‘In the meantime the older son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him, ‘What’s going on?’ ‘Your brother has come back home,’ the servant answered, ‘and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.’ The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. But he spoke back to his father, ‘Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!’ ‘My son,’ the father answered, ‘you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’”

**Themes**

- **Trust** - the father trusted his younger son to use his inheritance wisely. Was the father too trusting?
- **Foolishness and Jealousy** - the younger son was foolish and squandered his inheritance. The elder son was jealous when his brother was welcomed back home with a great feast.
- **The younger son sank as low as he could get** - he even fed the pigs (unclean).
- **Forgiveness** - the father forgave his son, throwing a party in order to welcome him home. He was still his son, and he loved him as such, no matter what he had done.
- **Remorse** - the younger son was sorry for what he had done, but before he had time to express this, his father had already welcomed him back with open arms.
- **God’s Love** - the father represents God and, like the father’s love, God’s love is unconditional, like parents’ love for their children.
- **Dead but now alive, lost and now found** - the younger son was spiritually dead and lost, and he would have had no contact with his family since leaving for the far away country.

**APPLICATION:**

- ✔️ **Forgiveness** - what is it? It is always the right thing to do? When is it hard to do?
- ✔️ **Jealousy.**
- ✔️ **Conflict within families.**

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?” The man answered, “’Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’; and ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’” “You are
right,” Jesus replied; “do this and you will live.” But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he told the innkeeper, ‘and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.’” And Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?” The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.”

Themes

- **A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.** It has a moral, and is used for teaching. It is not literally true (allegory). It is designed to make people think, then pass judgement on their own lives.
- **Eternal life** - i.e. salvation, being judged well by God. Initially, Jesus pointed the lawyer towards what the Jewish law dictated. This shows that the law was still important.
- **Trap** - the lawyer was trying to test Jesus. Jesus answered with questions. By doing this, Jesus ensured that he couldn’t be accused of anything bad. With the help of the parable, the lawyer answered his own question correctly.
- **Neighbour** - The Samaritan (from a different country, and someone whom the Jews would have considered unclean, an outcast, and avoided) seems the least likely person to come to the man’s aid when compared to the religious priest and Levite. This illustrates that one’s neighbour is not dictated by religion, nationality, family, or anything else for that matter, but simply by the fact that they are there. In Jesus’ church, anyone can be a neighbour to anyone else.

**APPLICATION:**

- Charitable work.
- Prejudice and discrimination.
- Ways that one could be a "good Samaritan" in the twenty first century.
- Judging others before you know them.

**Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

The apostles returned and met with Jesus, and told him all they had done and taught. There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his disciples didn’t even have time to eat. So he said to them, “Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest a while.” So they started out in a boat by themselves to a lonely place.

Many people, however, saw them leave and knew at once who they were; so they went from all the towns and ran ahead by land and arrived at the place ahead of Jesus and his disciples. When Jesus
got out of the boat, he saw this large crowd, and his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. When it was getting late, his disciples came to him and said, “It is already very late, and this is a lonely place. Send the people away, and let them go to the nearby farms and villages in order to buy themselves something to eat.” “You yourselves give them something to eat,” Jesus answered. They asked, “Do you want us to go and spend two hundred silver coins on bread in order to feed them?” So Jesus asked them, “How much bread do you have? Go and see.” When they found out, they told him, “Five loaves and also two fish.” Jesus then told his disciples to make all the people divide into groups and sit down on the green grass. So the people sat down in rows, in groups of a hundred and groups of fifty. Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left of the bread and the fish. The number of men who were fed was five thousand.

**Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man**

A few days later Jesus went back to Capernaum, and the news spread that he was at home. So many people came together that there was no room left, not even out in front of the door. Jesus was preaching the message to them when four men arrived, carrying a paralyzed man to Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to him. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they let the man down, lying on his mat. Seeing how much faith they had, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “How does he dare talk like this? This is blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!” At once Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them, “Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?’ I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!” While they all watched, the man got up, picked up his mat, and hurried away. They were all completely amazed and praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

**Jesus Calms a Storm**

On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too. Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to die?” Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, “Be quiet!” and he said to the waves, “Be still!” The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?” But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”
Jesus is Anointed at Bethany

Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a dreaded skin disease. While Jesus was eating, a woman came in with an alabaster jar full of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head. Some of the people there became angry and said to one another, “What was the use of wasting the perfume? It could have been sold for more than three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor!” And they criticized her harshly.

But Jesus said, “Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a fine and beautiful thing for me. You will always have poor people with you, and any time you want to, you can help them. But you will not always have me. She did what she could; she poured perfume on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. Now, I assure you that wherever the gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

The Lord’s Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. “Take it,” he said, “this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, “This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God’s covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God.” Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

Jesus said to them, “All of you will run away and leave me, for the scripture says, ‘God will kill the shepherd, and the sheep will all be scattered.’ But after I am raised to life, I will go to Galilee ahead of you.” Peter answered, “I will never leave you, even though all the rest do!” Jesus said to Peter, “I tell you that before the rooster crows two times tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” Peter answered even more strongly, “I will never say that, even if I have to die with you!” And all the other disciples said the same thing.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him. Distress and anguish came over him, and he said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch.” He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground, and prayed that, if possible, he might not have to go
through that time of suffering. 36 “Father,” he prayed, “my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want, but what you want.” Then he returned and found the three disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Weren’t you able to stay awake for even one hour?” 38 And he said to them, “Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away once more and prayed, saying the same words. 40 Then he came back to the disciples and found them asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to say to him. When he came back the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come! Look, the Son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinners. 42 Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!”

The Arrest of Jesus

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs and sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.” As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” and kissed him. 46 So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. But one of those standing there drew his sword and struck at the High Priest’s slave, cutting off his ear. 48 Then Jesus spoke up and said to them, “Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were an outlaw?” 49 Day after day I was with you teaching in the Temple, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must come true.” Then all the disciples left him and ran away. A certain young man, dressed only in a linen cloth, was following Jesus. They tried to arrest him, 52 but he ran away naked, leaving the cloth behind.

Jesus before the Council

Then Jesus was taken to the High Priest’s house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering. 54 Peter followed from a distance and went into the courtyard of the High Priest’s house. There he sat down with the guards, keeping himself warm by the fire. 55 The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some evidence against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. 56 Many witnesses told lies against Jesus, but their stories did not agree. Then some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus: 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will tear down this Temple which men have made, and after three days I will build one that is not made by men.’” 59 Not even they, however, could make their stories agree. The High Priest stood up in front of them all and questioned Jesus, “Have you no answer to the accusation they bring against you?” But Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. Again the High Priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?” “I am,” answered Jesus, “and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!” The High Priest tore his robes and said, “We don’t need any more witnesses! 64 You heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” They all voted against him: he was guilty and should be put to death. Some of them began to spit on Jesus, and they blindfolded him and hit him. “Guess who hit you!” they said. And the guards took him and slapped him.
Peter Denies Jesus

Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the High Priest’s servant women came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said, “You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth.” But he denied it. “I don’t know ... I don’t understand what you are talking about,” he answered, and went out into the passageway. Just then a rooster crowed. The servant woman saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders, “He is one of them!” But Peter denied it again. A little while later the bystanders accused Peter again, “You can’t deny that you are one of them, because you, too, are from Galilee.” Then Peter said, “I swear that I am telling the truth! May God punish me if I am not! I do not know the man you are talking about!” Just then a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crowed two times, you will say three times that you do not know me.” And he broke down and cried.

Jesus before Pilate

Early in the morning the chief priests met hurriedly with the elders, the teachers of the Law, and the whole Council, and made their plans. They put Jesus in chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “So you say.” The chief priests were accusing Jesus of many things, so Pilate questioned him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? Listen to all their accusations!” Again Jesus refused to say a word, and Pilate was amazed.

Jesus Is Sentenced to Death

At every Passover Festival Pilate was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the people asked for. At that time a man named Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the riot. When the crowd gathered and began to ask Pilate for the usual favour, he asked them, “Do you want me to set free for you the king of the Jews?” He knew very well that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask, instead, that Pilate set Barabbas free for them. Pilate spoke again to the crowd, “What, then, do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” “But what crime has he committed?” Pilate asked. They shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

The soldiers took Jesus inside to the courtyard of the governor’s palace and called together the rest of the company. They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and put it on his head. Then they began to salute him: “Long live the King of the Jews!” They beat him over the head with a stick, spat on him, fell on their knees, and bowed down to him. When they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.
Jesus Is Crucified

On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was from Cyrene and was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) 22 They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means “The Place of the Skull.” 23 There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. 24 Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. 25 It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The notice of the accusation against him said: “The King of the Jews.” 27 They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: “Aha! You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Now come down from the cross and save yourself!” In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus, saying to one another, “He saved others, but he cannot save himself!” 32 Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him! And the two who were crucified with Jesus insulted him also.

The Death of Jesus

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. 34 At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why did you abandon me?” Some of the people there heard him and said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah!” 36 One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus’ lips and said, “Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!” With a loud cry Jesus died. The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. 40 “This man was really the Son of God!” he said. Some women were there, looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joseph, and Salome. 41 They had followed Jesus while he was in Galilee and had helped him. Many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him were there also.

The Burial of Jesus

It was toward evening when Joseph of Arimathea arrived. He was a respected member of the Council, who was waiting for the coming of the Kingdom of God. It was Preparation day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), so Joseph went boldly into the presence of Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. He called the army officer and asked him if Jesus had been dead a long time. 45 After hearing the officer’s report, Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. 46 Joseph bought a linen sheet, took the body down, wrapped it in the sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body of Jesus was placed.

Themes

- By his crucifixion, Jesus acts as a sacrifice for all people’s sins.
• Humiliation - Jesus felt rejected, and he was jeered at by the priests and the bystanders.
• Abandoned - Jesus even cried out that he had been abandoned by God.
• Crucifixion - this represented an incredibly painful and long-drawn-out death.
• Things are beginning to change - Jesus’ female (not male) followers witness the crucifixion, and a Roman centurion is the first to acknowledge Jesus' true identity.
• Curtain in the temple - previously God was believed to be behind the curtain and almost unreachable; now he is everywhere.
• Judaism is still important - the body must be buried before the Sabbath.

APPLICATION:

✓ Suffering for a belief.
✓ What do we need to be saved from in this day and age?
✓ Is there anyone/anything that you would be prepared to die for?

The Resurrection and it’s meaning.

The Empty Tomb

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus’ head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her. She answered, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!” Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who is it that you are looking for?” She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (This means “Teacher.”) “Do not hold on to me,” Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.” So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.
Jesus Appears to His Disciples

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 20 After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” 22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Jesus and Thomas

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord! Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

Themes

- **Resurrection** - as he had predicted, Jesus rose from the dead.
- **Power** - Jesus appeared first to a woman - Mary - and then made himself known to his disciples. He had shown power over all human constraints - even death.
- **Proof** - the disciples saw the risen Jesus with their own eyes, and believed.
- **Doubt** - it’s human to doubt (like Thomas); central to the Christian faith is the fact that you might not be able to see visual proof, but you believe anyway.

APPLICATION:

- Life after death and attitudes to death.
- Do you think that Jesus really did rise from the dead?
- Was this “the most important event of all time”?
- How important is the resurrection story for Christians, and why?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glossary Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent</strong></td>
<td>four-week period of preparation for Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>baptism</strong></td>
<td>first sacrament; the sacrament by which a person becomes a Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>blasphemy</strong></td>
<td>speaking against God or making oneself equal to God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>canonisation</strong></td>
<td>process by which the Catholic Church recognises a person to be a saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ or Messiah</strong></td>
<td>the anointed one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas</strong></td>
<td>feast when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church</strong></td>
<td>the people of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>confession</strong></td>
<td>admitting one’s faults to God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>covenant</strong></td>
<td>a solemn promise between two people(s); an agreement between God and His people</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>crucifixion</strong></td>
<td>Roman death penalty of being nailed to a cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>disciple</strong></td>
<td>follower or student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
<td>the day on which Jesus rose from the dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eucharist</strong></td>
<td>means thanksgiving and is an alternative term for the Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>faith</strong></td>
<td>having an active trust in someone or in God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>fasting</strong></td>
<td>going without food to enable a person to be more aware of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>the day on which Jesus was crucified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grace</td>
<td>God’s unconditional love for humans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hell</td>
<td>the state of being alienated from God’s love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>receiving Christ during Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Week</td>
<td>the last week of Jesus’ life, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incarnation</td>
<td>when God became truly a man in the person of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>justice</td>
<td>treating others fairly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of God</td>
<td>God’s reign on earth and the transformation of society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Supper</td>
<td>the Passover meal which Jesus shared with his disciples on the night he was arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lent</td>
<td>six-week period of repentance before Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marriage</td>
<td>sacrament by which a man and woman are made one by God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miracle</td>
<td>marvellous event attributed to a supernatural cause</td>
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<tr>
<td>mission</td>
<td>when a person is called by God to preach His word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Sin</td>
<td>sinful tendency which humans inherit from Adam and Eve’s disobedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>first day of Holy Week, when Jesus entered Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parable</td>
<td>a story or saying with a special spiritual meaning or message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passover</td>
<td>the time when God saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>prophet</td>
<td>a person chosen by God to speak God’s message to people</td>
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<tr>
<td>purgatory</td>
<td>the experience of being purified for God after death.</td>
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<tr>
<td>reconciliation (penance)</td>
<td>sacrament by which a person who is truly sorry receives the forgiveness of Jesus through a priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resurrection</td>
<td>rising to new life from the dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>sacrament</td>
<td>living sign by which Christians receive God’s help for their souls in a living way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sacrifice</td>
<td>giving up something for something of greater value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salvation</td>
<td>being saved and brought into relationship with God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sin</td>
<td>disobeying God and being separated from Him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son of God</td>
<td>Jesus’ unique relationship with God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stewardship</td>
<td>looking after the world for God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symbol</td>
<td>something which is used to help people understand difficult ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temptation</td>
<td>the desire to do something wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Trinity</td>
<td>the belief that God exists as three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wisdom</td>
<td>ability to distinguish between good and evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>worship</td>
<td>giving praise and honour to God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B- Model Questions
You can use these questions to mix and match a past paper. Just select one question a/one question b/one question c and one question d for the Old Testament. Then do the same for the New Testament. Then choose one from A,B and C from Section 3 The Church.

Creation

part as

What did God create on Day 1 of Genesis 1? (2)
What did God create on Day 2 of Genesis 1? (2)
What did God create on Day 3 of Genesis 1? (2)
What is stewardship (2)

Creation parts b/cs

Describe how God created human beings in the Genesis stories. (6)
Outline the main features of God's creation in Genesis 1. (6)
Describe the creation of humans according to Genesis 2 (6)
Explain what Genesis 1 teaches about the value of God's creation. (6)
Explain what is meant by being made in God's image (6)
Explain what the Garden of Eden story teaches Christians about how to live (6)

Creation part ds

Christians need to be stewards of the world now, more than ever. Discuss (7)
Teaching the creation story can promote a fairer world. Discuss.(7)
The 2nd Creation story is as relevant today as when it was written. Discuss (7)
It is not easy to see God at work in the natural world today. Discuss (7)
The love of God is reflected in creation. Discuss.(7)
The Fall part as

What is sin? (2)

What is temptation? (2)

The Fall parts b/c’s

What is the Fall story teaches about the nature of humans beings (6)

Describe how the serpent tempted Eve (6)

Explain what the story of the Fall teaches about the Nature of God. (6)

Explain why God punished Adam and Eve. (6)

The Fall part ds

Avoiding temptation is the only way to stop sin. Discuss. (7)

The story of the Fall can bring comfort to Christians. Discuss (7)

The story of the Fall shows us that it is impossible to be perfect. Discuss. (7)

Abraham part as

What is faith? (2)

What is sacrifice? (2)

What is a covenant? (2)

parts b/cs

Describe how Abraham was called to make a sacrifice (6) / Describe how God tested Abraham through his son Isaac (6) / Briefly outline Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac. (6)

Describe how God tested Abraham on several occasions. (6)

Explain why Christians might be troubled by Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac. (6)

Explain what the call of Abraham teaches Christians about faith (6)

Explain why many Christians regard Abraham as a model of discipleship (6)

Explain how God established a covenant relationship with Abraham (6) / Describe God’s covenant with Abraham (6)
Roman Catholic leaders can learn a lot from the example of Abraham. Discuss (7)

With God’s help we can cope with anything. Discuss. (7)

Abraham’s story teaches that God rewards faith. Discuss (7)

The stories of Abraham remind us that faith is very demanding. Discuss(7)

God’s will is sometimes difficult to understand. Discuss. (7)

Faith demands sacrifice. Discuss(7)

**Moses – Exodus and Passover**

What is faith? (2)

What is fasting? (2)

What is a covenant?(2)

What is worship?(2)

What is mission?(2)

What is salvation?(2)

Describe the call of Moses.(6)

Explain what the story of Moses teaches Christians about the problems of leadership. (6)/ Explain what Christians can learn about religious leadership from Moses.(6)

Explain what the story of Moses teaches about faith. (6)

Describe what happened at the Passover(6)

Explain what Moses’ covenant teaches about responsibility to God. (6)

Describe how the Hebrew people were set free from Egypt.(6)

Explain why Christians still refer to the Passover story today. (6)

Explain why Christians say that Moses is a good model of faith. (6)

Describe how the first Passover was celebrated.(6)
God always deals justly with his people. Discuss. (7)

If we do not obey God’s commands we can expect bad consequences. Discuss. (7)

Humans must suffer to be free. Discuss. (7)

Believing in God is the first step to being good. Discuss. (7)

With faith anything is possible. Discuss. (7)

Moses must have been an inspiring man. Discuss (7)

Freedom is central to Christianity. Discuss. (7)

We need to understand the Passover Story to understand the meaning of Jesus’ death. Discuss. (7)

**The 10 Commandments/Decalogue**

**part as**

What is worship? (2)

What is a covenant? (2)

What is the Decalogue (2)

What is a prophet? (2)

What is justice? (2)

**parts b/c’s**

Know all the commandments and be able to describe them...also know which refer to family life....which are the first 4 or last 6.

Explain why Christians think the 10 Commandments are still important today. (6)

Explain why the idea of covenant is important for Christians today. (6)

Describe what the commands say about human relationships (6)

Explain why Christians must not worship idols. (6)

Describe how Moses received the Commandments on Mount Sinai. (6)
Promises must never be broken. Discuss. (7)
A true Christian is never selfish. Discuss. (7)
We need rules to be good. Discuss. (7)
Christians ignore too many of God's laws. Discuss. (7)
The 10 commandments could never be outdated. Discuss. (7)
The most important commandment is not to steal. Discuss. (7)
The Ten Commandments are important to Roman Catholics today. Discuss (7)
The value of the 10 commandments can be seen in our own communities. Discuss (7)

**Person of Jesus part as**

What is baptism? (2)
What is the Incarnation? (2)
What is blasphemy? (2)
What is the meaning of the title Christ? (2)

**parts b/cs**

Describe Jesus' baptism (6)
Describe Jesus' birth. (6)
Explain why Jesus helped the outcasts (6)
Explain why Christians remember Jesus' healing miracles. (6)
Describe an event in Jesus' childhood. (6)
Explain why Jesus taught about repentance. (6)
Describe how Mary accepted the invitation to be the Mother of God. (6)
Describe one healing miracle performed by Jesus. (6)
Healing is the most important part of Christian ministry. Discuss. (7)

Jesus' life reminds us that faith requires sacrifice. (7)

Jesus' miracles reveal his special identity. Discuss (7)

Jesus' teaching is only about repentence. Discuss (7)

Jesus was more than just a good teacher. Discuss (7)

**Discipleship part as**

What is a disciple? (2)

What is sin? (2)

What is faith? (2)

What is the Church? (2)

What does the Church mean by mission? (2)

**parts b/cs**

What was Jesus' teaching about being a disciple? (6)

Explain the importance of St Peter for Catholics (6)

Describe the call of the disciples (6)

Explain what Jesus' choice of disciples teaches us about Christianity (6)

Explain why Jesus chose 12 disciples (6)

Explain why Catholics believe priests can be described as disciples. (6)

**part ds**

It is always hard to be a disciple of Jesus. Discuss (7)

To be a disciple today you need humility above all else. Discuss. (7)

There are many good disciples in the world today. Discuss. (7)

It is just as hard to be a disciple today as in Jesus' time. (7)

If there were more true disciples, the world would be more just. Discuss. (7)
Today very few people would follow Jesus as willingly as the disciples did. Discuss. (7)

**Kingdom of God** part as

What is a miracle? (2)
Name two types of miracles (2)
What is the Kingdom of God? (2)
What is persecution? (2)
What is a parable? (2)

**parts b/cs**

Describe how Jesus healed the Paralysed Man (6)
Outline the parable of the Good Samaritan (6)
Outline the miracle of the calming of the Storm (6)
Explain why Jesus performed miracles. (6)
Outline the miracle of the Feeding of the 5000. (6)
Explain why Jesus taught in parables. (6)
Explain what the feeding of the 5000 teaches us about the Kingdom of God. (6)
Explain what the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us about how to be a good Christian. (6)

**part ds**

Jesus' miracles prove that he was more than just a good man. Discuss (6)

It is hard to accept that God calls all people to enter the Kingdom of God. Discuss (6)

To build the Kingdom of God you need love above all things. Discuss. (6)

The Kingdom of God is always close at hand. Discuss (6)

Jesus' miracles are the best illustration of the Kingdom of God. Discuss (6)

Establishing the Kingdom of God remains as challenging today as ever. Discuss. (6)

Miracles reflect the mission of Jesus. Discuss. (6)
The Passion and the Resurrection

What is crucifixion (2)

What is Holy Week (2)

What is resurrection? (2)

What is the last Supper? (2)

Outline what happened at Jesus' crucifixion (6)

Explain how the disciples reacted to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. (6)

Describe what happened at the Last Supper (6)

Explain why Jesus was crucified. (6)

Explain why Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection (6)

Outline what happened at Gethsemane. (6)

Describe what happened when Jesus was raised from the dead. (6)

The story of Thomas' doubt helps us to understand how extraordinary the Resurrection was. Discuss. (7)

The death of Jesus teaches us about the central meaning of Christianity. Discuss (7)

Jesus' crucifixion reminds us that the world is sinful. Discuss. (7)

It is possible to be a Christian if you do not believe in the Resurrection. Discuss. (7)

Mary Magdalene was a better disciple than Thomas. Discuss. (7)
Section 3: ‘The Church’ practice questions

A: The Birth and Life of the Church

1. What is the difference between a priest and a deacon?

2. Outline how Christianity came to Britain.

3. Explain what is meant by papal infallibility.

4. Describe what happens at an ordination service.

5. Describe the conversion of St. Paul.

6. Explain why St. Paul is such an important figure for the Church.

7. Describe the typical day in the life of a monk.

8. Describe the role of a priest.

9. What is the difference between a priest and a deacon?

10. Briefly describe the difference between a priest and a bishop.

11. Outline the role of a bishop in governing the Church.

12. Explain what happens in a monastery.


14. What is meant by Apostolic succession.

15. Describe the role of a Deacon.

17. Explain how a new pope is elected.

18. Explain the purposes of two types of prayer.

Section 3: 'The Church' practice questions

B: Community life in the Church

19. What is the difference between divorce and annulment?

20. Why do Christians believe they have a duty towards the poor and hungry?

21. Why is the Church opposed to Euthanasia?

22. Why is Ecumenism important?

23. Describe a typical Roman Catholic marriage ceremony.

24. What is the Roman Catholic Church’s teaching on Abortion?


26. How does the Church support the suffering?

27. Why should Roman Catholics give to charity?

28. Outline Roman Catholic teaching on family life.

29. Explain what the Church teaches about other World religions.

30. Outline Catholic teaching on war.
Section 3: ‘The Church’ practice questions

C: The Liturgical Year and Devotion

31. Explain the colours used in the Liturgical year.

32. Briefly outline how Christians observe Lent.

33. Why is Mary important to Catholics?

34. What is the communion of Saints?

35. Outline the life of one saint.

36. What is the Liturgical year?

37. Outline what happens in Holy Week.

38. Describe the mysteries of the Rosary.

39. Explain why some Roman Catholics go on pilgrimage.

40. Explain two Marian prayers.

41. Why are Christmas and Easter very important times of the Liturgical year?

42. How do Catholics celebrate Good Friday?

43. What happens at the Easter Vigil?

44. How do Christians celebrate Advent?

45. How do Christians observe Ash Wednesday?

46. Describe one event in the life of Mary.