


Year 8 - What is authority?

Jesus							
<div><p>Jesus</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Jesus lived in the first century CE (Common Era) in an area which is now called Israel.Jesus and his followers were Jewish.There was a long standing rivalry between Jews and Samaritans.The religion of Christianity did not develop until after the death of Jesus.Christians believe that Jesus is God incarnate (in human flesh).Christians believe that Jesus' teachings should be followed when making moral decisions – deciding right from wrong.</div> <div></div>	<div><p>Jesus' Miracles</p><p>A miracle is an extraordinary event that is not explainable by scientific law and is therefore attributed to a God.</p><p>Christians believe that Jesus (God incarnate) performed many miracles in his lifetime. Examples of Jesus' miracles recorded in the Bible include:</p><ol style="list-style-type: none">The Calming of the StormThe healing of the Paralysed ManThe raising of Lazarus</div>						
<div><p>Jesus' Parables</p><p>Jesus' teachings and parables can be found in the New Testament of the Bible in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. A parable is a simple story used to tell a moral, spiritual or religious lesson. Examples of Jesus parables are:</p><ol style="list-style-type: none">The Good SamaritanThe Rich FoolThe Sheep and the Goats</div>	<div><p>Why are Jesus' miracles important to Christians?</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">For Christians Miracles are a sign that God exists because the miraculous event does not seem to be explainable by scientific law.For Christians Miracles are a sign of what God is like e.g. all-powerful, caring, all-loving and all-knowing.It gives Christians reassurance that God will be there to help them when they need it.It teaches Christians how they should act in difficult situations e.g. to help others that are ill.</div>						
<div><p>The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37 International Children's Bible)</p><p>"A man was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes and beat him. Then they left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a Jewish priest was going down that road. When the priest saw the man, he walked by on the other side of the road. Next, a Levite (Jewish Priest's assistant) came there. He went over and looked at the man. Then he walked by on the other side of the road. Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was lying. He saw the man and felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him and poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. He put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn. At the inn, the Samaritan took care of him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. The Samaritan said, 'Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.'"</p></div>	<div><p>The Calming of the Storm (Mark 4:35-41 International Children's Bible)</p><p>That evening, Jesus said to his followers, "Come with me across the lake." He and the followers left the people there. They went in the boat that Jesus was already sitting in. There were also other boats with them. A very strong wind came up on the lake. The waves began coming over the sides and into the boat. It was almost full of water. Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went to him and woke him. They said, "Teacher, do you care about us? We will drown!" Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to stop. He said, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind stopped, and the lake became calm. Jesus said to his followers, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The followers were very afraid and asked each other, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"</p></div>						
<div><p>What does this parable teach Christians?</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">This parable teaches Christians to be loving and kind to others, even if they are strangers. This is because the Samaritan was kind to the Jewish man even though they were strangers. They wouldn't usually have gotten on with each other because of the rivalry between Jews and Samaritans.Christians today could put this into practice today by:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Volunteering to help at a homeless shelter.Helping an older person carry their shopping.</div>	<div><p>Arguments for and against miracles</p><table><tr><th>For</th><th>Against</th></tr><tr><td>If many people claim to have experienced the same miracle they cannot all be wrong.</td><td>People could be lying or hallucinating.</td></tr><tr><td>Miracles are still reported today (e.g. Lourdes), they are not just stories from the past.</td><td>Science can, or will be able to, explain the event being described as a miracle.</td></tr></table></div>	For	Against	If many people claim to have experienced the same miracle they cannot all be wrong.	People could be lying or hallucinating.	Miracles are still reported today (e.g. Lourdes), they are not just stories from the past.	Science can, or will be able to, explain the event being described as a miracle.
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Muhammad (peace be upon him/pbuh)

