

GCSE



CCEA GCSE GLOSSARIES  
**Religious Studies**

Unit 5: Christianity through a Study  
of the Gospel of Mark



For first teaching from September 2017



## GCSE Religious Studies Glossary

<b>Abraham</b>	The 'father of the Jewish people'; Old Testament figure.
<b>Allegory</b>	A type of parable in which every person, place or thing has a spiritual meaning.
<b>Anointed</b>	When oil is used to bless someone. Priests, Prophets and Kings were anointed in the Old Testament to show they were chosen by God.
<b>Apostle</b>	A person chosen (commissioned) by Jesus to spread the gospel; literally 'sent out.'
<b>Aramaic</b>	Language spoken in Palestine at the time of Jesus.
<b>Atonement</b>	The belief that reconciliation between God and people was made possible by the death of Jesus as a sacrifice for sin.
<b>Baptism</b>	A ceremony of initiation; carried out by the sprinkling or pouring of water over a person, or by full immersion in water.
<b>Betray</b>	To give information about a person, group or country to an enemy.
<b>Blasphemy</b>	False claims to be God; irreverent words about God; deliberately insulting God.
<b>Caiaphas</b>	The High Priest at time of the death of Jesus.
<b>Chief Priest</b>	Jewish religious leader at the time of Jesus; also called the High Priest.
<b>Christ</b>	The Greek word for 'the anointed one': Messiah in Hebrew. Christians believe Jesus to be the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament.
<b>Contemporary</b>	Things that are modern and relate to the present time.
<b>Controversial</b>	Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement.
<b>Covenant</b>	An agreement or promise; it refers to an agreement between God and individuals/group of people in the Bible.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	A cruel method of capital punishment which involves the victim being nailed to a cross by hands and feet.
<b>Disciples</b>	Followers of Jesus.
<b>Discrimination</b>	Treating a person or group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people.
<b>Easter</b>	Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.
<b>Elijah</b>	An Old Testament prophet who many Jewish people believe will return to Earth before the coming of the Messiah.
<b>Eucharist</b>	Meaning 'thanksgiving'. A Christian celebration remembering and re-enacting the Last Supper.
<b>Festival of Unleavened Bread</b>	A separate feast that became merged with the Passover festival at the time of Jesus. It originally lasted 7 days.
<b>Gethsemane</b>	A garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. This is where Jesus went to pray on the night he was arrested.

<b>Gematria</b>	Use of symbolic number in the Bible such as 3, 7 and 12.
<b>Gentile</b>	A non-Jew.
<b>Golgotha</b>	Also called 'The Place of the Skull' or Calvary; it is where Jesus was crucified.
<b>High Priest</b>	The religious leader of the Jews; the chief priest of the Sanhedrin.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	Third person of the Trinity.
<b>Holy Week</b>	The week before Easter, starting on Palm Sunday.
<b>Hypocrite</b>	Someone who does not practice what they preach.
<b>Israelites</b>	The name given to the Jewish people in the Old Testament.
<b>Judaism</b>	The Jewish religion.
<b>Kingdom of God</b>	The rule of God.
<b>Last Supper</b>	The final meal that Jesus shared with his Apostles in Jerusalem before his crucifixion.
<b>Life after death</b>	The belief that people survive physical death.
<b>Marginalised</b>	A group or class of people that is regarded as less important than others or is relegated to a secondary position.
<b>Martyr</b>	A person who is killed for belief in their faith.
<b>Messiah</b>	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah.
<b>Miracle</b>	A remarkable and inexplicable act or event, e.g. a healing which is believed to be an act of God.
<b>Moses</b>	A leader, prophet and lawgiver in the Old Testament. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God.
<b>New Testament</b>	The second part of the Christian Bible; tells the story of Jesus and the early church and includes early Christian letters and literature.
<b>Old Testament</b>	The Books of the first part of the Bible, comprising thirty-nine books.
<b>Original sin</b>	The transfer of Adam and Eve's disobedience of God to all of humanity. A state of separation from God.
<b>Outcast</b>	One that is cast out or refused acceptance by society.
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	The Sunday before Easter Sunday when Christians remember Christ being welcomed into Jerusalem on a donkey.
<b>Parable</b>	A form of teaching used at New Testament times; a story which has a spiritual meaning or conveys spiritual truth.
<b>Parousia</b>	The 2nd coming (return) of Christ.
<b>Passion</b>	The Passion of Christ is the story of Jesus Christ's arrest, trial and suffering. It ends with his execution by crucifixion.
<b>Passover</b>	Jewish religious festival which remembers the Exodus from Egypt.
<b>Persecution</b>	Treating people with hostility and hatred; can be sanctioned by a government.

<b>Pharisee</b>	A member of an ancient group of Jews, written about in the Bible, who believed in rigorously obeying religious laws and separated themselves from the ordinary people. Pharisee means ‘Separated one’.
<b>Pontius Pilate</b>	Governor of Judea from AD26-36.
<b>Prejudice</b>	An unreasonable dislike of a group of people or things.
<b>Prophecy</b>	The foretelling or prediction of what is to come. Something that is declared by a prophet
<b>Prophet</b>	A person chosen by God to give a message or warning.
<b>Rabbi</b>	A Jewish religious teacher.
<b>Renunciation</b>	To give up something; usually for religious reasons.
<b>Resurrection</b>	The Christian belief that Jesus rose again three days after his death.
<b>Sabbath</b>	A day of religious observance and abstinence from work, kept by Jews from Friday evening to Saturday evening, and by most Christians on Sunday.
<b>Sadducee</b>	A member of a Jewish sect or party of the time of Christ that did not believe in life after death, the existence of spirits. They did not follow the oral law, only the written law.
<b>Sanhedrin</b>	The highest Jewish council at the time of Jesus; it had responsibility for religious and legal matters.
<b>Scribe</b>	A teacher of the Law; someone who copied out the scriptures.
<b>Synagogue</b>	Means ‘bringing together’; refers to the building Jews meet for worship on the Sabbath.
<b>Temple</b>	The building in Jerusalem where Jews worshipped and offered sacrifices to God; the Temple was destroyed in AD70.
<b>Ten Commandments</b>	The list of rules, given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Known also as the Decalogue.
<b>Torah</b>	The Jewish Law found in the first five books of the Old Testament.
<b>Transfiguration</b>	Describes a change or transformation in shape or appearance; refers to the event when Jesus’ appearance changed in front of his disciples.
<b>Treason</b>	Betraying or threatening the leadership of a country.
<b>Trinity</b>	The doctrine that God is three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one being.
<b>Universalism</b>	The belief that God is for everyone, not just the Jews.
<b>Vocation</b>	A calling to a specific career or path in life