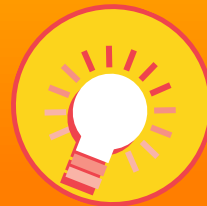


# Christianity

(What it means to be Christian)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 1

# Christianity

(What it means to be Christian)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create



# Christian faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Christian Faith, Church, Christian art and writing and Christian holy days books.)

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# What it means to be Christian

Billy Graham is an American preacher. He was born in 1918 and began preaching in 1940, while studying in college. After college, he began travelling around America, preaching to large groups of people. Sometimes he rented circus tents and held huge prayer meetings in the tents. On October 22, 1958, he preached to 13,000 people on the subject of how to live a Christian life. At some meetings there were choirs of more than 1,000 singers. He met and advised 12 American presidents and has preached to more than 3 million people during his life. Billy Graham retired from preaching in 2009, at the age of 91. Billy Graham encouraged people to be born again.

Graham told worshippers what a Christian is not a person who is born in a Christian home. He said that just as being born in a garage does not make someone an automobile, being born into a Christian family is not what makes a person a Christian. He said that Christianity is not something you inherit.



According to Graham, there are three things that have to happen for a person to become a Christian. The first is that a person must choose to give their life to Christ rather than to themselves. This can mean becoming born again, or it can mean making a decision to dedicate your life to Christ. You must make a choice to be a Christian and to trust in Jesus to show you the way to live your life.

The second thing is that you must live as a Christian. Graham said this means that Jesus must be at the front of your thoughts at all times. You must spend time in prayer, read the Bible faithfully, be gracious, courteous and kind and always love your neighbour as yourself.

The third thing that must happen for someone to be a Christian is that you must refuse to ever be immoral – you must never never cheat or lie . You must do this even if it costs you your life. Graham preached that this is the challenge of Christ – to live a moral life everyday, to forgive people, to not hold grudges, to be patient, to not be prejudiced and to pray.

Graham preached that a Christian is someone who does all of these things every day. A Christian must live a Christian life every day.



# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'moral'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'moral' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'moral'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'moral'.

**e** Draw a small picture of someone who is acting in a 'moral' way.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: courteous	respectful



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# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.



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4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



The second thing is that you must live as a Christian.

After college, he began travelling around America, preaching to large groups of people.

On October 22, 1958, he preached to 13,000 people on the subject of how to live a Christian life.

He was born in 1918 and began preaching in 1940, while studying in college.

The third thing that must happen for someone to be a Christian is that you must refuse to ever cheat, lie or be immoral.

The first is that a person must choose to give their life to Christ rather than to themselves.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) How many people did Billy Graham preach to during his life?
- (b) How old was Billy Graham when he retired from preaching?
- (c) What is the third thing a Christian must do?
- (d) What type of tents did Graham sometimes rent?
- (e) What is the first thing a Christian must do?





# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 What does a preacher do?

2 What does being 'born again' mean?

3 What are some ways of being immoral?

4 What are some ways of living a moral life?





# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

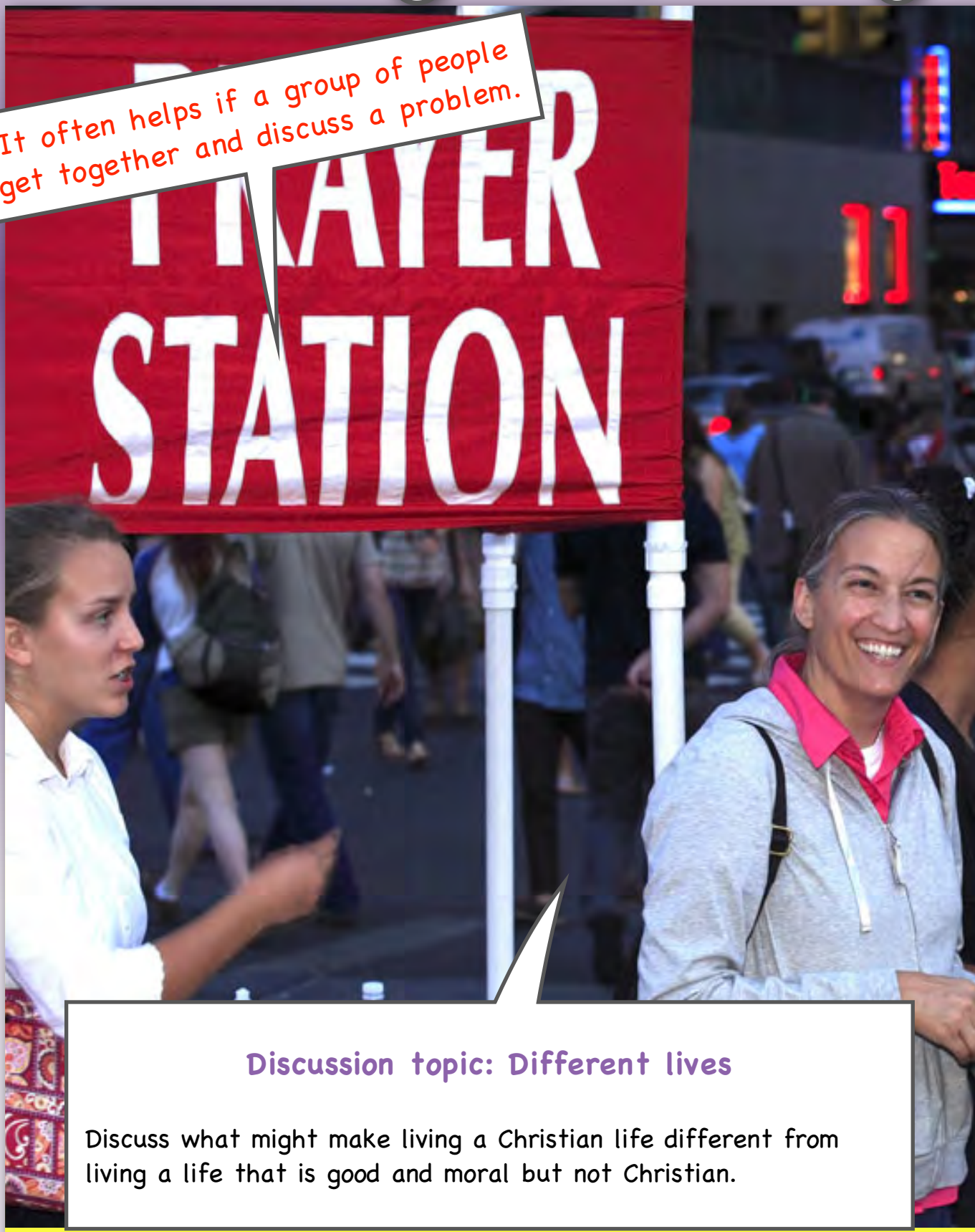


- 1 Do you agree that it is not possible for someone to be born a Christian?
- 2 What did Billy Graham mean when he said that “a Christian is someone in whom Christ lives”?
- 3 What other types of good behaviour do you think is important in life?
- 4 What are some types of bad behaviour that might prevent someone from living a Christian life?
- 5 Do you agree that it is important to act in a good and moral way every single day?



# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



## Discussion topic: Different lives

Discuss what might make living a Christian life different from living a life that is good and moral but not Christian.





# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## A prayer meeting

Billy Graham held prayer meetings attended by tens of thousands of people, in the open air, in tents and in huge stadiums. Here is a picture of the crowd at one of those meetings. As you join them, you see thousands of people and a big stage...

(Now continue the story of describing the prayer meeting and what is said...)



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Graham told worshippers what a Christian is not a person who is born in a Christian home. He said that just as being born in a garage does not make someone an automobile, being born into a Christian family is not what makes a person a Christian. He said that Christianity is not something you inherit.

Graham described a Christian as someone in whom Christ lives. He told worshippers that just living a good, moral life does not make someone a Christian. After all, there are people in all religions who live good, moral lives. Graham said that a Christian is a person who has had an encounter with the living Christ.

According to Graham, there are three things that have to happen for a person to become a Christian. The first is that a person must choose to give their life to Christ rather than to themselves. This can mean becoming born again, or it can mean making a decision to dedicate your life to Christ. You must make a choice to be a Christian and to trust in Jesus to show you the way to live your life.

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