



# RE: What's so radical about Jesus?

## Knowledge Organizer

### 1. Key People

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Jesus of Nazareth</b> | A Jew who spoke out against those who said people could only be with God in Heaven if they closely followed Jewish traditions and/or Jewish religious writings.         |
| <b>Pharisees</b>         | A Jewish group keen to remind other Jews of the Oral Torah's teachings, including punishments and the consequences of sin. They also believed in an afterlife with God. |
| <b>Sadducees</b>         | A Jewish group that insisted on a literal interpretation of the Torah; they did not believe in an afterlife, since it is not mentioned in the Torah.                    |

### 4. Concepts

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Identity and Community</b> | morality<br> |
| <b>Living a Good Life</b>     | equality<br> |

### 2. You need to know...

- For Jews, the story of Adam and Eve introduces the idea of reward and punishment.
- Many Christians see this story as an explanation of how **sin** entered the world, and how a relationship, between God and humans, was broken.
- Jews are taught that they need to obey the **mitzvot**, which are written in the Torah. This is so that they can live correctly, the way God wants them to.
- Jesus particularly spoke out against a group in the Jewish community called the **Pharisees**; they followed the idea of the Oral Torah. The Oral Torah is the teachings from the Torah that have been spoken from one generation to the next and adapted to a changing society.
- Some of the people Jesus befriended and spoke to were sinners, people who had committed sins by acting against the mitzvot, e.g. corrupt tax collectors and criminals
- Jesus said that even if someone had sinned, they could still be "saved" and should be treated with **love and compassion**
- One of Jesus' most famous parables is **The Good Samaritan**. In this story, people who follow God's laws very closely are not as "good" as a non-Jew who helps to save a man's life
- Jesus is said to have healed sick people, even though they were thought of as **untouchable**
- Jesus said that **faith** can get someone to Heaven, not just good deeds
- Many Christians today follow Jesus' example by setting up charities, speaking out against corrupt governments, helping people out of debt and acting to stop pollution

### Contexts

- In the second part of the Hebrew (Jewish) Bible (Nevi'im) some prophets wrote about a "**messiah**". In Jesus' time, Judea was under Roman occupation and many Jews hoped that a leader would come then. However, for many other Jews then and now, the Messianic Age is about society changing for the better, and Jews setting an example for the world to follow, rather than one person leading a movement or a group.
- In Jesus' time, the Pharisees often disagreed with the Sadducees. Jesus said that many of them didn't live up to the rules they taught.

### 3. Key vocabulary

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>sin</b>        | Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious or moral law.  |
| <b>Torah</b>      | The first five books of the Bible, also known as the Books of Moses.   |
| <b>mitzvot</b>    | "Commandments". The 613 laws of Judaism. The singular is "mitzvah".  |
| <b>salvation</b>  | Being salvaged, saved from sin, avoiding an eternity away from God.  |
| <b>Samaritans</b> | People from Samaria, another area in Judea. They believed in the One God as well, but many Jews and Samaritans disapproved of each other's ways. |
| <b>messiah</b>    | From the Hebrew "moshiach". It means "anointed"; a great and noble person.   |