

What is the Bible and why is it important for Christians?

Learning Objective:

To identify and describe ways in which the Bible is important for Christians.

What is
your
favourite
book and
why?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

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What ideas did you come up with?

Our favourite books:



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Why do you think the
Bible is an important book for
Christians?

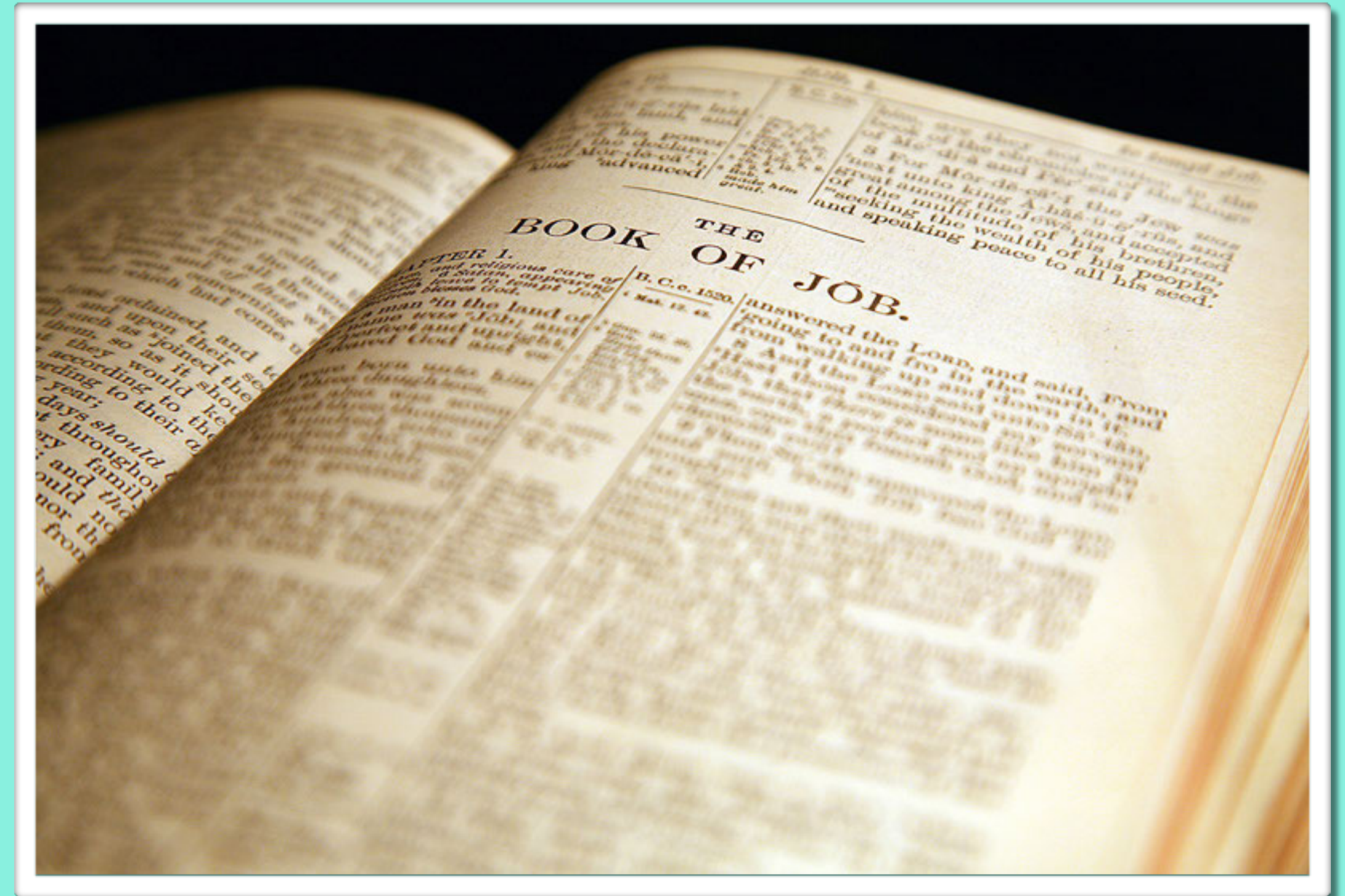


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The Bible is the holy book of Christianity. Christians believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that God chose people who had a great faith in Him to write down what He wanted to tell the world. The Bible tells the story of the world from the beginning of time and explains how God wants people behave and how much He loves the world and everyone in it.

Christians use the Bible to learn about God and Jesus, to receive guidance and to read about the amazing things God does.



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The story of Mary Jones

Mary Jones was born in Wales in 1784. Her father was a weaver who died when she was young, leaving Mary with her mother. Mary's family was poor and Mary had to spend all day doing chores at home. Sometimes she was able to go to school when she could be spared from her duties at home and by the time she was eight years old she was able to read.

Every Sunday, Mary would walk two miles with her family to the little chapel where she would listen to the priest read from the large, leather Bible. She loved the stories in the Bible and, more than anything in the world, she longed for her own Bible that she could read whenever she wanted. But Bibles were very expensive and her mother told her sadly that they couldn't afford one. There were too many other things they needed.

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However, Mary was determined to own her own Bible so she vowed to herself that she would save up for however long it took until she could buy her very own. She started to do extra jobs for other people and started to save her pennies in a special box.

Mary was true to her promise. It took her six long years but finally she had enough money for her own Bible. Her school teacher told her of a priest in the town of Bala (which was 25 miles away) who sold Bibles. Mary's mother tried to stop her daughter (who was 15 years old by now) from walking such a long way by herself but again Mary was determined. So she set off for Bala, clutching her hard-earned money in her pocket.

The walk was long and tiring but eventually Mary reached Bala. She asked a passer-by how to find Mr Charles, the priest. At last, with her limbs aching and her heart pounding, she knocked on the door of Mr Charles' house.

When the priest saw the exhausted girl standing on his step he immediately invited her in. Mary explained why she had travelled so far to see him.

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Mr Charles listened to Mary's story and was very moved by her faith in God and her love of the Bible but he told her sadly that all the Bibles he had were either sold or promised to someone else. Mary was so disappointed that she burst into tears there and then. Mr Charles felt sorry for her and realised how much Mary wanted her own Bible so he decided to give Mary one of the Bibles he had set aside for someone else.

Mary was thrilled to have at last bought her very own Bible. The next morning she left Mr Charles and made her way back home to be greeted excitedly by her family and neighbours who all wanted to see her new Bible.

For a long time, Mr Charles thought about the visit he had had from Mary Jones and wondered how many other people so desperately wanted a Bible but couldn't get hold of one. He decided to set up a special society so that anyone who wanted a Bible would be able to have one. The British and Foreign Bible Society still exists today to give people all around the world a Bible in their own language.

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The story of Mary Jones is a true story that has inspired people all over the world.



How does this story make you feel?

What would you be prepared to give your time and money for?

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