

symbol of Christianity is a fish. It is believed that Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 people by multiplying two fishes and five loaves of bread! He also asked his disciples to become "fishers of men." Other Bible stories tell of miracles that Jesus performed, like turning water into wine at a wedding and restoring sight to a blind man.

The Bible, the sacred book of Christianity, has two parts. The first part is the Jewish Bible, which is called the Old Testament by Christians. The second part is the New Testament, and it is made up of the writings of the early Christians. The New Testament contains the story of Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were four of Jesus' disciples, and they wrote the first four sections, or books, called Gospels. Gospel comes from an old English word meaning "good news." Christians believe that the Bible is the authority for living a good life.

Christians have holidays that celebrate events in Jesus' life. Christmas celebrates his birthday, while Easter celebrates his resurrection. Christians attend worship services in churches that are built in many different styles. Most groups of Christians have a minister or priest who gives talks during services. These sermons are based on the Bible. Christians also have special rituals called sacraments, like baptism and Holy Communion.

Today, there are at least 22,000 Christian groups. There are Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Quakers. Even within these big groups, there are small differences. For example, there are Russian and Greek Orthodox Christians. There are also thirteen other Orthodox groups. There are Baptist, Lutheran, and Anglican Protestants. Some Christians have quiet meetings, like the Quakers, while Catholics hold formal masses in beautiful cathedrals, and charismatic groups have noisy celebrations. However, Christians of all kinds believe that Jesus Christ was "the Light of the world."

What is Christianity?

Questions

1. Which of the following is the best synonym for "messiah?"
 - A. teacher
 - B. priest
 - C. leader
 - D. savior
2. Which is the holy book of Christianity?
 - A. the Koran
 - B. the Torah
 - C. the Sutras
 - D. the Bible
3. Which religion was Jesus raised in?
 - A. Catholicism
 - B. Judaism
 - C. Christianity
 - D. Islam
4. What is a parable?
 - A. a funny story
 - B. a story with a hidden meaning
 - C. a famous Roman quote
 - D. a true story