

Understanding Christianity: conceptual knowledge developmental overview

Concept: Kingdom of God

<u>Key Stage 1</u>	<u>Lower Key Stage 2</u>	<u>Upper Key Stage 2</u>
<u>NOT COVERED IN KS1</u>	<p>Christians believe that Jesus inaugurated the 'Kingdom of God' — i.e. Jesus' whole life was a demonstration of his belief that God is king, not just in heaven but here and now. ('Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven').</p> <p>Christians believe Jesus is still alive, and rules in their hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit, if they let him.</p> <p>Christians believe that after Jesus returned to be with God the Father, he sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to help the Church to make Jesus' invisible Kingdom visible by living lives that reflect the love of God. Staying connected to Jesus means that the fruit of the Spirit can grow in the lives of Christians.</p>	<p>Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of God. These suggest that God's rule has begun, through the life, teaching and example of Jesus, and subsequently through the lives of Christians who live in obedience to God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parables suggest that there will be a future kingdom, where God's reign will be complete. • Many Christians try to extend the Kingdom of God by challenging unjust social structures in their locality and in the world (for example, by practising forgiveness).