

## Key Stage 4

# Visions of Salvation (Beliefs and Teachings)

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Understand** Luther's argument that salvation is through "'faith", not works'.
- **Understand** the Protestant vision of salvation.

**At the end of this lesson students will be able to answer these questions:**

**What role does grace play in salvation?**

**Is a priest necessary to attain salvation in the Protestant Church?**

**What role does the Spirit play in salvation?**

### PRIOR LEARNING

This lesson starts with a brief recap of the concept of salvation and humanity's fallenness. The discussion will work well if students have already studied the Christian notions of salvation, atonement and Fall.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1: WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN CHRISTIANITY THAT HUMANS ARE FALLEN?

#### LESSON CONTENT

- a. Hand out pieces of the Genesis 3 story, the 'Fall from Grace' (p. 5). Ask groups to put them back together and summarise the story into three sections. Write the summary sentences into the storyboard at the bottom of the sheet and create three simple images.

What does the fruit offer to humans? Why has God forbidden its consumption? Discuss meanings.

- b. Display the two images on p. 6 on the board, or enlarged to A3 on every table. These are taken from RE Today's *The Bible: The Big Story* (2011).

**Alternatively**, find images you prefer online which evoke Christian beliefs in humanity's fallen state and the possibility of salvation. Try: 'Jesus saves' on a neon cross in New York: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvation\\_in\\_Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvation_in_Christianity) or Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights*.

- c. Write three words on the board: HOPE, GOD, HUMANS. Give groups a few minutes to find any aspect of the images denoting hope, any information about God and any information about humans. This is deliberately vague to allow students to think creatively. Give sticky notes to label aspects of the images denoting these three ideas. Listen to ideas.
- d. Now teach the class that these pieces of art reflect Christian beliefs: a) that humans are in a state of sin, or in a broken relationship with God, b) that there is hope of salvation in Christianity through God/Jesus. Pick up on any mentions of these beliefs previously offered by students. This sets the scene for the Christian hope of salvation, the topic of this lesson.

## 2: FAITH OR WORKS

### LESSON CONTENT

- a. The activity above establishes that Christianity sees humans as in a fallen state, and salvation as a possibility. Give groups two minutes to jot down all the ways they think Christians can attain salvation. Share a few.

Ask if students think Christians might disagree about the best way to make a journey to the same place. Teach that this is what caused Martin Luther, a sixteenth-century friar, to argue with the Church (in those days the Roman Catholic Church was the only church in Europe) around their understanding of salvation. In this process he not only articulated a new vision of salvation, but reformed Christianity and opened the doors to many new types of churches.

- b. Hand out 'Luther's Vision of Salvation' on p. 7, and read about Luther's objection to indulgences. Complete the side panel on p. 7 by defining 'indulgences' and noting Luther's objection to them.
- c. Give students time to read the three Bible passages and answer the short questions on p. 8. Draw students' attention to the **Ephesians 2** passage. How will Christians gain salvation? How will they not achieve salvation? (Salvation through 'faith', not through 'works'.)
- d. Focus on 'faith' and 'works', one of the major fault lines of the Reformation. Recap a definition of indulgences and Luther's objection to them. Luther argued, using passages such as Ephesians 2, that salvation was to be achieved through faith in God alone, not actions, or 'works'. Indulgences would be an example of works. Ask for an argument to support the idea that salvation can only be gained through faith, and an argument that salvation could be earned through works.
- e. Give groups two minutes to choose THREE words resulting from this discussion to write in the 'bangs' on p. 8.

### 3: SALVATION AFTER LUTHER

#### LESSON CONTENT

- a. Hand out the 'Visions of Salvation' squares on p. 9. If you don't want to make more copies, display the electronic version on the board. Ask the following questions. The class may choose two squares to answer the question. Do this verbally, asking for the two squares and the answer:
- Luther's opposition was the start of a new church; what is the name of the church Luther inspired?
  - Do Protestant churches believe in salvation?
  - What role does grace play in salvation, suggested by Luther?
  - Is a priest necessary to attain salvation in the Protestant Church, according to Luther?
  - What role might the Spirit play in salvation?

**Alternatively:** print (or write) each square onto A3 and place them around the floor or playground. Ask students in pairs to decide which two squares answer the question and stand on them. Each pair could take it in turns and explain to the class why they chose their squares to answer the question.

- b. Finally, finish this sentence in no more than 15 words:  
By faith or works, salvation is ...

# The Fall from Grace

## Story pieces (from Genesis 3:1-7)

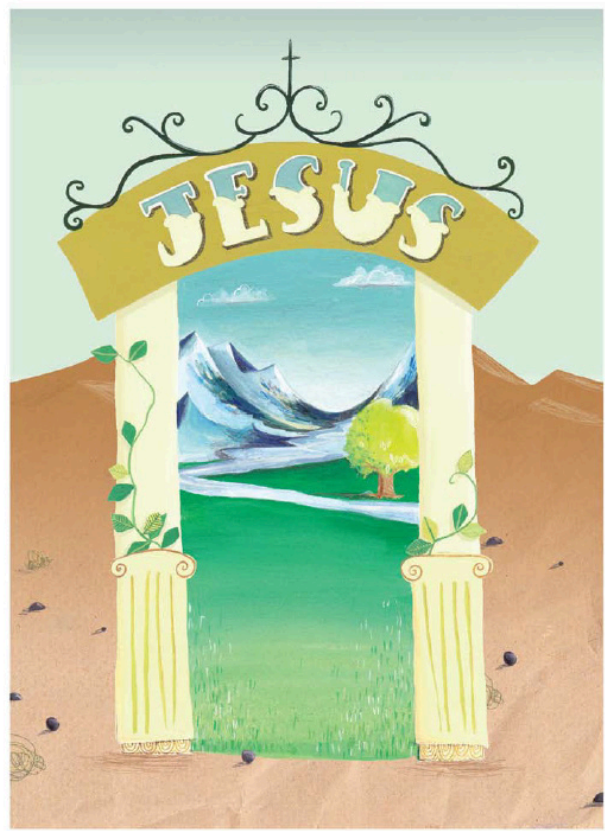
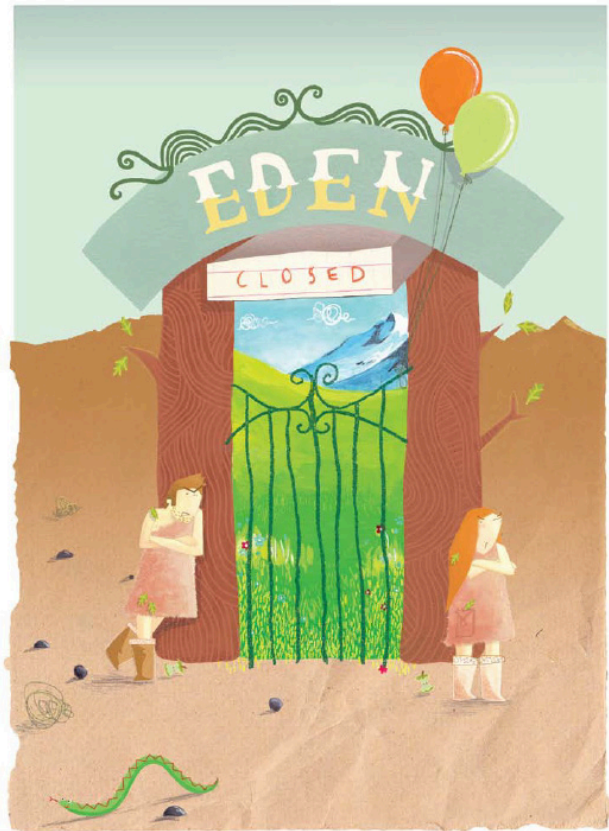
<p>The snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals God had made.</p>	<p>The snake said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’</p>	<p>The woman said to the snake, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden...’</p>
<p>The woman continued, ‘...but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”’</p>	<p>‘You will not certainly die,’ the snake said to the woman. ‘God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’</p>	<p>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.</p>
<p>She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.</p>	<p>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked.</p>	<p>So they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.</p>

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### Story board

Summarise the story into three parts, write summary sentences and create a simple image in the storyboard below:

Image 1	Image 2	Image 3
Text 1	Text 2	Text 3



*The Bible: The Big Story* by Stephen Pett, illustrations by Emma Bennett. Published by RE Today Services, 2011.

# Luther's Vision of Salvation

**1505:** A young German man called Martin Luther was caught in a thunderstorm. Terrified, he prayed, promising to devote his life to God if he is spared.

Two weeks later he joined a monastery and became a monk.

**1517:** Luther, now a friar teaching at the University of Wittenberg, pinned a notice on the church door to let people know about a lecture he was giving. This included negative comment on indulgences.

Priests would routinely accept 'indulgences' (money, prayers or good works in return for less time spent in purgatory after death).

Two years earlier the Church in Rome had begun building the great chapel of St Peter. Indulgences funded this expensive building work.

**1519:** Luther publically denounced indulgences. In the course of a public debate Luther argued that the Church could make mistakes, and the Pope was not, therefore, infallible.

**1520:** Luther would not retract his criticism of the Church and was excommunicated by Pope Leo X. He publically burnt the Papal Bull (letter) declaring his excommunication.

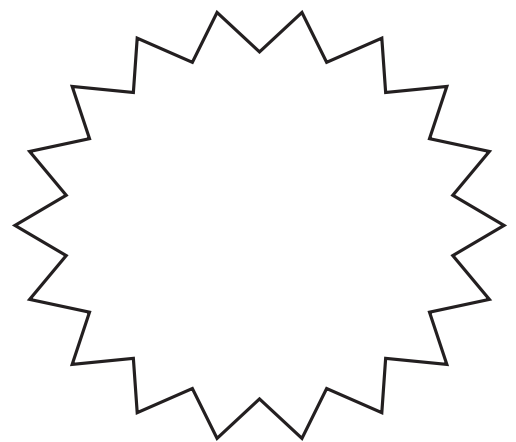
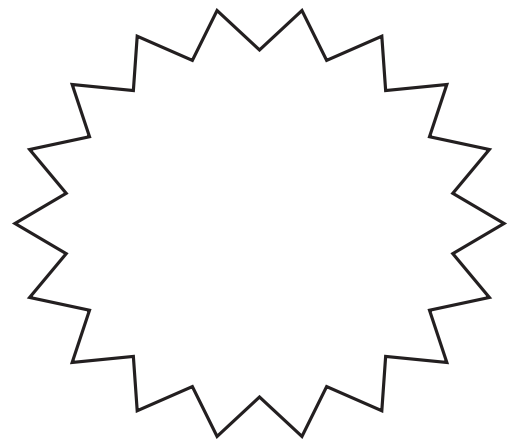
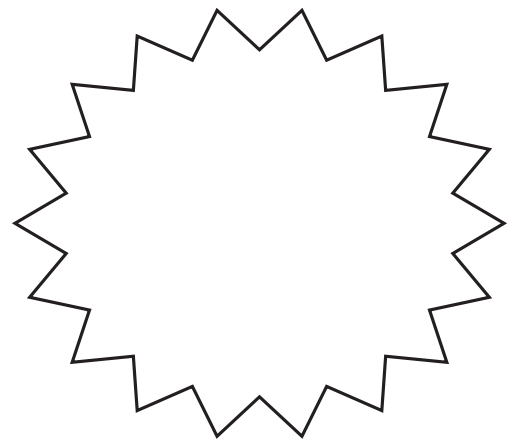
**Early 1520s:** Luther published pamphlets calling for Church reform. He translated the New Testament into German. His writing became hugely popular and was read all over Europe. He was seen as a celebrity and hero.

**Indulgences =**

**Why did Luther object to indulgences?**

# Biblical Inspiration

<p>1. In John 1, what will Jesus 'take away'?</p> <p>2. In Romans 2 what have 'all' humans done?</p>	<p>The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>John 1:29</b></p>
<p>3. 'Grace' means a gift given by God to humans. Underline the uses of 'grace' in Romans 2 and Ephesians 2.</p> <p>4. In Romans 1 what do humans receive through God's grace?</p>	<p>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Romans 3:23-24</b></p>
<p>5. In Ephesians 2 what do humans receive through God's grace?</p>	<p>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ephesians 2:8-9</b></p>



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# Visions of Salvation

<p>Luther taught that salvation is only earned through faith, informed directly by the Bible, and allowed by God’s grace.</p>	<p>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession ... 1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p>The first evangelical churches were inspired by John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church in the 1700s.</p>
<p>Evangelical churches hold that the central message of the Bible is the possibility of salvation through faith in Jesus.</p>	<p>‘Grace’ refers to the Christian sense that God reaches out to humans and offers them hope and a better life.</p>	<p>Protestant preachers speak to the congregation in words they understand to help them in their own faith journey.</p>
<p>Luther was declared a heretic. Some German princes supported his ideas and wrote a ‘letter of protestation’ to the Church in Rome.</p>	<p>All the churches subsequently inspired by Luther’s new vision are called Protestant. Today around 40% of churches are Protestant.</p>	<p>The Protestant churches hold that Christians can attain a connection with God themselves, without priestly mediation.</p>
<p>God in Christianity has three parts: Father, Son and Spirit. Protestants believe the Spirit is present to help strengthen their faith.</p>	<p>This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 1 Corinthians 4:1</p>	<p>Protestant churches call all Christians a ‘priesthood of believers’.</p>

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# Salvation in the Specs

<p><b>AQA</b> <b>Beliefs and teachings</b></p> <p>Beliefs and teachings about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God</li> <li>• the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension</li> <li>• sin, including original sin</li> <li>• the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit</li> <li>• the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement</li> </ul>	<p><b>WJEC</b> <b>Beliefs and teachings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law: Word of God, inspiration and revelation, differing ways of interpreting biblical writings, the Bible in relation to other sources of authority.</li> <li>• Sin as preventing salvation.</li> <li>• Grace and the Spirit: Acts 2:1-6. The role of Spirit in Evangelical worship.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Edexcel A &amp; B</b></p> <p>The nature and significance of salvation and the role of Christ within salvation: law, sin, grace and Spirit, the role of Christ in salvation, including John 3:10-21 and Acts 4:8-12; the nature and significance of atonement within Christianity and its link to salvation.</p>
<p><b>OCR</b> <b>Beliefs and teachings</b></p> <p>The meaning of the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvation – restoring the relationship between God and mankind.</li> <li>• Atonement – God in Christ reconciles the world to himself.</li> <li>• Law – its function to identify sin by laying down commandments.</li> <li>• Sin – Pauline views: all have sinned and fallen short of the mark.</li> <li>• Grace – God’s redemptive love to save sinners.</li> <li>• Spirit – The Holy Spirit.</li> <li>• The role of Christ in salvation: the sacrifice of Christ – paying the ransom to God for the sins of the world.</li> </ul> <p>Issues related to salvation: the belief in forgiveness and repentance for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of atonement for Christians.</li> <li>• Common and divergent Christian beliefs about the need for salvation.</li> <li>• Common and divergent Christian beliefs about the role of Jesus Christ in salvation.</li> <li>• Different interpretations and emphases given by different Christian denominations.</li> </ul>		<p><b>OCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis 3:1-7</li> <li>• Nicene Creed</li> <li>• Romans 3:23</li> <li>• Romans 6:23</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians</li> <li>• Ephesians 2:8-9</li> <li>• Romans 3:24</li> <li>• Apostles’ Creed</li> </ul>