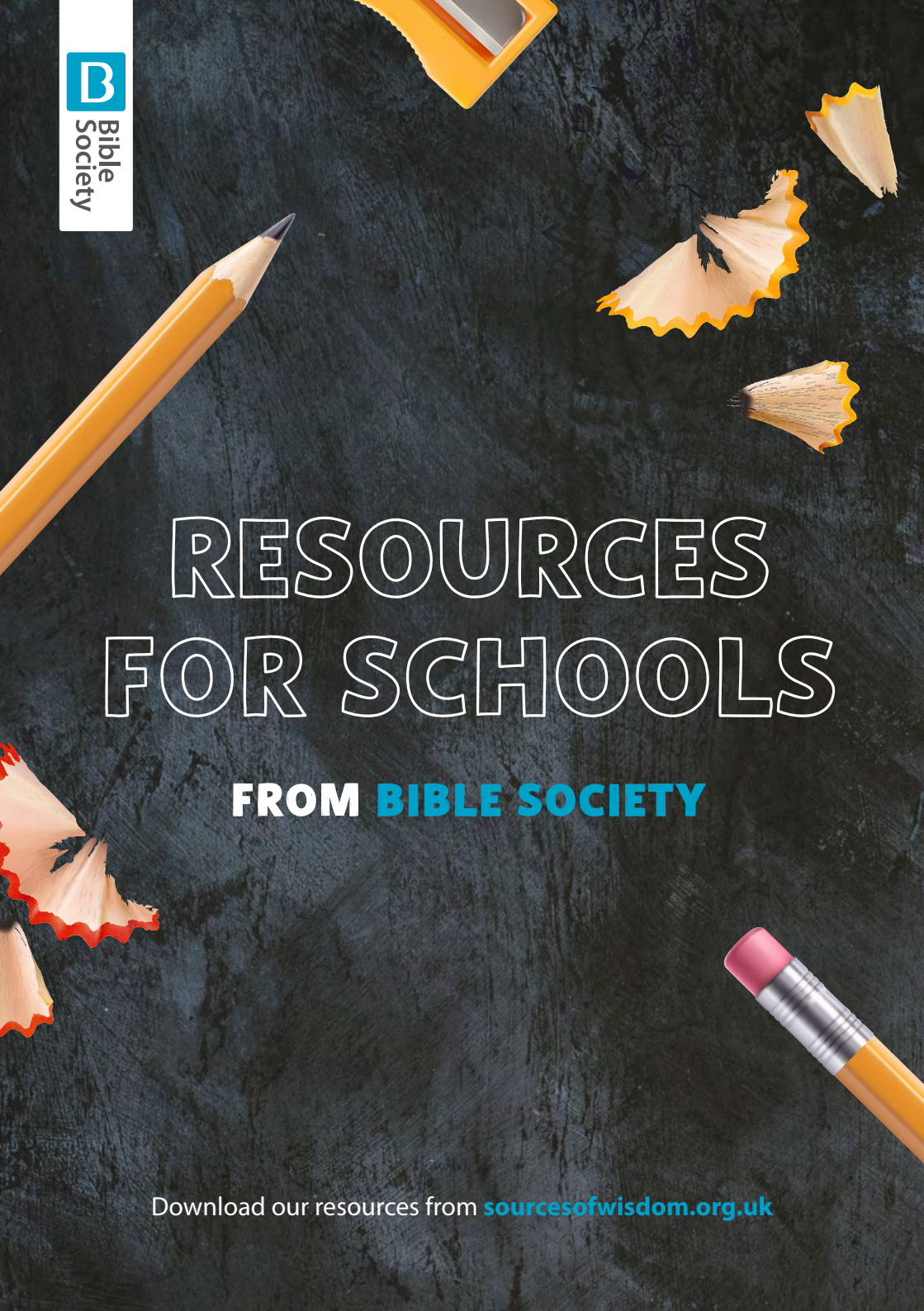




Bible
Society



RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

FROM **BIBLE SOCIETY**

Download our resources from sourcesofwisdom.org.uk

KS3 Religious Education resources

Develop your students' biblical literacy while they study Christian responses to the big questions around topics like the environment, suffering and poverty. Each resource is available using two different Bible translations, the CEV and the NRSV, so that you can choose the version which is more suitable for your students. For most of the themes the same content is available as a PowerPoint and as a printable pdf.

- » The Environment and Stewardship
- » War and Peace
- » Suffering
- » Wealth and Poverty
- » Parables
- » Interfaith Dialogue
- » Sources of Authority
- » Morality and Ethics
- » Persecution
- » Miracles

Bible Society WAR AND PEACE

The issues of war and peace can cause important questions for Christians. Can war ever be right? What do the Bible and Christian tradition teach about how to respond to conflict?

Working in pairs or small groups, discuss how a war might affect:

- A country
- A family
- An individual

Who could use the pictures below as a focus for your discussion?

Make a list of the effects you can think of. Which one would affect people during the war, and which would still have effects after the war was over?

Which has the worst consequences of all? Remember to think about the effects of wars on those who fight in them, as well as on the innocent victims of war.

To help them consider the morality of war, Christians may look to the teachings of their Church and its leaders, and they will also use their own consciences. They also believe that the Bible helps them to understand how they might to make decisions about war and peace in their own lives.

The Bible has a lot to say about war and peace. The Bible is a collection of books which were compiled over 1,000 years by about 40 different authors, so there are many different attitudes to war and peace written in its pages, reflecting changes during the time it was written and by different authors.

Bible Society WEALTH AND POVERTY

1 in 9 people in the world regularly go hungry.
1 in 9 people in the world don't have clean water to drink.
2% of the wealth in the UK is possessed by the richest 1% of people!
Each night, about 4,100 people sleep rough in England!

How might having wealth and being in poverty affect people's lives? Working in pairs or small groups, discuss how the lives of rich and poor people might be different in your following ways. Choose at least three from the list to talk about.

- What sort of house they live in
- What sort of education they have
- The work they do
- Their access to technology
- How good their diet is
- Their access to water
- How safe they are
- Vulnerability to corruption or injustice

Which of these do you think can be problems in the developed world as well as in the developing world?

In which of them do you think there is the greatest inequality difference between the wealthy people and poor people?

Bible Society MORALITY AND ETHICS

How can we know right from wrong? Is there always a clear difference between what is right and what is wrong? Where do we get our sense of right and wrong from? Information that might influence our sense of right and wrong:

- What you think are the most important influences on your own sense of right and wrong? What are the least important? Give reasons for your own sense of right and wrong for each side of the question.

Knowing what is the right thing to do in any given situation isn't always easy. Christianity is a religion in which beliefs are encouraged to be based on and used as a guide for behaviour, so questions of morality and ethics are very important for Christians.

Christians believe that the Bible can help them to understand how they might to make decisions about right and wrong in their own lives today. They believe it can help to do this in several ways:

Should we follow the rules or trust our good intentions?

One of the key questions about morality is whether it should be about following rules or about having good intentions for our actions.

- Absolute morality is the belief that our actions, and that those rules should never be broken.
- Relative morality is the belief that we can choose what is right and wrong, based on the situation. Some people talk about the idea of 'situation ethics'.

Clearly related to relative morality is 'situational ethics', which is named after a book by the philosopher James Fletcher. He argued that following the way of love should take priority over following the rules.

Bible Society THE ENVIRONMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

How do people misuse planet earth?

Working in pairs or small groups, discuss the ways in which people can misuse planet earth. Use the following suggestions and the pictures above to help you.

- Think about what we do with our rubbish.
- Think about how we get from one place to another, especially if it is a long distance.

How do our actions affect our relationships, our phones and our environment?

- Bad effects on animals
- Bad effects on plants

Which of the mistakes you have identified are the most serious?

How might these cause problems for people, animals and plants? Discuss your ideas in your groups. You could use a table like this to help you.

Download for free at sourcesofwisdom.org.uk

Sources of Wisdom GCSE resources

Student workbooks for GCSE Religious Studies (9-1). Each booklet includes a selection of Bible passages that have been chosen to complement the Christianity components of one of the GCSE specifications. Definitions of key terms and engaging tasks help the students to understand how the Bible informs Christian beliefs and concepts, and equip them with the biblical knowledge they need for their RS exams.

Available for:

AQA, Edexcel A, Eduqas, OCR and WJEC Christianity; AQA, Edexcel A and Eduqas Catholic Christianity; AQA, Edexcel, Eduqas and OCR Philosophy and Ethics.

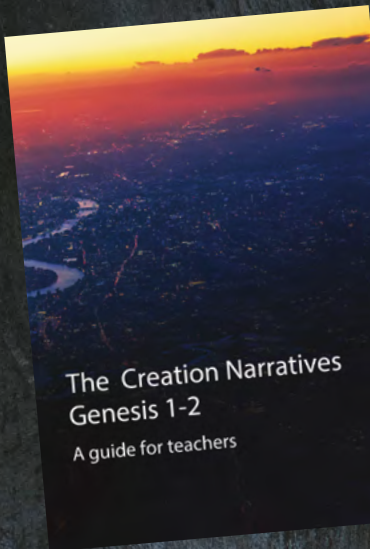
'Does an excellent job of engaging students with, and deepening their knowledge of, the relevant biblical sources for their GCSE studies.'



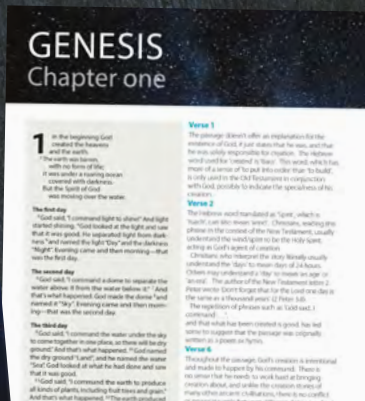
Teachers Guides

Clear explanation of the key areas, insights into the passages and connections between passages and Christian teachings and concepts, including different interpretations. All that you'll need to know about key Bible passages in under 15 minutes' reading.

- » The Big Story of the Bible
- » The Creation Narratives
- » The Good Samaritan
- » The Gospels
- » The Book of Job



The Creation Narratives
Genesis 1-2
A guide for teachers



1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was moving over the water.

The first day
"God said, 'I command light to appear' and light started shining. 'God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated the light from the darkness' and named the light 'Day' and the darkness 'Night.' Evening came and then morning—that was the first day.

The second day
"God said, 'I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it.' And that's what happened: God made the dome, he'd named it 'Sky.' Evening came and then morning—that was the second day.

The third day
"God said, 'I command the water under the sky to come together to one place, so there will be dry ground.' And that's what happened. 'God named the dry ground 'land' and he named the water 'Sea.' God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good.

"God said, 'I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grass.' And that's what happened. 'The earth produced all kinds of vegetation, fruit trees and all the rest, and it was good.' 'Evening came and then morning—that was the third day.

Verse 1
The passage doesn't offer an explanation for the existence of God, it just states that he was, and that he was solely responsible for creation. The Hebrew word used for 'created' is 'Bara'. This word, which has more of a sense of 'put into order than to build', is only used in the Old Testament in conjunction with God, possibly to indicate the uniqueness of his creation.

Verse 2
The Hebrew word translated as 'light', which is 'Or', is an old Hebrew word. 'Creative, meaning the phrase in the context of the New Testament, usually understood to mean light to be the very light being in God's spirit of creation. Christians who interpret the story literally usually understand the 'light' to mean day 1 of 6 hours. Others may understand it 'to mean an age or aeon'. The author of the New Testament states: 'Please note I don't forget that for the Lord a day is the same as a thousand years of time (Job 1:13). The regulation of phrases such as 'light and I command' and that which has been created is good, has led some to suggest that the passage was originally written in a poetic or hymnic form.

Verse 4
Throughout the passage God's creation is intentional and made to support by his command. There is no sense that the earth is a result of a long, chaotic process, and unlike the creation stories of many other ancient civilisations, there is no conflict of power or struggle between different deities or gods. Some Bible scholars think that as the creation accounts in Genesis that the fact that we are created by the Son of God, not just by the Father, is clearly in a lot of trouble.



The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37
A guide for teachers

Characters in the story

In the boxes below, write down what you know about each character in the passage of the Good Samaritan. You can use the notes on the right to help you.

Characters in the story:
 - The Samaritan: A Samaritan who helps the injured man.
 - The Priest: A priest who passes by without stopping.
 - The Levite: A Levite who passes by without stopping.
 - The Samaritan: A Samaritan who helps the injured man.

Good News Bible – Youth Edition

This interactive youth Bible for young people has been created in partnership with Youth for Christ. Go deeper into the Good News Bible text with hundreds of elements encouraging space for writing, doodling and drawing.



Key features:

- » Links to a dedicated YouTube playlist with 30 videos unpacking and offering support on key themes and issues found in the Bible
- » Hundreds of interactive elements throughout the Bible to encourage a deeper engagement with the text
- » Space for writing, doodling and drawing
- » A full-page introduction to each book of the Bible, showing what it's all about and how it fits into a bigger story
- » 32 colour pages of key things to know about the Bible, help with tough topics, and journaling space



Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/GNByouth

Good News Bible – Family Edition

A Bible designed for a family to engage with together.

Key features:

- » Removable and reusable 'whiteboard' jacket, for writing, drawing and being creative
- » Unique landscape page layout that encourages family engagement around the Bible
- » Over 400 interactions throughout, based on the themes of Think, Chat, Do, Create and Watch
- » Loads of space inside for writing, doodling and drawing
- » 26 online videos that help guide, support and unpack the tricky bits as you journey through the Bible
- » An online community of Family Bible users, where you can share ideas, stories and offer each other support
- » Regular new content that can be downloaded or printed for free, with content based on feedback and suggestions from active users of the Bible



Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/GNBfamily

Open the Book

Find out more about how your school could benefit from having a team of volunteers share Open the Book in your school. Open the Book (OtB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship. Each presentation takes around 10–15 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or can stand alone.



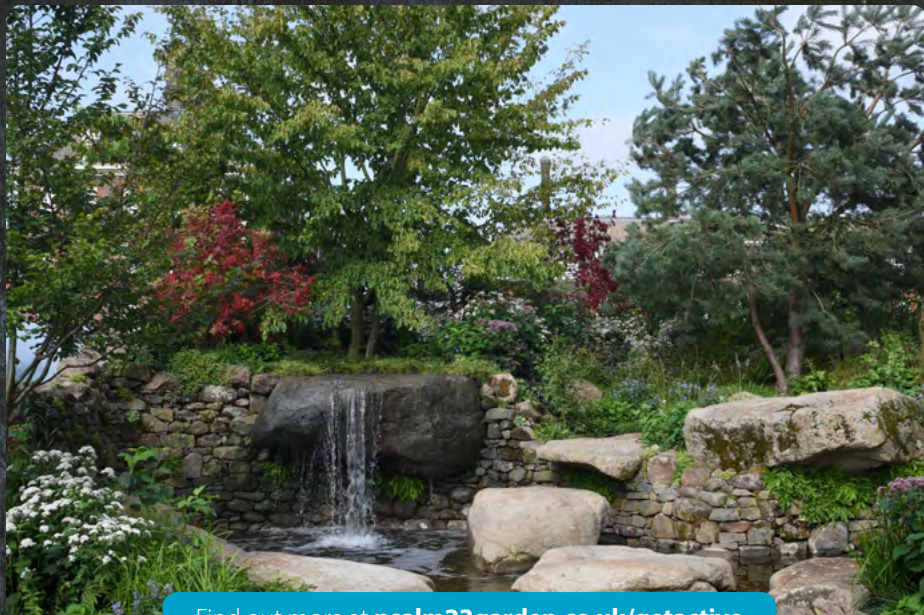
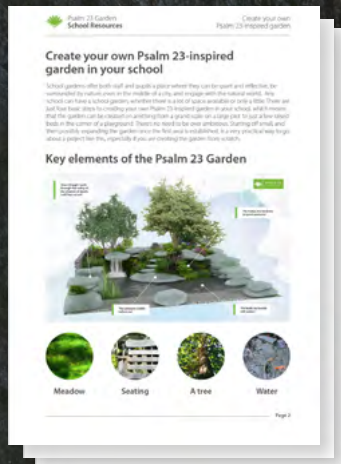
Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook

Psalm 23 Garden – school resources

Did you see the Psalm 23 garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show?

To help schools to create a Psalm 23 garden of their own, or to give new life to an existing garden, free videos and downloadable resources are available:

- » A gardening guide, which sets out how to create a Psalm 23 garden on any scale, from a just a couple of planters to a larger space
- » An assembly in which children can learn more about Psalm 23 and reflect on what it means for them
- » Some resources for lessons about Psalm 23 and gardens in the Bible
- » An opportunity to obtain some free trees from the Woodland Trust to get the garden started



Find out more at psalm23garden.co.uk/getactive

This booklet was designed using resources from Unsplash.com and Freepik.com.
Psalm 23 garden photography by Clare Kendall
Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG
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