

## 7.1

### IS EVERY WORD IN THE BIBLE LITERALLY TRUE?

When Christians read the Bible some of them believe that every word is true. Others think that the words in the Bible are being used to explain ideas. We don't have to believe every word literally. The writers describe events in a way that everyone can remember the important facts. For example, the Bible tells us **WHY** God created the world, but it does not tell us **HOW** he created it.

Sometimes writers use **METAPHORS** to explain ideas. A metaphor is when something is compared to something else. Your teacher might say "You are a star." You both know that you are not **REALLY** a star but the teacher thinks you are like a star (bright).

When reading the Bible it is very helpful to understand **METAPHOR** because the writers use lots of them. The great thing about metaphors is that they make us think deeply. For example, in Christianity, Jesus is called **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. This doesn't mean that he **IS** a light. It means he is like a light in many ways. Think about these questions.

#### Activities

1. What does the word **LIGHT** make you think about? Make a brainstorm with light in the middle and then all around it put every other word you can think of to do with light. How many did you get?
2. Why does comparing Jesus to light tell us many things about him ?
3. Imagine that somebody told you "You are an angel" What do they mean?
4. Can you think of another metaphor of your own?
5. Look at the pictures below. How would you explain what they mean to a Year 6 pupil?



Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd' John 10:14

