

Worship: for Christians today

Day of Rest

- By trying to keep Sunday as a special day in their lives, Christians are firstly honouring the day Jesus rose from the dead.
- They are also fulfilling the requirements of the Ten Commandments to keep the Sabbath holy.
- In addition, they are recognising the importance of keeping at least one day special to foster love within families and friendships.

Eucharist

- The worship of most Christians includes a sacred meal that recalls the events of the Last Supper.
- There are several different names used for this meal. 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek for 'give thanks'. 'Mass' is the term used most often to refer to the Catholic service. 'Holy Communion' is often used by the Church of England. This term focuses on the community nature of the service.
- For Catholics, the risen Lord is made really present at the words of consecration. For other Christians when they celebrate their Eucharist, the bread and wine are symbols of the Jesus' self-offering.



Baptism

- Baptism is the way that Christians welcome new members into their community. You are expected to know the some Christians (for example, Roman Catholics) have a practice of baptising babies. Water is poured on the head of the child. The parents and the community undertake to teach the child about God throughout childhood.
- Other Christian groups (for example, Baptists) believe that a child cannot make such a decision. They think it is better that a person decides for himself or herself about baptism when they are older. The ceremony of baptism is also differed. Known as "Believer's Baptism" the person is fully immersed in a pool of water in the same way that Jesus was fully immersed in the River Jordan.



- 1 Some statements for evaluation. Use the pointers and your own ideas to construct well-rounded arguments, showing that you have thought about a number of views.

a) To keep Sunday special all shops should be shut on Sundays.

for the statement

- Clearly following the commandments
- A public witness to the importance of the resurrection of Jesus
- Reminds all people of the need to pray
- Gives everyone the chance to have at least one day for rest
- Helps remind people that they should work to live, not live to work
- ...

against the statement

- Not everybody believes in Christ. Why should Christians dictate what all people do?
- We do not want to get to the extremes of the Pharisees. People can organise their time to worship God and shop if required.
- Some people have to work on Sundays
- Perhaps Easter Sunday should be special, but not every Sunday
- ...

b) Celebrations of the Eucharist are outdated and irrelevant for Christians today.

for the statement

- There are so many different Christian groups that it is impossible truly to show unity
- Prayer on its own should be sufficient for Christians
- It is difficult to understand how Jesus could truly be present in the form of bread and wine.
- Faith in Jesus is what is essential
- The Eucharist is linked with the idea of the 'sacrifice' of Jesus, something people find difficult to understand
- ...

against the statement

- Christ changed the meaning of the bread and wine in order that his followers would remember what he did for them
- Sacred meals are used in many religions because they help the believers to understand their faith
- The Eucharist has been the central worship of Christians for 2000 years, no matter what the culture
- The Church could do nothing greater than make Jesus present in this world
- ...