



Ministry of Education
and Sports

HOME-STUDY LEARNING

SENIOR
1

C. R. E

August 2020





Published 2020

This material has been developed as a home-study intervention for schools during the lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to support continuity of learning.

Therefore, this material is restricted from being reproduced for any commercial gains.

National Curriculum Development Centre
P.O. Box 7002,
Kampala- Uganda
www.ncdc.go.ug

FOREWORD

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, government of Uganda closed all schools and other educational institutions to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. This has affected more than 36,314 primary schools, 3129 secondary schools, 430,778 teachers and 12,777,390 learners.

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent closure of all has had drastically impacted on learning especially curriculum coverage, loss of interest in education and learner readiness in case schools open. This could result in massive rates of learner dropouts due to unwanted pregnancies and lack of school fees among others.

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the education system in Uganda, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) constituted a Sector Response Taskforce (SRT) to strengthen the sector's preparedness and response measures. The SRT and National Curriculum Development Centre developed print home-study materials, radio and television scripts for some selected subjects for all learners from Pre-Primary to Advanced Level. The materials will enhance continued learning and learning for progression during this period of the lockdown, and will still be relevant when schools resume.

The materials focused on critical competences in all subjects in the curricula to enable the learners to achieve without the teachers' guidance. Therefore effort should be made for all learners to access and use these materials during the lockdown. Similarly, teachers are advised to get these materials in order to plan appropriately for further learning when schools resume, while parents/guardians need to ensure that their children access copies of these materials and use them appropriately. I recognise the effort of National Curriculum Development Centre in responding to this emergency through appropriate guidance and the timely development of these home study materials. I recommend them for use by all learners during the lockdown.



Alex Kakooza
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education and Sports

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) would like to express its appreciation to all those who worked tirelessly towards the production of home-study materials for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Levels of Education during the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda.

The Centre appreciates the contribution from all those who guided the development of these materials to make sure they are of quality; Development partners - SESIL, Save the Children and UNICEF; all the Panel members of the various subjects; sister institutions - UNEB and DES for their valuable contributions.

NCDC takes the responsibility for any shortcomings that might be identified in this publication and welcomes suggestions for improvement. The comments and suggestions may be communicated to NCDC through P.O. Box 7002 Kampala or email admin@ncdc.go.ug or by visiting our website at <http://ncdc.go.ug/node/13>.



Grace K. Baguma
Director,
National Curriculum Development Centre

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

Dear learner, you are welcome to this home-study package. This content focuses on critical competences in the syllabus.

The content is organised into lesson units. Each unit has lesson activities, summary notes and assessment activities. Some lessons have projects that you need to carry out at home during this period. You are free to use other reference materials to get more information for specific topics.

Seek guidance from people at home who are knowledgeable to clarify in case of a challenge. The knowledge you can acquire from this content can be supplemented with other learning options that may be offered on radio, television, newspaper learning programmes. More learning materials can also be accessed by visiting our website at www.ncdc.go.ug or ncdc-go-ug.digital/. You can access the website using an internet enabled computer or mobile phone.

We encourage you to present your work to your class teacher when schools resume so that your teacher is able to know what you learned during the time you have been away from school. This will form part of your assessment. Your teacher will also assess the assignments you will have done and do corrections where you might not have done it right.

The content has been developed with full awareness of the home learning environment without direct supervision of the teacher. The methods, examples and activities used in the materials have been carefully selected to facilitate continuity of learning.

You are therefore in charge of your own learning. You need to give yourself favourable time for learning. This material can as well be used beyond the home-study situation. Keep it for reference anytime.

Develop your learning timetable to cater for continuity of learning and other responsibilities given to you at home.

Enjoy learning



CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SENIOR ONE

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED FOR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LESSONS

- Pencil
- Pen
- A book for lesson work
- A Bible

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LESSONS

- Take the lesson activities seriously;
- Do all the activities assigned in this lesson today;
- Read and understand the brief explanations in this lesson;
- In case something is not clear, ask parents and other people around you.

Keywords

- **intermediary:** a person who acts as a link between people in order to try and bring about an agreement; a mediator;
- **possess or being possessed:** being under control of a human body by spirits, aliens, demons or gods. The concept of spirit possession exists in many religions, including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and the African traditional religions;
- **commitment:** being dedicated or devoted to a cause or activity.
- **significance:** being of great importance;
- **circumcision:** the action or practice of circumcising a girl or young woman; for the men, it is the cutting off of the foreskin of a penis, for women, it is cutting off the clitoris;
- **covenant:** making a formal agreement, contract, or promise in writing.
- **commemorate:** recall and show respect for someone or something; for example, in Christianity, there are many things we commemorate, such as the birth of Jesus on Christmas and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter;
- **ritual:** a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order;
- **sacred:** something connected with God or a god or dedicated to a religious

- purpose. and so deserving
- **ceremony:** a formal religious or public occasion, especially one celebrating a particular event, achievement or anniversary;
 - **celebration:** a social gathering or enjoyable activity held to celebrate something; make a party for something such as a birthday;
 - **anointing:** smear or rub with oil, typically as part of a religious ceremony;
 - **grace:** (in Christian belief): the free and undeserved favour of God, as shown in the salvation of sinners and confer of blessings;
 - **Holy Communion:** the service of Christian worship at which bread and wine are consecrated and shared as the body and blood of Jesus;
 - **Confirmation:** (in the Christian Church) the rite at which a baptized person, especially one baptized as an infant, affirms Christian belief and is welcomed as a full member of the Church;
 - **Sacrament:** (in the Christian Church) a religious ceremony or ritual regarded as imparting divine grace, such as baptism, the Eucharist and (in the Roman Catholic and many Orthodox Churches) penance and the anointing of the sick;
 - **Holy Eucharist:** A Christian sacrament commemorating the Last Supper by consecrating bread and wine;
 - **Ordination:** is the process by which individuals are consecrated; that is, set apart and elevated from the laity class to the clergy, who are then authorized to perform various religious rites and ceremonies;
 - **consecration:** (in Christian belief) declare (bread and wine) to be or represent the body and blood of Christ;
 - **sacrilege:** violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred.

TERM ONE**LESSON 1: THE MEANING OF WORSHIP****Learning outcomes**

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Tell the meaning of the word worship;
- ii) Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of worship to a Christian;
- iii) Demonstrate knowledge that worshipping God creates a good relationship between a Christian and God; and
- iv) Learn to communicate with God.

Introduction

Did you know that worship is an old practice worldwide? For a long time, humans in all societies have believed that there is a supreme being. They believe that this Supreme Being is the creator of all that exists in the world and beyond. The Supreme Being is ageless, spiritual and invisible. This being is God. Humans love and respect God. They believe that God sees, knows, is everywhere and hears everything humans engage in. They also believe that God has always been there and lives forever. Humans, therefore, worship God. They worship God in different ways.

Look at the pictures, 1-4. Identify the forms of worship presented

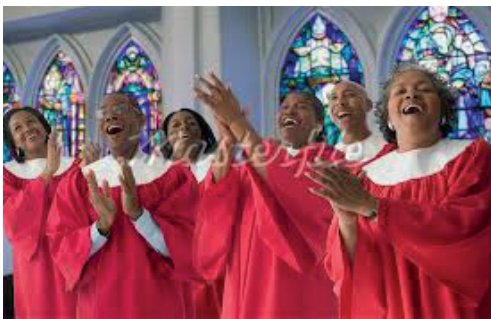


Fig 1



Fig 2

**Fig 3****Fig 4**

What is the meaning of worship?

The word worship means the feeling or expression of respect and adoration of a supreme being. Humans love and respect God. Worship is the way humankind communicates with God. In the Christian church, Christians pray to God through Jesus Christ his only son, and the Holy Spirit. In Christianity, there are various forms of worship that include prayer, fasting, offertory, meditation, singing and dancing, fellowship, scripture reading, wearing religious objects and pilgrimage. All these forms of worship can be done at both individual and congressional level.

In Christian homes, family members are supposed to converge and worship in the morning, evening and every other time before starting a journey, eating food and even after food. In some Christian churches, especially in the Roman Catholic Church, Christians wear religious objects such as rosaries, crosses and medals around their necks. Making a sign of the cross is also a form of worship. Chanting or even mere mentioning a religious word is considered as worshipping.

Importance of worshipping God

Worship is an essential part of a Christian's faith. Christians worship God to thank him for his love, ask for forgiveness for their sins and try to understand his will for them. Public worship with other Christians usually takes place in churches, chapels or cathedrals.

There are many forms of worship but we shall take a case study of prayer as worship.

Prayer:

Christians pray for different reasons. Many times people feel a deep push within them to pray.

Jane a Primary 7 candidate, who used to stay away from prayers at school. She also used to play during evening prayers. During third term towards the Primary Leaving Examinations, Jane became a very good Christian; she started attending all early morning lessons. During break and lunch time, she would hide herself in one corner of the class and pray. Jane had a small piece of paper; even after evening prayers, she would open the piece of paper and read it with utmost calmness.

I discovered that the paper had the following words:

Dear Lord, please clear my mind and help me to remember all I need to know for exams. Forgive me for all I have done wrong and please be with me to guide me, assist me, and to keep me calm while taking the exam. Please help me that everything just comes to me just how I studied it. Please walk with me and be with me today in Jesus' name...Amen

Activity

- (i) Why do you think Jane stayed away from prayers?
- (ii) Why then did she eventually change?
- (iii) What was Jane's prayer about?

There are different types of prayers, including:

(i) Petition prayer: A petition prayer is a request to God that asks him to fulfil a specific need. The prayer of petition is at its heart an Act of Faith in that the one praying must believe first, in the existence of God; and second, that God is both willing and able to grant the petition.

(ii) Praise prayer: Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It glorifies God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what He does, but simply because He is.

(iii) Intercession: Intercession is prayer that pleads with God for your needs and the needs of others. But it is also much more than that. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will.

(iv) Thanksgiving: A prayer that thanks God for all the good things He has done in one's life.

(v) Confession: In its simplest terms, confession prayer is the acknowledgement of our sin, or the affirmation of God's truth, or both. It is a prayer of being remorseful and a promise never to sin again. In Christianity, it is believed that God is all forgiving.

Activity: Open your Bible and carefully read Psalm 23. In your notebook, point out the main issues of '*Psalm 23*'.

Summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- that worship is the feeling or expression of respect and adoration of God; a way Christians communicate with God
- that after worship, Christians feel good and get relief. Worship gives satisfaction to Christians;

- the different reasons for worshipping and prayer including petition, praise, intercession, thanksgiving and confession;

LESSON 2: Other Forms of Worship

Learning outcomes

By the end of the lesson you should be able to:

- demonstrate that you know that communicating to God is important in our lives;
- prove that you understand the different ways of communicating to God;

Opening Activity

Recall the different things that Christians engage in when you go to your church either on Sunday or Sabbath day.

Introduction

Christians worship God in different ways – congregationally, individually; some shout loudly, others worship quietly. Generally, the forms of worship are in the following ways:

- Prayer:** This is direct communication with God, usually with a formal order of prayers. When a Christian is praying, it is sensible to be humble and focused.
- Fasting:** Fasting is a practice among Christians and is done either collectively during certain seasons or individually, as a believer feels led by the Holy Spirit. Many Christians also fast when they are asking God for favour to be successful in their endeavours. In the Bible, Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights to reflect on what His Father had called Him to do (Matthew 4:1-17; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-14). Fasting is an outstanding form of worship and Christians are invited to fast for several reasons:
 - Reflect on what God wants them to do;
 - To seek God’s wisdom. Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted for the elders of the churches before committing them to the Lord for His service (Acts 14:23);
 - To seek deliverance or protection. Ezra declared a corporate fast and prayed for a safe journey for the Israelites as they made the 900-mile trek to Jerusalem from Babylon (Ezra 8:21-23);
 - To repent. After Jonah pronounced judgment against the city of Nineveh, the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in the dust. He then ordered the people to fast and pray. Jonah 3:10 says, “When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened.”

- To gain victory. After losing 40,000 men in battle in two days, the Israelites cried out to God for help. Judges 20:26 says all the people went up to Bethel and “sat weeping before the Lord.” They also “fasted that day until evening.” The next day the Lord gave them victory over the Benjamites.
- (iii) **Offertory:** In Christian churches, offering to God is an act of worship. Usually offertory is collected during the service or mass.
 - (iv) **Tithing:** In Christian churches, tithing is the spiritual practice of giving back to God the first 10% of all that we earn. Tithing is obligatory to all Christians. Through tithing, Christians give back to God, who provides to us abundantly.
 - (v) **Meditation:** Christian meditation is a form of worship and prayer. A Christian reflects upon spiritual issues, seeking to be in the presence of God and to be inspired spiritually. Some Christians meditate after reading biblical texts; seeking to understand what God wants them to do in their lives.
 - (vi) **Singing and dancing:** Christians sing songs of praise and worship and dance to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All Christians sing in church and anywhere worship takes place. However, the issue of dancing is only done by some Christian sects but others do not accept it.
 - (vii) **Pilgrimage:** Pilgrimage is very important in some religious traditions. Christians believe pilgrimage can help them develop spiritually and bring them closer to God.
 - (viii) **Fellowships:** Coming together for Christian fellowship expresses the idea of being together for mutual benefit, and express love to one another. It also encourages good works (Hebrews 10:24-25 and John 13:35).
 - (ix) **Scripture reading:** To Christians, reading is like bringing solid food to the mouth; meditation is the chewing of it, while prayer is the trusting of it; and, in contemplation, we take delight in the sweetness we have found.
 - (x) **Charity:** To be a Christian is to be obligated to be charitable. This is because charity is “not just a good deed but a declaration of belief about the world and the God who created it. Charity must be at the heart of what it means to be a Christian, because charity is the very heart of God.

Activity: Find a Bible, identify the given verses and complete the table by giving the Christian teaching on worship.

Biblical verse	Christian teaching
Ezekiel 43:27	
Genesis. 4:21	
II Chronicles 5:12-13	

I Samuel 16:17	
Psalms 47:1-9; 33:1-22	
2 Samuel 1:12	
Daniel 10:3; 9:3-5	
Isaiah 58:3-7	
Psalms 69:10; 35:12-14	
Exodus 34:28	
Esther 1:6	
Hebrews 13:15-16; Philippians 4:18	
Romans 12:1-2	
Philippians 4:18	
Acts 13:2	
Luke 2:37	
Matthew 6:16-18	

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- that communicating to God is important in our lives;
- the different ways of communicating to God;

LESSON 3: Worship in African Traditional Religion

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding that before the coming of Christian missionaries to Africa, Africans had their own ways of worshipping;
- Show that you know some of the ways of worship in African traditional societies;
- Demonstrate appreciation of the fact that before the coming of Christianity, Africans had developed systems of beliefs and practices;
- Know what looks similar between worshipping in African Traditional Religion

and worshiping in Christianity and

- v) Know the differences between worship in African Traditional Religion and worship in Christianity.

Activity: 1 List down five names that show that Africans had an idea of God before the coming of Christianity.

Introduction

Before the coming of Christian missionaries to Africa, the natives had religious beliefs and practices. Africans were already religious. They worshipped and prayed to the almighty God through deities. In many African communities, there were no calendars to fix days and dates for congregational worship. Congregational worship was done when there was a specific need to petition God. Later on, after harvesting or any blessing in the community, the elders consulted the intermediary on how to thank God. People again came together and performed thanksgiving rituals.

Activity 2

Read the story below

When we finished supper, grandfather called us outside to the fireplace as the tradition had been. This time it was about African Traditional Religion. He said, “Unlike today where we have Christianity and Islam with holy books, the African traditional religion does not have such records”. I got interested and asked him how and where to find more about it.

“My grandchildren, it was found in all fields of life. The names we give to children have religious meanings. Take an example of your father Byakatonda; his name means “all belongs to God”. Different tribes have names such as Karuhanga in western Uganda, Eramo among the Bagishu, Ayeta in the east Binta, Olutosin, in west Africa, Bayete in South Africa to mention but a few. All have meanings relating to God.”

The story was so interesting that all of us paid attention. He went on to tell us that, “African traditional religion was found in music dance and drama, where songs reflected religious feelings. African rituals and ceremonies were also custodians of religion. The daily activities such as hunting, fishing and agriculture had divine beings attached to them. Religion was also found in the sacred or holy places of the Africans such as caves, shrines, hills and big trees, among others.

African traditional religion was also kept in the minds, memories, visions and dreams of the elderly. Lakes, rivers and other physical features also served as sources of African Traditional Religion. The poems, riddles, sayings, legends and stories of the Africans were also a great source of African Traditional religion.” He encouraged us to tell these facts to the children we shall have in future, in order for the next generation to learn about the same. Before we knew it, it was midnight and everyone had to go to sleep.

Attempt the following:

1. From the story, identify the sources of African Traditional Religion.
2. Suggest any other sources of African Traditional Religion that are not mentioned

in the story.

3. Write down any other African names that suggest religious meaning.
4. In order to keep African Traditional Religion alive, grandfather suggested. Write it down.

Note: You need to know that the Christian missionaries condemned many of the traditional forms of worship as satanic, primitive, barbaric and devilish. To date, many Christians do not agree with the traditional ways of worship and they deny the existence of traditional gods.

Activity 3:

Carry out research, asking your parents and if possible grandparents and other elders around your home to tell you stories of the ways of worship in traditional societies. In your notebook, write a short essay of your findings, explaining why African traditional ways of worship are different from Christian worship.

Lesson summary

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- that before the coming of Christian missionaries to Africa, Africans had their own ways of worshipping;
- the ways of worship in African traditional societies and
- that before the coming of Christianity, Africans had developed systems of beliefs and practices.

TERM 2

LESSON 1: The meaning of rituals and celebrations

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Tell the meaning of the terms rituals and celebrations;
- ii) State examples of rituals in the Christian church;
- iii) Identify and list rituals and celebrations in African traditional religion.

Introduction

What is a celebration? A celebration is a special enjoyable event that people organize because something pleasant has happened or because it is someone's birthday or anniversary.

Activity: Now that you know the meaning of celebration, write down three (3) celebrations you have ever attended. In two paragraphs, explain what events were being celebrated.

Religious celebrations

All religions have beliefs, for example belief in God, belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and belief in heaven after death. Rituals are celebrations and practices Christians engage in as an outward sign; things they do to show commitment to God and to show that their belief in Jesus Christ, God's son. These practices are called rituals and celebrations. Examples of such rituals are baptism and Holy Communion. Celebrations include Christmas day and Easter. Even in African traditional religion, there are rituals and ceremonies that people practice; for example, introduction ceremonies, last funeral rites and circumcision among some tribes such as Bagishu and Sabiny.

What is a ritual? A ritual is defined as a religious service or action which involves a series of actions performed in a fixed order. In the Christian faith, church rituals are performed with utmost care, using specified religious objects and presided over by a knowledgeable religious leader such as a priest, or pastor. The most prominent Christian rituals are Baptism and the Eucharist. In the Roman Catholic Church, the rituals are called sacraments and in the protestant Church, these rituals are called ordinances. These are sacred rituals and Christians believe that they convey God's sacred power and grace.

Activity: In your book do the following:

- (i) List the rituals that you have ever participated in, in your church;
- (ii) List down ceremonies where you were involved;
- (iii) List down rituals and ceremonies in African Traditional Religion that you have ever attended.

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the meaning of rituals and celebrations;
- types of rituals in the Christian church;
- rituals and celebrations in African traditional religion.

Lesson 2: Key celebrations in Christianity

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) List the different celebrations in the Christian church;
- ii) Demonstrate understanding of the meaning and importance attached to key celebrations in Christianity;
- iii) Relate your own life to Christian celebrations.

Introduction

Different Christian sects have specific dates when they celebrate key events in Christianity. There are many celebrations in the churches. Before you discover more about them, work through activity 1.

Activity 1

Study pictures 1-4 and answer the questions that follow:



Fig 1



Fig2



Fig 3



Fig4

- i. Identify the Christian celebrations in figures 1-4
- ii. Write down why you think the celebrations are important in the Christian Church.
- iii. In your opinion, how best do you think those days should be celebrated?

Apart from the days in the pictures, there are other Christian celebrations which include:

Christmas day

Most Christians celebrate Christmas; the birth of Jesus Christ is the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. Through His Son Jesus Christ, God renews his love and covenant to his people. Therefore, Christmas is a key celebration among Christians.

Easter Sunday

All Christians believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, on Easter Sunday, they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian church.

Ascension Day

The day when Jesus Christ ascended into heaven is celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday. Ascension Day is significant as it marks the end of the earthly appearances of

the risen Christ before the disciples received Christ's Spirit at Pentecost.

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is the festival celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence and inspiration in the lives of people today. It celebrates the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter, as show in Acts 2:1-4 Acts 11:15.

All Saints Day

A Saint is a great man or woman of the past who was formally recognized by the church as having lived a virtuous life of faith and who can be an inspiration to people today. All Saints' Day is celebrated on the 1st of November annually. Early followers of Jesus were called saints or 'holy ones'. In the Catholic Church, the whole month of November is dedicated to all saints and people in purgatory.

Epiphany

The Epiphany feast is celebrated on the 6th of January. It is the feast of the holy family, in commemoration of the day the Magi (wise men) visited the holy family and brought three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh; and so it is assumed that there were three Magi.

Good Friday

Christians commemorate the day when Jesus was crucified. It was named good because it was good for Jesus Christ to suffer and die for us. On Good Friday, Christians reflect on Jesus' suffering and death.

Ash Wednesday

Lent is a time when Christians prepare for Easter by focusing more on prayer and spiritual studies, and fasting. Lent lasts 40 days, a significant number in Jewish-Christian scriptures and is the period which the Gospels record that Jesus spent fasting at the start of his ministry.

Psalms Sunday

This is when Christians celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Uganda Martyrs Day

This is a day that Christians celebrate on 3rd of June each year. They commemorate the martyrdom of Ugandans who were killed by King Mwanga.

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the different celebrations in the Christian church;
- the meaning and importance attached to key celebrations in Christianity;
- to relate your own life to Christian celebrations.

Lesson 3: Key Rituals in the Christian church

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Show that you understand the most important rituals performed across all Christian religious sects;
- ii) Demonstrate that you understand the meaning and importance attached to key rituals in Christianity;
- iii) Relate your own lives to Christian rituals.

Different Christian rituals observe. Before you discover more about them, work through activity 1.

Activity

Study pictures 1-3 and answer the questions that follow:



Fig 1



Fig 2

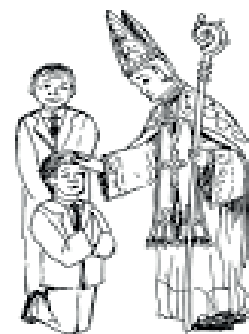


Fig3

Introduction

In most Christian churches, Baptism and the Eucharist are more prominent because they commemorate the baptism of Jesus and for Eucharist; the body and blood of Jesus.

Baptism

Baptism is a Christian ritual of initiation into the Christian Church. Across all the different sects of Christianity, the most important item is water; baptism is a ritual cleaning with water. Catholics and Protestants use water as a sign. It is poured on the forehead of the child or adult being baptized. Among the Seventh Day Adventists and some Pentecostal

churches, the ritual of baptism involves immersion of the child or adult into a pool of water. In most cases, the person baptized is given a name that identifies the baptised person with the Christian family.

The baptism ritual originates from Jewish tradition; purifying one by immersing into water. Baptism had already existed before the coming of Jesus. Jesus Christ himself was baptized by John the Baptist in river Jordan and later, Jesus instructed baptism of his followers, as shown in Mark 16:15 and Matthew 3:13 - 17.

Activity:

The following table is a list of the items required to perform the ritual of baptism. Draw this table in your notebook and state the significance of each item or action.

N	Activity	Significance
1	Presence of a priest or pastor	
2	Presence of godparents	
3	Immersion into water or pouring of water on the person being baptised	
4	Presence of a burning candle	
5	Presence of a white garment	
7	Presence of the cross	
8	Using the anointing oil of chrism	

The ritual of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is another ritual Christians observe. It is celebrated by the sharing of bread and wine by Christians to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus instituted the practice during the last supper, also referred to as the Passover in the Jewish tradition. This is where Jesus shared a final meal with his followers just before his arrest and eventual death. In memory of his death and resurrection, early Christians met weekly to share meals of bread and wine, accompanied by prayer.

Different Christian denominations have different beliefs about the Eucharist. Some churches, especially the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, believe that upon blessing the bread and wine in the ritual of the Eucharist, these food items become the body and blood of Jesus. Other denominations interpret the rite symbolically, believing that eating the bread and drinking the wine commemorates the sacrificial action of Christ. In both cases, sharing the bread and wine is held to remember Christ's first coming and anticipate his second coming. The frequency of the Eucharistic observance

varies from church to church. The liturgical churches include the Lord's Supper in all of their weekly services and on holy days throughout the year. Some liturgical churches share the Lord's Supper daily, with the exception of Holy Saturday. Non-liturgical churches prefer to highlight preaching and Bible study at their Sunday services, and usually share the Lord's Supper monthly. Most protestant and Pentecostal churches use bread and wine or juice.

Activity:

- (i) Open your Bible and read Mk 14:3-26, and then draw a picture of the last supper.
- (ii) Read Mk 14:3-26 carefully and state the similarities and differences between the Passover and the last supper.

Lesson summary:

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the most important rituals performed across all Christian religious sects;
- the meaning and importance attached to key rituals in Christianity;
- to relate your own lives to Christian rituals.

Lesson 4: Other Relevant rituals in the life of a Christian

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Demonstrate understanding of the mandatory rituals in the life of a Christian;
- ii) Prove knowledge of the meaning and significance of such rituals;
- iii) Prove knowledge of the meaning of objects in Christian rituals.

Opening Activity:

In a clear order, state the rituals a Christian in your church goes through from birth to death.

Introduction

You have already studied about some of the key rituals such as baptism and Holy Communion; and celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. Now we need to learn about the rites of passage in the life of every active and participating Christian. As we

said, all religions have rituals and celebrations in commemoration of an event in one's life. For instance, at every stage of a Christian's life, there is a ritual performed or a ceremony. In some Christian churches, like in the Catholic Church, new born babies are baptized. As we have already seen, the baptism ritual initiates a child into the Catholic Christian family. After Baptism, there are many other rituals performed to enhance spiritual growth and development of a Christian.

Confirmation ritual

The sacrament of confirmation is the second ritual in the life of a Christian. The Confirmation ritual confirms the baptized child or adult into the Christian Church. It is believed to bring graces of the Holy Spirit that came upon the Apostles on the Pentecost Sunday.

Holy Communion ritual

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the last initiation ritual in the Roman Catholic Church. Holy Communion is when the Christian receives of Christ's Body and Blood, referred to as the Holy Eucharist. Unlike baptism and confirmation which are performed once, Holy Communion is performed throughout the Christian's life.

Penance or confession ritual

Penance and confession is a sacrament performed as a reconciliation ritual. The Christian, through a priest, petitions God's forgiveness. In this ritual, the Christian mentions all his/her sins and promises never to commit them again. Through the priest, God forgives the confessor or petitioner, who is reconciled to God. The unique issue of the confession ritual is that the Christian physically meets the priest and states the sins he/she remembers and the forgotten ones. A Christian who has not met a priest for confession is discouraged from receiving the holy Eucharist. A person who has not been baptized and confirmed cannot meet a priest for confession. A Christian who receives Holy Communion without physically pronouncing his/her sins commits sacrilege.

The ritual of Marriage

Holy matrimony or marriage is another ritual in the life of a Christian. In this ritual, a priest unites or weds a man and woman into a lifelong union for the purpose of procreation and mutual support. Marriage as a sacrament reflects the union of Jesus Christ and His Church.

The ritual of Holy Orders

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles.

The ritual of Anointing of the Sick

Also called the Sacrament of anointing the sick or Extreme Unction or Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength.

Rituals and celebrations in the protestant church

Unlike the Roman Catholic Christians who respect all the sacraments discussed above, most Protestant churches only practise two or three of these sacraments: baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist (called the Lord's Supper). The sacraments are perceived as symbolic rituals through which God delivers the Gospel. They are accepted through faith.

Funeral rites

At death, some Christians pray for the dead, petitioning God to forgive them and be received in heaven. In the Catholic Church, the priest says the last prayer; 'Loving and merciful God, we entrust our brother/sister to your mercy. You loved him/her greatly in this life; now that he/she is freed from all its cares, give him/her happiness and peace forever. ... Welcome him/her now into paradise, where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus, your son'.

Activity:

Make research, asking your parents, older siblings or even neighbours why Christians pray before burying the dead.

Lesson summary:

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the mandatory rituals in the life of a Christian;
- the meaning and significance of such rituals;
- the meaning of objects in Christian rituals.
-

Lesson 5: Significance of rituals and celebrations

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Demonstrate understanding of the importance of celebrations and rituals in the Christian church;
- ii) Demonstrate understanding of the distinctive rituals in the different Christian sects.

Opening Activity:

In your notebook, write down the rituals you have so far gone through as a Christian. Explain how each of them was performed, indicating what each of the following people did: your parents, the priest/ pastor, your relatives and the Christians in the Church.

Christian rituals

Rituals are very important in one's life. In all communities and cultures, there are rituals that mark the different stages of life that begin with birth, youth, growth to adulthood, marriage and death. During the performance of each ritual, Christians always come together to support and be witnesses to each other, especially to help young ones to grow spiritually.

In Christianity, rituals are categorized into three; (i) initiation rituals (baptism, Holy Communion; (ii) life rituals and (iii) last rites.

The significance of rituals in the Christian church

- Christian rituals and celebrations are ways of expressing commitment and love to God and fellow human beings;
- Religious rituals contribute greatly to the deepening spiritual insight of Christians;
- Ritual also expresses and emphasizes the things that bind a faith community together, and through ritual both individuals and communities make visible their most basic religious needs, values and aspirations.
- Rituals are ways in which Christians share witness with each other;
- Rituals are ways of feeling and strengthening the bond between God and human beings;
- Rituals strengthen brotherhood and togetherness among Christians;
- Christians meet and learn from each other;
- Christians meet to support and encourage each other in the faith;
- Christian rituals and celebrations are a means of expanding and propagation of the Gospel and evangelism;
- Celebrations and rituals are key for spiritual growth, development and nourishment;
- Because rituals are repeated several times, they instil religious values and attitudes.

Activity

The following table is a list of the rituals and celebrations in the Christian Church. Draw this table in your notebook and state the significance of each ritual or celebration.

No.	Ritual	Significance
1	Baptism	
2	Holy communion	
3	Penance	
4	Solemn Communion	
5	Confirmation	
6	Marriage	
7	Ordination	
8	Anointing the sick	

Activity

In your notebook, draw the following:

- i) A picture of Christmas Day in your family, including prayers at church;
- ii) A picture of Easter Day in your family, including prayers at church;
- iii) List each item in these pictures and state why they are there;
- iv) Write a story of one Christmas or Easter that you enjoyed most.

Lesson summary:

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- v) the importance of celebrations and rituals in the Christian church;
- vi) distinctive rituals in the different Christian sects.

Lesson 8: Priests' and Pastors' role in Christian rituals and celebrations

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Demonstrate understanding of the different titles of Christian religious leaders;
- ii) Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of priests and pastors;
- iii) Demonstrate knowledge of the difference between priests and pastors

Activity:

Carefully recall pastor in your church, and in your notebook, list down the things she/he does repeatedly in a mass or service.

Introduction

In Christianity, Priests/Pastor are trained for a long time and coached on how to be God's representatives among His people. Therefore, priests and pastors preside over all the rituals in the Christian church as ministers. They lead prayers, offering of sacrifices and bless the occasions such as birth, marriage and festivals. In the Christian church, performance of any ritual or celebration requires the presence of a priest/ pastor. Each ritual has details that have been laid out clearly.

Activity:

The following table is a list of the rituals and celebrations in the Christian Church. Draw this table in your notebook and state the role of the Priest/ pastor for each of the ritual or celebration.

Ritual	Christian sect	Role of the Priest/Reverend/Pastor
Baptism	Pentecostalism	The pastor stands in the pool of water, invites the subject into the water and, standing next to the subject, the pastor gets hold of him/her and immerses her/him in the waters, uttering the following words: ' <i>I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit</i> '.
Holy Communion		
Penance		

Solemn Communion		
Confirmation		
Marriage		
Ordination		
Anointing the sick		

Activity:

In your notebook, write a 150-word essay to explain why the baptizer mentions these words 'I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit'.

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- about the different titles of Christian religious leaders;
- the importance of priests and pastors;
- the difference between priests and pastors

Lesson 9: Rituals and celebrations of the African Traditional Religion

Learning outcomes**By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:**

- Demonstrate understanding of some of the celebrations and rituals in African Traditional Religion;
- Show knowledge of the meanings attached to celebrations and rituals in African Traditional Religion;
- Demonstrate understanding of the celebrations and rituals in your own societies.

Activity:

Have you ever seen people in your area or elsewhere running and dancing 'Kadodi'; the Imbalu dance? In your notebook, draw a picture of what you saw.

Introduction

We learnt that before the coming of foreign missionaries, African natives had their

different systems of beliefs and practices. In African Traditional Religion (ATR), people believe in the existence of an almighty God and the deities that represent God in the different activities. In African Traditional Religion, there are different idols that are believed to be God's messengers to people. Therefore, Africans worshipped God in different ways and performed rituals. For example, when a mother conceived, there were rituals performed to petition the god of health to protect the mother and the unborn baby. At birth, rituals were performed to thank God, to initiate the new-born and petition God to keep the baby and mother healthy. Other traditional rituals included teething rituals, adolescent rituals, marriage rituals and funeral rituals at death.

Activity:

Carry out research from your parents and other elders the following (write down all the answers in your notebook):

- (i) What is "ekyogero"?
- (ii) What are the contents of *ekyogero*?
- (iii) Why are many babies bathed in *ekyogero*?
- (iv) What is the importance of *ekyogero*?

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- celebrations and rituals in African Traditional Religion;
- the meanings attached to celebrations and rituals in African Traditional Religion;
- celebrations and rituals in your own societies.

SENIOR ONE: TERM 3

LESSON 1: Foundations of Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religion

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Demonstrate understanding of the concept of religion;
- ii) Demonstrate that you know how religions evolved in the world;
- iii) Show that you understand the personalities around which religions evolved.

Introduction

The world has countless religions, each with its followers and believers. Religion is an organized set of beliefs, cultural systems and world views that relate humankind to an order of life.

Many religions have narratives, symbols and sacred stories that aim to explain the origin and meaning of life and the universe. Each community in the world has some kind of religion they subscribe to.

Activity

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

*I stop and think
I imagine and end
I wonder and wander
In search for meaning of what you are
What it is that is taught
Religion, Religion, Religion!
Christianity, Islam, ATR, Hinduism,
Buddhism, Baha'ism, Judaism Sikhism,
Confucianism, Shintoism,
those are just a few of the religions in the world
Religion, Religion, Religion!*

Is it about God? Is about beliefs?

Is it about objects? Is it about books?

The answer is wide; it is all about faith

Religion, religion, religion!

Promoting different values

Providing a living hope;

Limitless discipline

Religion, religion, religion!

What exactly are you?

Questions

- i) How does the writer define religion?
- ii) What is the importance of religion?
- iii) What comprises religion?
- iv) Suggest a suitable title to the poem.
- v) In your opinion, why does the writer make religion so difficult to understand?
- vi) Name any five world religions you know.

Religion is the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods. Some religions such as Islam and Christianity are worldwide. Others native and cannot be spread to the different parts of the world; for example, African traditional religion for Africans, Shintoism is a native religion of Japan and Hinduism for Indians.

All religions have beliefs; for example, belief in God, belief in Jesus Christ as a son of God and belief in heaven and hell after death. Rituals are celebrations and practices Christians engage in as an outward sign; things they do to show commitment to God and to show that they believe in Jesus Christ God's Son. These practices are called rituals and celebrations. Examples of such rituals are baptism and Holy Communion. Celebrations include Christmas day and Easter. Even in African Traditional Religion, there are rituals and ceremonies that are practiced, for example introduction ceremonies, last funeral rites, circumcision in some tribes such as Bagishu and Sabinu.

The foundation of Christianity

Although the Jews were descendants of Abraham as shown in the Bible, Christianity was founded at the death of Jesus Christ. When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles of Jesus and they began to speak in tongues, the apostles started teaching people the Gospel of Jesus Christ by word of mouth. This Gospel is referred to as the Kerygma. The word Gospel means 'good story' and good news. Later on, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was

written down and this formed the New Testament of the Bible.

The foundation of Islam

Islam as a religion started with Prophet Muhammad in Arabia, but the Arabs had religious beliefs and practices which they had neglected. At that time, people had abandoned God and had become immoral. In Islam, the period of immorality is called Jahilliya. People were very corrupt, women and girls had no respect in society. Parents were free to kill their children, especially when they produced girls. Both men and women turned to prostitution; there was no respect for family. People indulged in drinking all types of alcohol, worshipped idols and blasphemed the name of God. The Jahilliya was a period of social, economic and political anarchy.

After observing the decadent society, Muhammad as a young boy decided to seek ways of stopping the immorality. He decided to meditate in a cave, and one day as he meditated, the angel Gibril gave him scrolls to read. Although Muhammad was illiterate, by the power of God, he was able to read. Then he got the charisma to begin preaching following the texts in the scrolls that he read. God's messages to prophet Muhammad formed the Quran.

The foundation of African Traditional Religion

African Tradition Religion refers to the religious beliefs and practices of the African people, before the coming of Christian missionaries and Arabs, who propagated the foreign religions in Africa. The beliefs, values, customs, norms and traditions all put together form what is referred to as African Traditional Religion (ATR). The different African cultures refer to God differently. For example, the Baganda call God Katonda, Banyankore call him Ruhanga, other names include Lubanga, Kibumba and Wele. ATR is grounded within culture and heritage. African cultures believe that God has messengers in the different fields; for example, there is a god of rain, of the mountains, of rivers, lakes and many others. For instance, the deity or god in charge of rain is responsible for both rain and drought. Therefore, when rains fail to come, Africans pray to this particular deity.

Note

When foreigners came to Africa, they didn't know about the African Traditional beliefs and practices. When they realized that actually Africans believed in the Almighty God and had ways of praying to their God, the foreigners said that African religious beliefs and practices were satanic, devilish, barbaric and many other abusive names. Up to now, foreigners continue to discourage Africans from practising traditional beliefs. That is why almost all Africans have foreign names.

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the concept of religion;
- how religions evolved in the world;
- the personalities around which religions evolved.

Follow-up Activity:

- i. Carry out research, asking your parents and elders the names of God in your own culture.
- ii. List down all names of your family members and find out the origin and meaning of each of them.

Lesson 2: Religion Is Ancient, Diverse and Dynamic

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Demonstrate understanding that religious beliefs existed long before Christianity and Islam;
- ii) Show that you know that society in the world has their native beliefs and practices;
- iii) Prove that you know that each society has myths about how God the almighty manifests to human kind.

Instructions for this lesson

- Do all the activities assigned in this lesson today;
- Read and understand the brief explanations in this lesson;
- In case something is not clear, ask parents and other people around you.

Religion is as old as the human race. Human beings are diverse and belong to different categories, races, tribes or even cultures. For instance, there are black Africans, the whites, the Indians, the Arabs, South Americas and the Eskimos of Iceland. All these categories believe in a heavenly superpower who created the world and everything therein. The human race started developing ideas of a heavenly being after reflecting on the nature of the world and all creatures. After failing to control most of the things in the world such as rain, the cosmic powers such as movement of the sun, the moon and the stars, powers over sickness and death, humans developed ideas of a heavenly power that controls the earth. The wonders of the world such as water bodies, volcanic mountains, valleys and the earthly terrain all confused human beings.

The human race needed to understand how the world with everything therein came to be. In a bid to understand and explain the existence of the earth and human beings, different categories of humans began to answer their questions. Some people got visions and dreams which they interpreted as answers to their questions. After reflecting on the nature of the universe, their purpose in life, where they came from, who created them and what happens after death; after realizing that the world is beautifully designed

and that all creatures were designed for a purpose, people in the different parts of the earth came with different answers to their questions. In this way, people came with different creation stories. Later on, different people received visions and then came up with different beliefs and practices, hence religion was born. Therefore, there are different religions in the world.

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt that;

- religious beliefs existed long before Christianity and Islam;
- each society in the world has their native beliefs and practices;
- each society has myths about how God the almighty manifests to human kind.

Follow-up Activity:

- i. Read and reflect upon the creation story in Genesis. In your notebook, draw a picture showing that story.

LESSON 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION(S)

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Identify aspects and the common characteristics between Christianity and Islam;
- ii) Describe the common characteristics of all religions;
- iii) Discover that African Traditional Religion shares some aspects with Islam and Christianity.

Introduction

Activity:

In your notebook, list down the things that you know are similar in both Christianity and Islam.

The word characteristics refers to the ways something can be described. Some of the characteristics of religion are common and they include:

All religions have the following in common:

- belief in the existence of a supernatural power, commonly referred to as God. God exists in heaven.
- ways of communicating to God. Believers communicate to God through the different ways of worship. As you remember, we talked about the different ways of worship such as prayer, sacrifice and offering and many others.
- Religions establish designated places for worship. Muslims worship and pray in mosques, Christians worship in churches and Jews in temples. Other worship and prayer places are Shrines. In ATR, people worship in temples, for example, the *Sabo*


in Buganda.

- Religions have set aside days of worship, such as Fridays for Muslims, Sunday for most Christian sects, Saturday or Sabbath for Seventh Day Adventists.
- Religions have sets of rituals they perform carefully. For instance, in Christianity, rituals include baptism and Holy Communion. In Islam, rituals include Aqiqah, an initiation ritual, where usually a sheep is offered in sacrifice for every new-born child as a sign of gratitude to Allah. Muslims also perform the ritual of ablution before prayer. In ATR, there are many rituals depending on culture. Some of the common ones include the rituals of naming and initiating the child into family, clan and community
- They have signs, objects and symbols that identify each religion. These are outward and tangible evidences of one's belief; for example, the sign of the cross in Christianity, the Kabba and Moon in Islam, the rosary for the Roman Catholics, a Swastika for Hinduism, the dharma wheel for Buddhism, the Star of David for Judaism.
- Each religion has myths and mysteries, folklores, wise sayings, proverbs and stories. For example, the story of Jonah and the fish in Jonah chapters 1-4 that teaches people to be obedient to God, teaches that no person can run away from God's plans.
- All religions have ethical teachings or a system of moral order. Each religion continuously teaches believers ways to behave in life; dos and don'ts. For example, the life of a Christian is guided by the 10 commandments and the way Jesus lived in the world. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was born to show us how we should live. In Islam, there are pillars of Islam and pillars of faith that a good Muslim should follow.
- Sacred places: All religions have places that are declared sacred; the dwelling places of God and his messengers. Such places include the mosque for Muslims, Churches for Christians, traditional shrines for ATR, temples for Hinduism and others.
- All religions have established systems where people bond with each other for social and moral support. For example, a Christian in most cases feels comfortable to deal with a fellow Christian and a Muslim with a fellow Muslim. In this way, religions set ways to encourage followers to meet regularly in fellowships, prayer groups, cells etc. A religion organizes forums for people to meet.
- Religions have religious leaders; these are custodians of knowledge in a particular religion. They are believed to know much more spiritually and socially. In some cases, like in Christianity and Islam, one must attend a formal theological training to become a priest, pastor, Imam or a Sheikh. In native religions such as ATR, religious leaders are inspired through dreams and visions, or inherit the role and responsibility from their parents.

Activity:

Carefully look at the religious symbols and match them to the respective religions.



NS	Symbols, signs and objects	Religion
1.		Islam
2.		Christianity
3.		Judaism
4.		Hindu
5.		Budhism
6.		Sikhism
7.		Bahatism

Lesson summary

In this lesson, you should have learnt;

- the common features between Christianity and Islam;
- the common characteristics of all religions;
- that African Traditional Religion shares some aspects with Islam and Christianity.

Follow-up Activity: Carry out research from your parents and other elders and in 200 words, write a story of how the first man came to exist in the world.

LESSON 4: VALUES OF RELIGION

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) show understanding of the importance of religion in human societies;
- ii) describe how religion makes people behave well in your community;
- iii) tell that religion answers difficult questions in and about life.

Instructions for this lesson

- Do all the activities assigned in this lesson today;
- Read and understand the brief explanations in this lesson;
- In case something is not clear, ask parents and other people around you.

Opening Activity

: Carry out research online or from textbooks. You can also ask elders such as your parents to help you find out the different religious symbols. Draw these symbols in your notebook and state a reason behind each symbol.

Introduction

Religion answers very many questions in our lives. For example, at some point all people ask, why am I here? Where did I come from? What am I doing here? Where am I going? What happens after death? What would happen if I was not born? What did I come with? What will I go with?

‘You were created to love, honour and worship God. After death, I will go back to be with God forever’.

Religion is very important in our life; that is the reason why many people identify themselves with a religion of their choice. The values of religion include:

- Religion brings people together: It gives them a sense of belonging and togetherness. For example, different people meet to fellowship, like in the Friday congregational worship for Muslims and Sunday congressional worship for Christians.
- Creating a Moral Community: Each Religion teaches morals to its followers. It teaches how to relate and treat each other. For example, the Bible and the Quran contain teachings on how God wants people to behave, the Ten Commandments for Christians and the pillars of Islam and pillars of faith.
- Religion as Social Control: Religion teaches people to control themselves. For example, there are restrictions in marriage and sexual relations. These laws are clearly stated in Islam, Christianity and ATR. Religions teach against incest, cheating in business, slavery and religious sanctions; for example, taboos against

eating of pork for Jews and Muslims and cow's meat for Hindus.

- **Religion as Emotional Support:** All religions have rites that guide people throughout the journey of life. The journey of life rituals or rites begins at the birth of a child, throughout teenage years, adulthood and death. The performance of rituals and celebrations gives people support and makes them feel that they are not alone. In a way, religion is a solace to individuals during times of personal and social crises such as death of loved ones, serious injury, etc.
- Religion gives sense of comfort and solace to people during times of personal and social crises, such as death of loved ones, serious injury, etc. This is especially true when something 'senseless' happens. It gives them emotional support and provides consolation, reconciliation and moral strength during trials and defeats, personal losses and unjust treatment.
- Religion gives purpose of life. It provides answers to all puzzles and confusion people encounter. It answers questions such as where do we come from, why are we here, where are we going, what happens at death, is there life after or not.
- **Religion as a Source of Identity:** In life, all people need to identify with others; we feel comfortable and safe to relate and share with people who understand us and know what we do. For example, many times we hear about fellowship groups and organizations that are religious based. For example, Muslims feel safer to join schools and hospitals run by Muslims. Christians also feel safer in Christian schools and hospitals.
- **Religion Controls Sexuality:** In several cases, religion acts as secular law; it constitutes authority and principles that override those of worldly laws. For example, Sharia law is more abiding to a Muslim than government laws. Religion, especially the teaching about life after death, gives hope that all those who follow God's laws will enjoy lasting afterlife.

Lesson summary:

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the importance of religion in human societies;
- how religion makes people behave well in your community;
- that religion answers difficult questions in and about life.

Follow- Up Activity:

- List down laws and guidelines in your religion that help you to be a good person to yourself and to others.
- With examples, list organizations or associations or groups in your church or mosque.

LESSON 4: Similarities and differences between Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religion

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Identify the similarities between Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religion;
- demonstrate understanding that the God of Christians is the same God for Muslims and Traditional Africans;
- Demonstrate understanding that the notion of monotheism in Christianity and Islam.

Instructions for this lesson

- Do all the activities assigned in this lesson today;
- Read and understand the brief explanations in this lesson;
- In case something is not clear, ask parents and other people around you.

Introduction:

Islam and Christianity are great world religions with followers in almost all countries. They have many things in common but there are also differences between them. Let's now look at the similarities between them.

Monotheism

They both subscribe to monotheism, the belief in one God, the Almighty, whom the Muslims call Allah. This one God has four attributes, namely:

- (i) God the Omnipotent; He has unlimited powers, all powerful, the Almighty;
- (ii) Omniscient, meaning He is all knowing, all wise and all seeing;
- (iii) Omnipresent, He is everywhere all the time;
- (iv) Omni benevolent, all loving, all merciful and all forgiving and;
- (v) Transcendental, beyond human understanding.

Jesus Christ

Muslims recognize and acknowledge Jesus Christ, whom they call prophet Isa. However, they do not believe in the virgin birth and they do not believe the fact that Jesus Christ is a Son of God who was sent by God to liberate humankind.

The Trinity

Christians believe that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are incarnates of God. Muslims do not believe in incarnation.

Belief in God's prophets

Islam and Christianity believe that God sent prophets to His people. However, Muslims

believe that Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet.

Belief in God's angels

Islam and Christianity believe that God has angels. For example, Angel Gabriel who announced the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is the same angel, Gibril, who appeared to Muhammad when he was meditating in the cave and delivered the holy Quran to him.

Belief in immortal soul

Islam, Christianity and ATR believe that human beings have souls that inhabit their physical bodies. The soul is immortal. Once the body dies, the soul leaves the body and joins the world of souls. God will judge the immortal soul on judgment day, depending on one's deeds.

Belief in a judgment day

Both Islam and Christianity believe in God's judgment on the final day. God will judge all humankind individually, at the end of life on earth. God will judge each one of us to either condemn to hell or welcome into heaven.

Belief in life after death

Both Islam and Christianity believe that life does not end here on earth. There is life after death. However, human beings must prepare for the afterlife by believing in God the creator; worship, pray, be fair in whatever they do, be kind to others and live an upright life. In Islam and some Christian sects, the dead go either to heaven, Janah in Islam or Hell, Gehena. Afterlife depends on one's actions, which are referred to as Karma. Heaven is a place of paradise, where people who follow God's teaching join Him and live in eternal happiness. On the other hand, hell is a place of eternal suffering, where the sinful dwell. Hell is fire that endlessly burns sinful people.

However, some Christian sects such as the Roman Catholic Christians believe in purgatory. Purgatory is the dwelling place in between heaven and hell. People who have committed moderate sins are sent to purgatory to pay for their sins before they can proceed to eternal paradise. The fires and punishments in hell are intense and unbearable. The only difference is that souls in purgatory have hope to join heaven.

Holy Scriptures

Muslims and Christianity have scriptures, that is, the Quran and Bible. Muslims believe that the Quran was directly handed to Prophet Muhammad by angel Gibril; it was not written by a mortal being. However, Christians believe that the Bible was written down by extraordinary people under God's inspiration.

Practice congregational and personal prayers

Muslims and Christians pray congregationally on designated days. Muslims pray on Friday, some Christians like the Seventh Day Adventists pray on Saturday and other Christians such as Protestants and Roman Catholics pray on Sunday. Muslims and Christians have common religious practices; for example, they practise personal and family daily prayers; they fast during designated periods and they make offerings and sacrifices. Some of them have similar religious objects, the Tashbih for Muslims and Rosary for Roman Catholics. Muslims and Christians believe in praying for the dead.

Trained religious leaders

In Christianity and Islam, many of the religious leaders for example, Imams, Sheikhs,

priests, nuns and pastors have to go through specific theological trainings to be able to preach the word of God.

Lesson summary:

In this lesson, you should have learnt

- the similarities between Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religion;
- that the God of Christians is the same God for Muslims and Traditional Africans;
- about monotheism in Christianity and Islam.

Follow-up Activity:

Draw a table and fill in the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity.

LESSON 5: Pillars of Islam; faith and the Torah**Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) Compare the Torah and the pillars of Islam;
- ii) Explain that Islam and Christianity did not come from vacuum;
- iii) Describe the nature of God in Islam and Christianity.

Islam and Christianity have stronghold teachings that are referred to all the time.

In Christianity, the Torah (the Ten Commandments) recorded in Exodus 20; was written on stones by Moses under God's instruction and was summarized by Jesus Christ. The commandments are followed and supposed to be observed throughout the life of a Christian.

1. You shall have no other Gods before me;
2. You shall not make for yourselves an idol;
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God;
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy;
5. Honour your father and mother;
6. You shall not murder;
7. You shall not commit adultery;
8. You shall not steal;
9. You shall not give false testimony;
10. You shall not covet

The Ten Commandments were summarized by Jesus Christ into two as indicated in Mk 12:29-34.

- (i) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength; and
- (ii) Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

The pillars of faith

1. Belief in Allah;
2. Belief in the angels;
3. Belief in the holy books;
4. Belief in the prophets;
5. Belief in the day of Judgment;
6. Belief in predestination: The statement means that Allah planned the fate of woman and man (mankind) long before he was created. Mankind was also created with a free will to decide which of the pre-planned acts to take.

The pillars of Islam

1. Testify that there is no deity worth of worship but Allah and that Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger;
2. Perform the five daily prayers (Swalat);
3. Paying charity (zakat);
4. Fasting the month of Ramadhan;
5. Performing Hajj (going to Mecca);

Activity

Think and state an activity that expresses the pillars of Islam and the Torah (Ten Commandments)

NS	Pillars of faith	Activity
	Belief in Allah	
	Belief in the angels	
	Belief in the holy books	
	Belief in the prophets	
	Belief in the day of Judgment	
	Belief in the predestination	
	Pillars of Islam	Activity
	Testify Allah and Muhammad (PBUH)	
	Perform the 5 daily prayers (Swalat)	
	Paying Charity (zakat)	
	Fasting the month of Ramadan	
	Performing Hajj (going to Mecca)	

The Torah (Ten Commandments)

1. "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any strange gods before Me."
2. "Thou shalt not make idols for yourselves."
3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."
4. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day."
5. "Honour thy father and mother."
6. "Thou shalt not kill."
7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
8. "Thou shalt not steal."
9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."
10. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife."
11. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's property."

Activity: Think and state an activity that expresses the pillars of Islam and pillars of faith the Torah (Ten Commandments)

NS	The Torah	Activity
1	“I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any strange gods before Me.”	
2	“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.”	
3	“Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.”	
3	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy	
4	“Honor thy father and mother.”	
5	Thou shalt not kill.”	
6	“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”	
7	“Thou shalt not steal.”	
8	“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”	
9	“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.”	
10	“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s goods.”	

Lesson summary: In this lesson, you should have learnt;

- the Torah and the pillars of Islam;
- that Islam and Christianity did not come from vacuum;
- the nature of God in Islam and Christianity.

Follow-up Activity: Think and state activities that express the Torah (Ten Commandments)

LESSON 6: African Traditional Religion

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to;

- i) Describe God in African Traditional Religion;
- ii) Identify the different divinities/deities in African Traditional Religion;
- iii) Tell how African Traditional Religion has been preserved and transmitted to generations.

African Traditional Religion as the name is stated is the original religion of Africans. It is comprised of many cultural beliefs, traditions, customs, norms and taboos of the African people.

God and African Traditional Religion

African Traditional Religion is composed of varying beliefs and practices, depending on respective cultures. For instance, in Uganda, there are many tribes; each tribe has its own beliefs and practices. For example, the Baganda have their distinctive beliefs, they call God Katonda. The Basoga call God Kibumba, the Alur call God Lubangakene. What is common among all African cultures is a belief in the existence of deities; these are God's representatives and messengers. In Buganda, such deities are Mukasa, God of the Lakes; Kiwanuka, Wamala, Mulindwa, Lubowa, Musoke, the God of rain, Dgungu, the god of hunting, Kibuuka, the god of wars.

The founder of African Traditional Religion

Unlike Islam and Christianity, African Traditional Religion was not founded by any person. It evolved out of the experiences, inspirations, visions, dreams and revelations of wise ancient human beings.

Scriptures in African Traditional Religion

African Traditional Religion has no scriptures like the Bible in Christianity. Instead, it is written on the hearts of the Africans. Africans move with their religion everywhere they go. Their religion is seen in what they say and do, the way they dress, relate and share with others.

African Traditional Religion has no missionaries

African Religion has no missionaries to propagate it outside Africa. The beliefs and practices are unique and distinctive and meant for only Africans.

Religious leaders in African Traditional Religion

Another difference between Islam and Christianity and African Traditional Religion is that in many cases, the religious leaders in ATR do not require to be trained. They are chosen by God and they include intercessors or mediators between the deities and people.

Lesson summary: You have learnt

- about God in African Traditional Religion;
- the different divinities/deities in African Traditional Religion;
- How African Traditional Religion has been preserved and transmitted to generations.

Follow-up Activity

Ask your parents or any other elders about the traditional religious beliefs and practices in your own tribe. Write a 500 words essay.



National Curriculum
Development Centre,
P.O. Box 7002,
Kampala.

www.ncdc.go.ug