### The Rise and Spread of Christianity

**Vocabulary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gospel:</strong></td>
<td>gospel - the record of Jesus' life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John</td>
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<td><strong>Pacifist:</strong></td>
<td>pacifist - one who refuses to fight or serve in an armed force</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Census:</strong></td>
<td>census - an official count of all people in an area. In the United States, a census is done every 10 years.</td>
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<td><strong>Missionary:</strong></td>
<td>missionary - one who tries to promote their beliefs, typically in a far-away land.</td>
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<td><strong>Disciple:</strong></td>
<td>disciple - a personal follower or student of a teacher</td>
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<td><strong>Parable:</strong></td>
<td>parable - a simple story used to illustrate a moral or religious lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Persecute:</strong></td>
<td>persecute - to be treated poorly because of one's race or religious beliefs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crucify:</strong></td>
<td>crucify - to put someone to death by nailing or binding them to a cross</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resurrect:</strong></td>
<td>resurrect - to restore something (a dead person) to life</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blasphemy:</strong></td>
<td>blasphemy - speaking very offensive toward God or something sacred.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Messiah:</strong></td>
<td>Messiah - a leader or savior of a particular group (in this case, the Jews).</td>
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**Section 2: Close Reading!**

According to the gospels, where was Jesus born? ____________________________________________________________________

He learned the skill of carpentry from his father Joseph; he studied Jewish law and other religious texts.

What did Jesus study and learn about as a child? ____________________________________________________________________

After he was recognized by John the Baptist as the Messiah, this sparks his life’s work of preaching and spreading the word of God.

Why was Jesus’ baptism a turning point in his life? ____________________________________________________________________
In Revelation 13:8, it says...

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

In Matthew 22:37-40, it says...

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

In Luke 21:24, it says...

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”
Persecution, Crucifixion, and Resurrection

Directions: Read the four verses from the Bible on the right! Two of these relate to the text that you just read! Can you figure out which two? Circle or highlight the two that match what is happening in your text. Then, draw a picture to show that verse in action! Next, complete the close reading questions in the middle. Finally, imagine you are creating a test over this section. Create two more questions that can be answered from this section and provide the answers!

Section 1: Verses in Action!

In John 19:17-24, it says...
'So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.'

In Luke 21:24, it says...
'And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.'

In John 19:19-21, it says...
"Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews protested to Pilate, 'Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.'"

In Revelation 16:13, it says...
"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."

Section 2: Close Reading!

According to the gospels, why was Jesus condemned to die on a cross?

Because rumor had spread that he was calling himself “King of the Jews.” Roman leaders feared the Jews would follow the “King” instead of the emperor.

Why was belief in Jesus’ resurrection so important to his disciples and other followers?

To them, this proved that he was in fact the Son of God. This gave his disciples the proof and confidence they needed to spread the teachings.

Section 3: Making a Test!

Question #1: Answers will vary

Answer #1: __________________________________________

Question #2: __________________________________________

Answer #2: __________________________________________
What caused Saul to stop persecuting Christians and become a missionary?

Saul was riding in the desert when he fell and was blinded by a bright light. He heard a voice, which he believed to be Jesus and he was then healed by a Christian in Damascus. This convinced him of Jesus’ and his work.

How did Paul’s work help spread Christianity?

He took missionary trips around the Mediterranean Sea and tried to convert everyone he saw by spreading the word of God. He traveled throughout much of the Roman empire, so he touched a wide audience of people.
Persecution of Christians in Ancient Rome

Directions: Read the three verses from the Bible on the right! One of these relates to the text that you just read! Can you figure out which one? Circle or highlight the one that matches what is happening in your text. Then, draw a picture to show that verse in action! Next, complete the close reading questions in the middle. Finally, imagine you are creating a test over this section. Create two more questions that can be answered from this section and provide the answers!

Section 1: Verses in Action!

In John 3:16, it says...
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

In Psalm 96:3, it says...
“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

In Psalm 23:4, it says...
“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Section 2: Close Reading!

Why were Christians considered a threat to Rome?

There are a variety of answers: Emperors worried the Christians would not follow his rule, Christians became pacifists which posed a threat to the military and expansion, Christian way of life was seen as an insult to the long history of Roman traditions.

How did Rome’s persecution of Christians help Christianity grow and spread?

People became amazed by the bravery of Christians as they sacrificed their lives for their beliefs. This intense commitment attracted many people to the religion. Once Constantine legalizes the religion, persecution ends and widespread adoption happens.

Section 3: Making a Test!

Question #1: _____________________________________________________________________________

Answer #1: _____________________________________________________________________________

Question #2: _____________________________________________________________________________

Answer #2: _____________________________________________________________________________