

Chapter

11

The Rise of Christianity

338-339 Richard T. Nowitz/CORBIS

▼ Mount of the Beatitudes on the Sea of Galilee in Israel

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Where & When?



A.D. 50

● A.D. 30

Jesus preaches in Galilee and Judaea

A.D. 400

● A.D. 312

Constantine accepts Christianity

A.D. 750

● A.D. 726

Emperor Leo III removes icons from churches

A.D. 1100

● A.D. 1054

Orthodox and Catholic Churches separate

◀ CONTENTS ▶

The Big Ideas

Section 1

The First Christians

Studying the past helps us to understand the present. During the Roman Empire, Jesus of Nazareth began preaching a message of love and forgiveness. His life and teachings led to the rise of Christianity. This religion had a great influence on the Roman Empire and on people throughout the world.

Section 2

The Christian Church

Religion shapes how culture develops, just as culture shapes how religion develops. Although the Romans at first persecuted the Christians, in time, Christianity became the official religion of Rome. Early Christians organized the church and collected the New Testament of the Bible.

Section 3

The Spread of Christian Ideas

As different societies interact, they often bring about change in each other. The church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. Christians founded new communities and spread their faith throughout Europe.



View the Chapter 11 video in the Glencoe Video Program.

FOLDABLES™ Study Organizer

Sequencing Information Make this foldable to help you sequence information about the rise of Christianity.

Step 1 Fold a piece of paper from top to bottom.

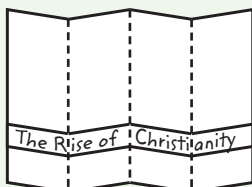


Step 2 Then fold back each half to make quarter folds.



This makes an accordion shape.

Step 3 Unfold and label the time line as shown.



Step 4 Fill in important dates as you read like those shown.

A.D. 30	The Rise of Christianity	Jesus begins to preach
A.D. 64		Romans persecute Christians
A.D. 312		Constantine's conversion
A.D. 726		Emperor Leo III removes icons

Reading and Writing
As you read the chapter, write the important events that occurred in the rise of Christianity.

Get Ready to Read

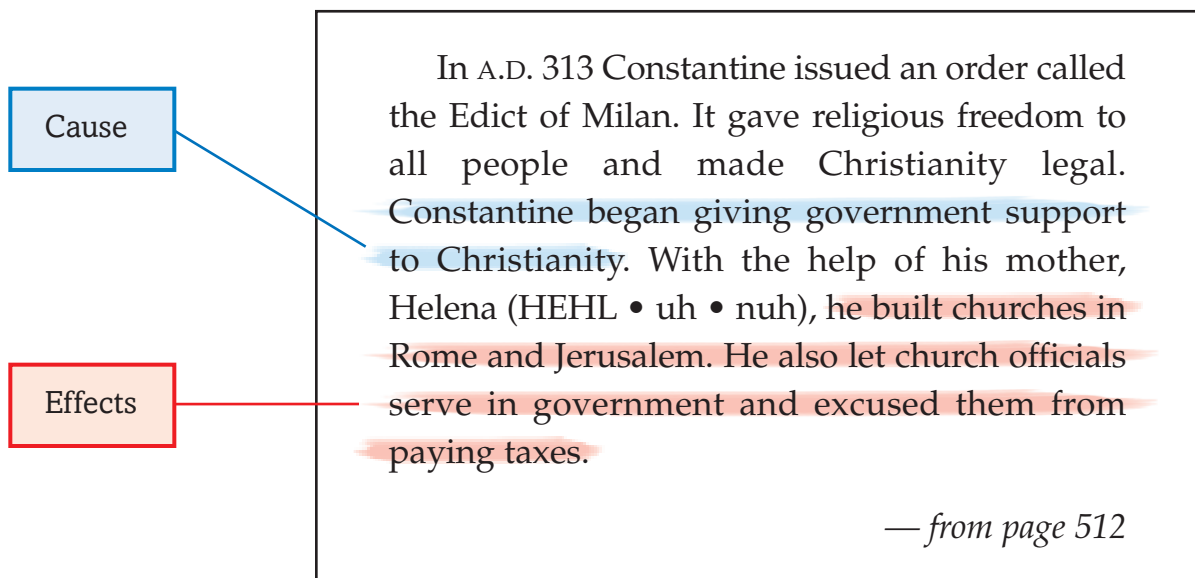
Identifying Cause and Effect



Reading Skill

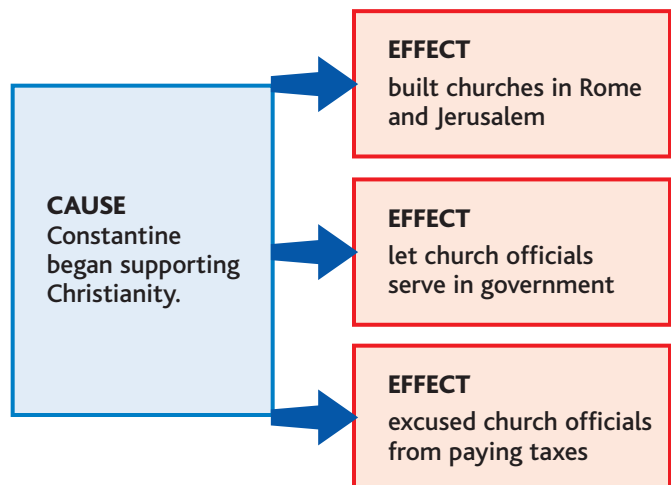
1 Learn It!

A *cause* is the reason that something happens. The result of what happens is called an *effect*. Learning to identify causes and effects helps you understand why things happen in history. By using graphic organizers, you can sort and analyze causes and effects as you read. As shown below, a single cause can have several effects. A single effect can also be the result of several causes.



Reading Tip

Create different types of graphic organizers to help you understand what you are reading.



2 Practice It!

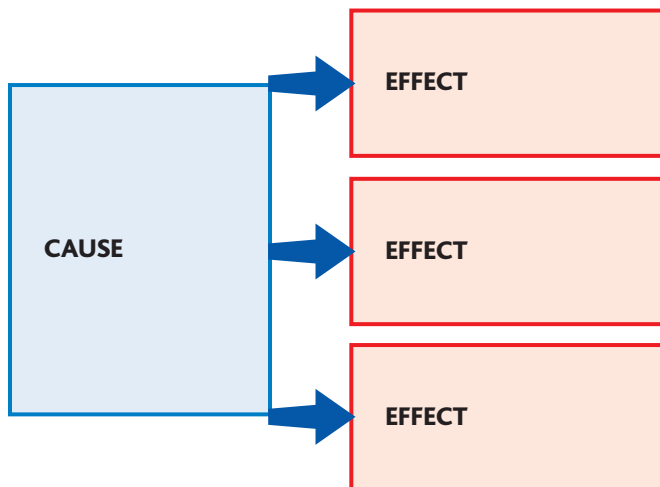
Read the following paragraph. Then use the graphic organizer below or create your own to show what happened as monks and nuns began to play more important roles.

Monks and nuns began to serve in many capacities in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life. They ran hospitals and schools and aided the poor. They also helped preserve Greek and Roman writings. One important duty was to serve as missionaries (MIH • shuh • NEHR • eez). Missionaries teach their religion to those who do not believe.

—from page 519

Read to Write

History is often a chain of causes and effects. The result, or effect, of an event can also be the cause of another effect. Find examples of cause-and-effect chains in the chapter, and show your findings in a graphic organizer.



▲ Benedictine monks

3 Apply It!

As you read the chapter, be aware of causes and effects in the history of Christianity. Find at least five causes and their effects, and create graphic organizers to record them.

Section

1

The First Christians

Guide to Reading



History Social Science Standards

WH.6.7.5 Trace the migration of Jews around the Mediterranean region and the effects of their conflict with the Romans, including the Romans' restrictions on their right to live in Jerusalem.

WH.6.7.6 Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation).

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

You learned that the Romans ruled many areas of the Mediterranean. In one of these areas, Judaea, a new religion, Christianity, began.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Roman rule of Judaea led some Jews to oppose Rome peacefully, while others rebelled. (page 501)
- Jesus of Nazareth preached of God's love and forgiveness. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead. (page 502)
- Jesus' life and a belief in his resurrection led to a new religion called Christianity. (page 506)

Locating Places

Jerusalem (juh•ROO•suh•luhm)
Judaea (ju•DEE•uh)
Nazareth (NA•zuh•ruhth)
Galilee (GA•luh•LEE)

Meeting People

Jesus (JEE•zuhs)
Peter
Paul

Content Vocabulary

messiah (muh•SY•uh)
disciple (dih•SY•puhl)
parable (PAR•uh•buhl)
resurrection
 (REH•zuh•REHK•shuhn)
apostle (uh•PAH•suhl)
salvation (sal•VAY•shuhn)

Academic Vocabulary

decade (DEH•KAYD)
reside (rih•ZYD)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Complete a diagram like the one below showing the purposes of early Christian churches.

Purposes of Churches



Where & When?



A.D. 1

A.D. 50

A.D. 100

A.D. 150

A.D. 30

Jesus preaches in Galilee and Judaea

A.D. 66

Jews in Judaea rise up against Rome

A.D. 135

Romans force Jews out of Jerusalem



WH6.7.5 Trace the migration of Jews around the Mediterranean region and the effects of their conflict with the Romans, including the Romans' restrictions on their right to live in Jerusalem.

Nathan Bern/CORBIS

The Jews and the Romans

Main Idea Roman rule of Judaea led some Jews to oppose Rome peacefully, while others rebelled.

Reading Connection Suppose you were separated from your home and could not easily return to it. What effect might this have on you? Read to learn how the Jews were forced to leave their capital city.

As you learned earlier, during the 900s B.C., two great kings, David and Solomon, united the Israelites and created the kingdom of Israel. Its capital was **Jerusalem** (juh•ROO•suh•luhm). This unity did not last long, however. Israel divided into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. These small kingdoms were later taken over by more powerful neighbors. Israel was destroyed, and its people scattered. But the Jews, the people of Judah, survived.

Roman Rule In 63 B.C. the Romans took over Judah. At first, they ruled through Jewish kings. Then, in A.D. 6, Emperor Augustus turned Judah into a Roman province called **Judaea** (ju•DEE•uh). Instead of a king, a Roman governor called a procurator (PRAH•kyuh•RAY•tuhr) ruled the new province on the emperor's behalf.

The Jews argued among themselves over what to do about the Romans. Some favored working with the Romans. Others

opposed Roman authority by closely following Jewish traditions. Still others turned their backs on the Romans. They settled in isolated areas and shared their belongings.

The Jews Rebel Some Jews believed that they should fight the Romans and take back control of their kingdom. These people, called Zealots, convinced many Jews to take up arms against the Romans in A.D. 66. The rebellion was brutally crushed. The Romans destroyed the temple and killed thousands of Jews. A Jewish general named Josephus (joh•SEE•fuhs) fought in the war but later sided with the Romans. He wrote about the horrors of Jerusalem's fall in his work *History of the Jewish War*.

The Jews rebelled again in A.D. 132 and were again defeated. This time the Romans forced all Jews to leave Jerusalem and banned them from ever returning to the city. Saddened by the loss of Jerusalem, many Jews found new homes elsewhere.

By A.D. 700, the Jews had set up communities as far west as Spain and as far east as central Asia. In later centuries, they settled throughout Europe and the Americas. In their scattered communities, the Jews remained committed to their faith by studying and following their religious laws.

Reading Check Explain Why did many Jews leave Judaea after the A.D. 132 revolt?

These ruins are of the mountaintop Jewish fortress at Masada in Israel. Jewish rebels were defeated by Roman troops here in A.D. 73. **What were the Jewish rebels called?**



WH6.7.6 Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation).

The Life of Jesus

Main Idea Jesus of Nazareth preached of God's love and forgiveness. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead.

Reading Connection If you could give people advice on how to behave, what would you tell them? Why? Read to learn how Jesus thought people should behave.

During Roman times, many Jews hoped that God would send a **messiah** (muh•SY•uh), or deliverer. This leader would help them win back their freedom. The Israelite prophets had long ago predicted that a messiah would come. Many Jews expected the messiah to be a great king, like David. They thought the messiah would restore the past glories of the Israelite kingdom.

A few **decades** before the first Jewish revolt against Rome, a Jew named **Jesus** (JEE•zuhs) left his home in **Nazareth**

(NA•zuh•ruhth) and began preaching. From about A.D. 30 to A.D. 33, Jesus traveled throughout Judaea and **Galilee** (GA•luh•LEE), the region just north of Judaea, preaching his ideas. Crowds gathered to hear him teach and lecture. He soon assembled a small band of 12 close followers called **disciples** (dih•SY•puhlz).

What Did Jesus Teach? According to the Christian Bible, Jesus preached that God was coming soon to rule the world. He urged people to turn from their sins. He also told them that following Jewish religious laws was not as important as having a relationship with God, whom Jesus referred to as his Father.

The main points of Jesus' message are given in a group of sayings known as the Sermon on the Mount. In them, Jesus made it clear that a person had to love and forgive

The Teachings of Jesus

▼ Jesus traveled throughout the regions of Judaea and Galilee, preaching to all who would listen to his religious message. In the Sermon on the Mount, illustrated below, Jesus described God's love and how to be a good person. At right, Jesus is shown as the Good Shepherd, a popular image in early Christian art. **What did Jesus teach about Jewish religious laws?**



from the heart and not just go through the motions of following religious laws. Among Jesus' sayings were "Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy" and "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God."

Jesus told his listeners to love and forgive each other because God loves and forgives people. According to Jesus, God's command was simple. He repeated the age-old Jewish teaching: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Jesus also stressed the Jewish teaching: "Love your neighbor as yourself." This message of love and forgiveness helped shape the values many people in Europe and America hold today.

To present his message, Jesus often used **parables** (PAR•uh•buhlz). These were stories that used events from everyday life

to express spiritual ideas. In the story of the Prodigal (wasteful) Son, Jesus told how a father welcomed back his reckless son with open arms. He forgave his son's mistakes. In another parable, he told of a shepherd who left his flock unguarded to go after one lost sheep. Both stories taught that God forgives mistakes and wants all people to turn away from bad deeds and be saved.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known. In this story, a man is beaten by robbers. A priest and another religious leader passed by the injured man. However, a Samaritan, a member of a group of people who lived in what is now northern Israel, stops to help the victim. He treats the man's wounds and pays for his stay at an inn. Jesus asked his followers, "Which man do you think truly showed love to his neighbor?"

▼ Jesus used stories, called parables, to describe correct behaviors to his followers. The parables of the Prodigal Son (left) and the Good Samaritan (right) are shown here. **What lesson was taught by the parable of the Prodigal Son?**





WH6.7.6. Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation).

JESUS OF NAZARETH

c. 6 B.C.–A.D. 33

Much of what we know about Jesus, whose life and teachings established the Christian religion, is based on accounts found in the New Testament in the Christian Bible. According to the New Testament, Jesus' birth was guided by God. An angel visited Mary, Jesus' mother, to tell her she was going to have a baby. The angel told Mary her baby would be called the Son of God. An angel also visited Joseph, Mary's fiancé, and instructed him to marry her.

Jesus was humbly born in a stable beside barn animals in the town of Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had traveled there to take part in a census ordered by the Romans. Shepherds and wise men, possibly princes from neighboring kingdoms, followed a brightly shining star to find and honor Jesus in the stable. Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth.

The Christian Bible tells very little about the middle years of Jesus' life. He grew up in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee, where he learned the carpenter's trade from Joseph. Later in life, Jesus set out to share his religious teachings. At this point, the Christian Bible provides many stories of Jesus' travels and the miracles he performed. The accounts of Jesus' miracles, such as giving a blind man sight, raising a man from the dead, and calming a storm at sea, brought many followers to his teachings. When Jesus entered Jerusalem the week before his death, he was greeted by cheering crowds. One of Jesus' closest followers, however, betrayed him and turned him over to Roman authorities. Jesus was questioned by Roman officials and sentenced to death. Soon afterwards, reports that he had risen from the dead would lead to a new religion—Christianity.



▲ Jesus entering Jerusalem

"I am the light that has come into the world."

—Jesus of Nazareth, John 12:46

Then and Now

What event does Christmas celebrate? What aspects of Christmas today are not related to its traditional meaning?

What Is the Crucifixion? Jesus and his message drew strong responses from people. His followers spoke of instances in which they believed he healed the sick and performed other miracles. They said he was the long-awaited messiah. Other Jews rejected him and said he was a deceiver. Above all, Judaea's Roman rulers feared the effects of Jesus' preaching. A person who could spark such strong reactions was capable of threatening law and order.

About A.D. 33, Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, an important Jewish holiday. There he was greeted by large, cheering crowds. In an event known as the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated the holiday with his 12 disciples. Fearing trouble, leaders in Jerusalem arrested Jesus and

charged him with treason, or disloyalty to the government. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified, or hung from a cross until dead. This was Rome's way of punishing political rebels and lower-class criminals.

After Jesus' death, his followers made a startling claim. They announced that Jesus had risen from the dead. Christian tradition states that Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, was the first to see Jesus alive again. Others, including Jesus' disciples, reported seeing him as well. The disciples also pointed to his empty tomb as proof that Jesus was the messiah. These reports of Jesus' **resurrection** (REH•zuh•REHK•shuhn), or rising from the dead, led to a new religion called Christianity.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** What were the main ideas Jesus taught during his life?



▲ According to the Bible, just before his death, Jesus gathered his disciples together for a meal known as the Last Supper. **Why did the Romans fear Jesus?**



WH6.7.6 Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation). **WH6.7.7** Describe the circumstances that led to the spread of Christianity in Europe and other Roman territories.

The First Christians

Main Idea Jesus' life and a belief in his resurrection led to a new religion called Christianity.

Reading Connection Have you ever read news stories about people sacrificing their lives to help others? Read to learn about the sacrifice Christians believe Jesus made for everyone.

Jesus' disciples began to spread the message of Jesus and his resurrection. Small groups in the Greek-speaking cities of the eastern Mediterranean accepted this message. Some were Jews, but others were not.

Those who accepted Jesus and his teachings became known as Christians and referred to him as Jesus Christ. The word *Christ* comes from *Christos*, a Greek word for "messiah."

The early Christians formed churches, or communities for worship and instruction. They met in people's houses, many of which were owned by women. At these gatherings, Christians prayed and studied the Hebrew Bible. They also shared in a ritual meal like the Last Supper to remember Jesus' death and resurrection.

Who Were Peter and Paul? Apostles (uh•PAH•suhlz), or early Christian leaders who had been chosen by Jesus to spread his message, played an important role in the growth of Christianity. Perhaps the two most important were **Peter** and **Paul**.

Peter was a Jewish fisher. He had known Jesus while he was alive and had been one of the original 12 people Jesus had called to preach his message. Christian tradition states that he went to Rome after the death of Jesus and helped establish a church there. Today, the leader of Catholic Christians **resides** in Rome.

Paul of Tarsus was another important Christian leader. He was a well-educated Jew and a Roman citizen. Paul at first worked to stop Christian ideas from spreading in Jerusalem. The chief Jewish priest in Jerusalem then sent him to Damascus (duh•MAS•kuhs), a city in Syria, to stop Christians in the city from spreading their ideas.

While on the road to Damascus, Paul had an unusual experience. According to Christian belief, he had a vision of a great light and heard Jesus' voice. Paul became a Christian and spent the rest of his life spreading Jesus' message. Paul traveled widely, founding churches throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

Primary Source

Sermon on the Mount

Jesus encouraged his disciples with the Sermon on the Mount.

"Happy are you when men insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted."

—Matthew
5:11–12



▲ Jesus and his followers



Document-Based Question

Why does Jesus tell his followers to ignore—even rejoice in—persecution?



WH6.7.6 Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation).

PAUL OF TARSUS

c. A.D. 10–65

Without the apostle Paul, Christianity might not have become one of the world's most widely accepted religions. It was Paul who spread the word about Jesus to the Gentiles, or non-Jews, and helped Jesus gain acceptance as the messiah.

Paul was a Jew from Tarsus, a major city in Asia Minor. His father was a Roman citizen, and his family followed the laws and rules of the Pharisees—a Jewish group that stressed the need to follow Jewish laws. His parents named their son Saul after the first king of the Jews. The first trade Saul learned was tent making. Around age 10, he was sent to Jerusalem to attend a school under the direction of the famed Pharisee teacher Gamaliel. Saul received a well-rounded education. He learned the language and history of the Romans, Jews, and Greeks.

When Saul was in his twenties, he opposed Christians and their newly formed church in Jerusalem. He was on his way to Damascus in Syria to try and stop the spread of Christian ideas there when a vision of Jesus led him to accept Christianity.

Saul began using the Latin name Paul after his conversion to Christianity. He traveled extensively, preaching and writing to Gentiles. He also wrote many important letters, known as epistles, to churches in Rome, Greece, and Asia Minor. These letters are included in the Christian Bible. Paul convinced many people that if they died as Christians, they would have eternal life. Even though Paul's only meeting with Jesus was supposedly in his vision, Paul visited more places and preached to more people than most of the apostles who had known Jesus in person.

Paul worked as a missionary for around 35 years. His writings helped different Christian communities understand the basic doctrines and principles of Christianity, and are studied by Christians today.



▲ Paul of Tarsus

“I showed how you should work to help everyone.”

—Paul, Acts 20:35

Then and Now

Can you think of any groups of people in today's world who are persecuted for their beliefs?

What Do Christians Believe? From the beginning, Christians taught that Jesus was the Son of God and had come to save people. By accepting Jesus and his teachings, people could gain **salvation** (sal•VAY•shuhn), or be saved from sin and allowed to enter heaven. Like Jesus, after death they would be resurrected and join God in everlasting life.

Because of their faith in Jesus, Christians began to understand God in a new way. Like the Jews, Christians believed in the God of Israel and studied the Hebrew Bible. However, most Christians came to believe that the one God existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This idea became known as the Trinity, which comes from a word meaning “three.”

Reading Check Identify Who were Peter and Paul, and why were they important?



▲ This painting shows the apostle Peter preaching to followers. **What was the role of apostles in the spread of Christianity?**

History **online**

Study Central Need help understanding how Christianity came about? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Section 1 Review

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- While some Jews opposed Roman rule peacefully, others revolted, leading the Romans to banish Jews from Jerusalem.
- Jesus preached of God’s love and forgiveness. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead.
- A new religion, Christianity, based on the teachings of Jesus and a belief in his resurrection, spread in the Mediterranean region.

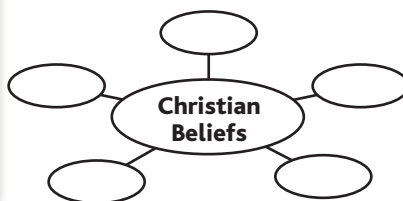
What Did You Learn?

1. What are parables, and why did Jesus use them?
2. What do Christians believe they will gain by accepting Jesus and his teachings?
4. **Analyze** Why were the Jews looking for a messiah? Did Jesus fulfill most Jews’ expectations for a messiah? **CA HR5.**

Critical Thinking

3. Summarize Information

Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details to identify some of the Christian beliefs taught by Jesus. **CA 6RC2.4**



5. **The Big Ideas** How does the study of Jesus’ life and death help people understand Christianity? **CA HI2.**
6. **Expository Writing** Write an essay explaining why Paul is important to the history of Christianity. **CA 6WA2.2**
7. **Reading Identifying Cause and Effect** Write a brief essay describing the results of the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans. **CA HI2.**