

Christopher Columbus

Just as God guided the Israelites on their journey, He has guided many people throughout history as they looked to Him. One is Christopher Columbus.

Columbus was sure that the world was round, and not flat, as most other people in his time believed. If this was so, then by sailing straight westward across the Atlantic he could reach those lands on the other side of the world. He was sure that God wanted him to make this expedition, and, after a long time trying to convince the king of Spain that the journey would be worthwhile, the king provided the money that was needed.

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta' and his brother commanded the 'Nina'.

As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

However, nothing could change Columbus's mind. He continued to trust in God. God protected Columbus and the mutiny did not occur. After seventy days Columbus saw a light that seemed to come from a fire along the coast. The next morning the three tiny ships made for the shore. With the flag of Spain in one hand and a sword in the other, Columbus knelt down and gave thanks to God. The new-found land was an island off the coast of America, part of the West Indies. He named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer.

God had not only protected Columbus, but also guided him. God guided him because of his great faith and trust. Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 6

Activities

PART A

1. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
2. What is the meaning of mutiny?
3. Why didn't the mutiny occur?
4. How did Columbus know he was approaching land?
5. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?
6. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?
7. Why was the voyage of Columbus and his crew similar to the Israelites' journey to the promised land? Choose the correct answers:
 - a) None of the travellers had been to the new land before.
 - b) Both events took place on the continent of Africa.
 - c) God was guiding them.
 - d) All the travellers trusted in God for the whole of the journey.
 - e) The travellers did not always trust their leader.

PART B

God is wise

Because God knows everything there is to know, it is wise to let Him be our guide through life. God knows the future. He knows the best decisions to make. Being a Christian is more than just asking Jesus to _____ our sins. We also need to ask Jesus to be our guide through life. We need to be listening to what He has to say, and obeying His _____.

Missing words: advice forgive

How can I know what God wants me to do?

I can learn what the _____ has to say.

I can ask God to speak to me and show me what is _____.

I can listen to His voice when I _____.

I can listen to what my conscience is _____.

Missing words: right saying Bible pray