**OLI: To examine the New Testament, particularly Letters.**

Read the information below and then complete the activity at the bottom of the document.

Information

The Bible contains different styles of writing. The New Testament contains lots of letters.

Paul was a prolific letter writer. He wrote letters to many of the early Christian communities before, and sometimes after, he visited them e.g. Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi and Colossae. He wrote to explain his understanding of the Christian faith and its practical implications for the lives of Christians. The Bible also contains letters Paul wrote to some of his fellow workers i.e. Timothy, Titus and Philemon. There are also letters written by other people, the e.g. letters to the Hebrews by an unknown author and the letters from James, Peter, John and Jude.

The Acts of the Apostles is the story of the beginning of the Christian community, the Church – how it began among the Jewish people and went on to become a faith for the whole world. The purpose of the Acts of the Apostles is to tell how Jesus’ early followers, led by the Holy Spirit, spread the Good News about him. It tells of the joys and difficulties that the early Christian community encountered and how they overcame them. One of things that had to be settled was whether new followers of Jesus, those who were not Jewish, had to take on all the Jewish laws as well as being a Christian. It was decided at a meeting in Jerusalem that these new followers could belong without taking on the Jewish customs and rules (Acts 15).

Revelation, the last book in the Bible was written at a time when Christians were being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus. It gave its readers hope and encouragement during difficult times and urged them to remain faithful. It contains lots of symbolic language which would have been understood by the Christians of the day but would have remained a mystery to others.

**SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

* Why do you think Paul wrote to the communities ‘before’ he visited them?
* Why do you think it was important that the story of the beginning of the Christian community was recorded?
* What is the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit?
* Can you imagine how difficult it was at the beginning of the Church. What do you think made it hard?

Activity

Write a letter, in the style of St. Paul, to the children in Year 2, advising them on how to behave as they grow up as members of your school community.

Give them as much guidance as you can to encourage them to behave in a Christian manner towards each other.

Use your own experiences in school to help you! Think about friendships, play times, helping those in need. How to approach your learning.

You can complete this on Google Docs and submit it to me on Google Classroom.