

Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

End of Unit Goal – Children will give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus’ birth and why Jesus is important to Christians. Children will understand why the Christians use the nativity story to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas.

Date	Objective (s)	Task/activity	Resources	Key Vocabulary
Lesson 1	I can retell the Christmas Story from the Gospel of Luke	<p><u>Main Teaching</u></p> <p>Show the children a picture of baby Jesus, what can they tell about him from this picture? Most Christians believe that he was very special – not an ordinary baby but God on Earth. Note that the word ‘incarnation’ means ‘God in the Flesh’. Christmas celebrates incarnation.</p> <p>Watch the Christmas Story from the Gospel of Luke - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5m2GE6DFeM</p> <p>The difference between the gospel of Luke and Matthew is – Luke only talks about shepherds and Matthew only mentions wisemen.</p> <p><u>Differentiated Activities/Challenges</u></p> <p>Have a set up of the timeline of the Christmas story set up around the classroom eg. Gabriel meeting Mary, shepherds arriving. This could be photographs or small world scenes. Children to have the opportunity to walk around the classroom and become familiar with the story. Children to complete a three-part story board. Draw three key pictures from the Christmas story and then write a sentence about each.</p> <p><u>Plenary</u></p> <p>Sing a song linked to the Christmas story.</p>	Video, storyboards	Nativity, birth, Jesus, Christmas, Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, shepherd, stable, inn,
	I can compare the birth of Jesus to the birth of a	<p><u>Main Teaching</u></p> <p>Ask the children to discuss as groups ‘who is Jesus?’ Show the</p>	Stable picture.	Nativity, birth, Jesus, Christmas,

Lesson 2	baby nowadays.	<p>children a picture of Jesus in the stable scene. What can the children see? Talk to the children about getting a bedroom ready for a new baby. What would families do? Imagine the new baby is 'God in the flesh' what kind of room do the pupils expect would be suitable for the baby? Who might come and visit? Talk about Jesus' birth in the stable – what were the conditions like, and who visited? Luke talks about the birth of Jesus being 'good news'. Talk about who it might be good news for and why? Make connections with the kinds of things people put up for birthdays with those put up by Christians for Jesus' birthday. What decorations would connect to the story of Luke? Which ones are not connected to the bible?</p> <p><u>Differentiated Activities/Challenges</u></p> <p>Children to draw Jesus' birth scene and the bedroom of a new-born baby nowadays. Under each picture, children to write a list of all of the differences e.g. stable, house, cot, manger, animals, family members.</p> <p><u>Plenary</u></p> <p>Ask the question – if Jesus was born today, what gift would you give him and why?</p>		Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, shepherd, stable, inn,
Lesson 3	I can share what Christmas cards show about the birth of Jesus.	<p><u>Main Teaching</u></p> <p>Look at a selection of Christmas cards: which ones have got a clear link to the story of Luke? Explain the links. Can the children work together to sort the cards into two hoops – religious and non-religious?</p> <p><u>Differentiated Activities/Challenges</u></p> <p>Children to pick a child's name out of the hat. Child to make a traditional Christmas card for that child. Have a selection of traditional images for children to see. Children to draw an image linked to Luke's gospel e.g. stable, angel Gabriel, the animals, shepherd etc. encourage correct colours. Children to write a Christmas message and put it in an envelope in the class post box. Each child to then receive their Christmas card.</p> <p><u>Plenary</u></p>	Christmas cards, hoops, traditional images.	Manger, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, angels

		Children to spend time opening their Christmas card from their peer.		
Lesson 4	I can explain how Christians express their beliefs about Christmas.	<p><u>Main Teaching</u></p> <p>Introduce the word ‘advent’, when Christians prepare Jesus arrival. Find out about some advent traditions. Talk to the children about what they know about the word advent – link to calendars. Bring out the class advent calendar and talk about the reason we use it.</p> <p>Explain that another key element of Christmas is ‘light’. Turn off the classroom light and light a candle, safely. Discuss with the pupils their feelings whilst being in the dark, why was the light important? Pupils to talk about their experiences of being in the dark, why are people scared of the dark? How does the light squash the fear? Begin to introduce the symbolism of light – good and symbolism of dark – bad. Show the children pictures of nativity scenes, can the children identify the symbols of light? Discuss this with the children and talk about light in the birth story of Jesus. Star- guiding people to Jesus, source of goodness coming into the evil world, even the heavens light up for Jesus. Angels – a symbol of goodness and heaven. Halos – a symbol of goodness and holiness. Show the children other Christmas resources linked to light – e.g. lights on a Christmas tree.</p> <p><u>Differentiated Activities/Challenges</u></p> <p>Children to work as groups to make an advent wreath. Each week, light a candle on the advent wreathes.</p> <p><u>Plenary</u></p> <p>Children to write instructions on how to make an advent wreath, and explain the importance of the wreath to Christians.</p>	Wreath making materials	Wreath, candles, Sunday, birth, Jesus, calendars, light
Lesson 5	Preparation for Christmas	Workshop with Reverend Katherine Bagnall – evidence to go in books.		
Lesson	Preparation for	Practise for Christmas performance/Christmas linked activities.		

6	Christmas			
Lesson 7	Preparation for Christmas	Practise for Christmas performance/Christmas linked activities.		