

R.E- Christianity: Incarnation-Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Day & Time	Subjects covered Session title	Key Objectives	Tasks & Differentiation including Key Questions			Assessment/ Plenary	Key Questions
1	R.E	L.O: To engage with the concept of rescuing/ saving	<p>Have you ever rescued or helped someone in trouble? When do people need help? Look at pictures of rescues. Talk about who needs rescuing/who is being rescued? By whom? How? Why?</p> <p>I'm going to show you another picture to do with 'saving' and rescuing'. Look at picture of Mary and the Angel e.g. Annunciation by Nigerian artist, Paul Woelfel. Cover the picture just leaving the envelope and hand visible. What do you think is in the envelope? Look at how it is being held. Uncover and look at the whole picture.</p> <p>Ask questions about the picture linked to the idea of rescues and saving where possible e.g. What's in the envelope? Is it someone asking for help? Does the lady need rescuing? What trouble are they in? Record.</p> <p><i>Introduce Tom and Tessa, who are Christians. They know the story and they can help / save us, by sharing it with us. Take a story bible from their bag and maybe some more pictures of the story to look at. Tell the story of the 'Annunciation' e.g. from the Storyteller Christmas Book or Jesus Storybook Bible. What have you learnt? What do we think now about the words which should be on the whiteboards?</i></p> <p>In pairs freeze-frame the picture. What are you saying? Write speech-bubbles on whiteboards to hold by your head to show your ideas! Take photos</p> <p>Extension:</p> <p>Chn draw a picture and write about a time that they helped or saved someone</p>			<p>Finish the session by lighting a candle and being still. Cover the original picture so children can just look at Mary. Think very quietly about how she felt about being God's helper. Are you a helper too? Blow out candle.</p>	<p>Annunciation picture by Paul Woelfel</p> <p>Whiteboards, pens</p> <p>Christmas story</p> <p>Pictures from Christmas story</p>
			Have you helped someone in trouble?	Who do you think the lady is? Why?	How has God rescued us?		

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2	R.E	L.O: To give a clear account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians	<p>Tell children a familiar story containing a character appearing to be someone he/she is not e.g Beauty and the Beast or the Frog Prince. Pupils spot the relevant characters, discussing what they look like and who they really are.</p> <p>Look at a picture of baby Jesus. What can we tell about him just by looking at his picture? Although Jesus might not have looked particularly special, Christians believe he was actually very special indeed- they believe he was God on Earth. Explain that Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live. When God first came, he was not a big man, just a baby with a mummy called Mary. Discuss who in the class has younger siblings, cousins and so on, how we feel when new babies are on the way and born and what we do to prepare.</p> <p>Think about getting a bedroom ready for a new baby and discuss what we would put into it. Although all babies are special, imagine the new baby is even more special than most, because this one is also God. How could we make the bedroom even more special? Hundreds of toys, the most beautiful crib, special pictures?</p> <p>Chn draw sketches of the bedroom they imagine</p> <p>Chn write an explanation of why they included those items in the bedroom</p>			Talk about why Christmas matters to Christians today-what are their ideas now?	Beauty and the Beast story Picture of baby Jesus
			BA Who is Jesus?	A What happens in the Christmas story?	AA What names do Christians refer to Jesus as?		

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3	R.E	L.O: To recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels	<p>Tell the story from the Gospel of Luke by completing a Christmas story trail in the hall or outside, if weather permits.</p> <p>Stations-</p> <p>1) Nazareth-Gabriel visiting Mary</p> <p>2) Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem</p> <p>3) Bethlehem-Jesus being born and placed in a manger</p> <p>4) Fields- Angels appearing to shepherds</p> <p>5) Bethlehem- Shepherds visiting the baby</p> <p>At each station chn hear part of the story and collect a relevant picture to take back to class. (Complete task)</p> <p>Look back at the ideas for Jesus' bedroom. Compare with the living conditions Jesus actually got. Remind chn who it was that came to visit Jesus- not rich people, but shepherds. Explain this shows that God came to earth to bring good news to everyone, even poor people. The good news was about God and how to be close to him.</p> <p>Chn make a short book about the Christmas story. Chn order photos. Chn stick the photo down and then write a couple of sentences about the picture.</p> <p>Extension: Ask pupils to act out what the shepherds might say to Mary and Joseph and the questions they might ask.</p> <table><tr><td>BA Who is Jesus?</td><td>A What happens in the Christmas story?</td><td>AA What names do Christians refer to Jesus as?</td></tr></table>			BA Who is Jesus?	A What happens in the Christmas story?	AA What names do Christians refer to Jesus as?	Talk about why Christmas matters to Christians today-what are their ideas now?	Gospel of Luke split up into each section of the story- one for each station Photos of each section of the story Storybook template
BA Who is Jesus?	A What happens in the Christmas story?	AA What names do Christians refer to Jesus as?								

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4 and 5	R.E	L.O: To give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas	Look at some Christmas cards and work out which have signs of the story and which do not (Do not use cards which feature the wise men as these don't feature in Luke only in Matthew).			Revisit the key questions- why does Christmas matter to Christians?	Christmas cards Clay Dolly Pegs Shoe boxes Card Paint Coloured Paper
			Introduce the word advent as the arrival of something or someone. Explain that the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas are advent when Christians wait and prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus. Introduce some advent traditions e.g an advent wreath, lighting 4 candles on every Sunday of advent, advent calendar, crib scene				
			Make a crib scene depicting the Christmas story to be displayed in the church				
			Extension: Chn write a caption for their crib scene				
			BA	A	AA		
			What Christmas features did you spot?	What do Christians believe about Jesus?	Why do Christians think God was born as a baby?		

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6	RE	L.O: To describe what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time	<p>Explain that Christmas is a time when many Christians thank God that Jesus came to earth to show and tell people how to live. It's also a time when people put up decorations. Discuss who puts up decorations for family birthdays and explain that at Christmas, many people put up decorations to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What decorations do you use?</p> <p>Get chn to think about thankfulness in relation to the Christmas story. What 'thank you' prayers and sentences might people in the story (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels) have said at different moments? (Task 1)</p> <p>How do people show gratitude at Christmas? Discuss whether pupils have anything to be thankful for at Christmas this year. (Task 2)</p>			Get chn to write their answer to Why does Christmas matter to Christians on a slip of paper for folder	Paper strips- red, green, blue and purple
Task 1- Paper chain of these 'thank you' words (use big links and supported writing and talk to enable deeper thinking) use red and green paper to make this chain.							
Task 2- Make another paper chain in purple and blue paper of all the 'thank yous' the children can think of that they need to say this Christmas: to family, friends, teachers, MDSAs, TAs etc , for all that make Christmas a special time							
Extension: Write a thank you prayer							
BA: What are you thankful for this year?		A: Who do you think Mary would thank? Why?	AA: How do people show gratitude at Christmas time?				

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