

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	Resources
1	R.E	L.O: To recap last half term's learning	<p>Recap last half-term's learning. Nativity story and what they learnt about Jesus.</p> <p>Show chn an image of 3 normal looking chn</p> <p>Complete task</p> <p>Discuss the difficulties of doing this- we don't always know what someone is like by looking at them</p> <p>Remind chn that Jesus did not look special on the outside- why was he actually special to Christians?</p>			Remind chn that Jesus was God on Earth	Image of 3 normal looking chn
Talk in pair's about what each child is good at- are any of them good at football? Good at playing the piano?							
BA What are the chn good at?	A Why was it difficult to complete the task?	AA Who was Jesus?					

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2	R.E	L.O: To recognise that incarnation is part of the 'Big Story' of the Bible	<p>Briefly recap the Christmas story from last half-term of how Jesus brought good news to very poor people. Explain that there are 2 more stories in the Bible about Jesus being born. Introduce stories of the angel appearing to Joseph, telling him that the baby is from God and should be called Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25) and the visit of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12). Tell each story using props and drama. Get the children involved in the retelling.</p> <p>Look at the Big Story frieze, recapping chn's knowledge of it. Explain that God coming to Earth as baby Jesus is also part of the 'big story'. Find this on the frieze and teach the word 'incarnation' which means 'in the flesh' carne= flesh- think carnations or carnivore.</p> <p>List the people in the story that know Jesus is God: Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds, angels.</p> <p>Chn role-play the nativity story teacher to ask pertinent questions to relevant character at appropriate points in the story to assess chn's understanding that those characters know that Jesus is God.</p> <p>Chn write captions underneath the photos of them acting explaining how each character knows Jesus is God.</p>			Explain what incarnation means	Big Story Frieze Bible
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 tell the story of the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with incarnation- 'Jesus is God on Earth'	<p>Explain that there is one more important thing for pupils to know about the birth of Jesus. Ask pupils to sketch a king and discuss features of kingship.</p> <p>Look at Botticelli's Mystic Nativity- only reveal the characters in the stable and let pupils identify them. Ask which look like kings- do any have features of kings from their earlier sketches?</p> <p>Recap part of Matthew 2 where the wise men are looking for the King of the Jews and worship Jesus as a king. What signs are there that Jesus is a king? Where would pupils expect a king to be born?</p> <p>Talk about the gifts that the wise men gave: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Allow pupils to experience the gifts e.g see and feel some gold, smell frankincense (incense stick). Look at the gold and discuss its qualities. Why do pupils think it was a gift suitable for baby Jesus?</p> <p>Show chn the whole picture of the Mystic Nativity. Even though the baby itself doesn't necessarily look like a king or God, how is the artist showing he is special?</p> <p>Ask pupils using a card frame to frame the parts of the picture that are most interesting, most puzzling and most important and say why.</p> <p>Extension: Chn draw their own Mystic Nativity</p> <table><tr><td>BA Who is Jesus?</td><td>A What happens in the Christmas story?</td><td>AA How can you tell Jesus is a king?</td></tr></table>			BA Who is Jesus?	A What happens in the Christmas story?	AA How can you tell Jesus is a king?	Talk about why Christmas matters to Christians today-what are their ideas now?	Mystic Nativity Gold Incense stick Card frame
BA Who is Jesus?	A What happens in the Christmas story?	AA How can you tell Jesus is a king?								

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4	R.E	L.O: To give at least 2 examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story in church and at home.	<p>Look at images of crib scenes in churches. Which characters can you spot? Look at crib scenes from around the world- what is the same? What is different?</p> <p>(Task)</p> <p>Use the images from the resource sheet and ask pupils to think about what the characters might have been saying or thinking at certain points in the story.</p> <p>Look at all the images again and ask pupils to remove one at a time and still keep the meaning of Christmas and incarnation.</p> <p>Using resource sheet 1 chn spot which one is the odd one out and say why. There is no correct answer but it will assess their understanding.</p> <p>Write their own verse for a carol</p>			Listen to Christmas carols- spot key words linked to Jesus and the Christmas story.	Crib scenes from around the world Resource sheet 1 Carols
			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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5 and 6	RE	L.O: To think, talk and ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it	<p>Listen to In the Bleak Midwinter- think together about the words in the last verse 'What can I give him. Poor as I am?' 'Yet what can I give him. Give him my heart.' Discuss what this might mean for a Christian: loving Jesus and giving your heart and life to God is not a seemingly expensive gift, but to Christians it is still an important one.</p> <p>(Task 1)</p> <p>Explain that Christmas is a time for giving- the wise men gave presents when Jesus was first born. It's also a time to remember that poorer people (shepherds) visited Jesus, who came for both rich and poor people. As Christmas is a time for both giving and thinking of the poor, lots of Christians like to give presents to help those in need at Christmas time.</p> <p>Task 1- List together the sort of qualities that pupils in the class might possess that would be excellent to give to and share with others, whether or not they are a king.</p> <p>Sit in a circle and ask each pupil to suggest what they might have to share. Draw around pupils' hands and get them to write in each other's outlines their special gifts</p> <p>Task 2- What can the pupils themselves do to be kind to others this Christmas? Make a class list and see how many things they can actually do.</p> <p>Write a letter to parents asking for donations of the homeless shelter</p> <table><tr><td>BA: How can you help those in need?</td><td>A: Who do you think Mary would thank? Why?</td><td>AA: How do people show gratitude at Christmas time?</td></tr></table>			BA: How can you help those in need?	A: Who do you think Mary would thank? Why?	AA: How do people show gratitude at Christmas time?	Explain how it is not only Christians who celebrate Christmas but it is only Christians who believe Jesus is God in the flesh, God incarnate.	In the Bleak Midwinter
BA: How can you help those in need?	A: Who do you think Mary would thank? Why?	AA: How do people show gratitude at Christmas time?								

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