



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE	LEARNING STAGE	WST TEACHER/DATE
The Christmas story (Video lesson)	KS1	Mrs Tricia Bastable/Mrs Johanna Jordan
AIM: To understand why Christmas is important to Christians. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To explore the Christmas story and to understand why remembering Jesus' birth is important to Christians.	MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Beliefs and practices Other AOL covered: Symbols and actions Sources of wisdom Ultimate questions	LESSON RESOURCES WST provides: Lesson video and worksheets (story board or drawing template) are available through our website www.watfordschoolstrust.org/lesson-plans School to provide: Photocopies of the worksheet Colouring pencils Recommended video clip to watch: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/the-greatest-journey/

Introduction

Tricia introduces the subject by asking the children what would be the first thing they might think of when they hear the word 'Christmas'.

Johanna asks the question whether the children will be celebrating Christmas whether they know why we celebrate Christmas. She then mentions that Christmas is an important festival for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus. She asks the children whether they can remember parts of the Christmas story from previous years and whether they know any of the characters in the story. We recommend to pause the video at this point to allow the children to discuss anything they already know with their talking partner.

In this video lesson we are going to be thinking about the story of Christmas from the Bible. Christians believe that the story is a true story and they want to remember this event every year because they believe that Jesus is God's son.

Main content

Johanna reads the Christmas story from the book 'The Christmas Promise' written by Alison Mitchell (published by the Good Book Company) and shows the pictures of the book.

After the story, Tricia reflects on what an amazing story this Christmas story is. Christians believe that Jesus is a 'king' who came into the world to help people to be friends with God and who still helps people today.

Johanna and Tricia then ask the children some questions that can be discussed.

Johanna asks how Mary and Joseph might have felt about the news that they were going to be parents of such a special baby? The Bible says that they were afraid and surprised when they saw the angel. They were worried about how things might be. But they were also happy to be part of God's special plan.

Johanna then asks why Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem (a distance of 90 miles!). She gives 3 possible answers (The emperor told them to go/Their family was from Bethlehem/It was God's plan for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem). All 3 answers are right. Johanna explains why.

Johanna then discusses that Jesus was laid in a manger after his birth and asks what a manger is? A picture of a manger is shown.

Johanna mentions that Jesus had special visitors and asks how the shepherds would have felt when they saw the angel? She explains that shepherds were rough and dirty people who lived outside in the fields looking after sheep. The fact that God chose them to visit Jesus first shows that Jesus came for everyone!

Tricia introduces the visit of the wise men to baby Jesus and asks the children to discuss what presents they might give to a new-born baby? Jesus received special presents (gold, myrrh and frankincense) to show that he was a very special baby.

Johanna then asks the children what they think is really special about the Christmas story. Again the video can be paused to allow discussion. For Christians the most important part of Christmas is remembering the birth of Jesus. They believe that Jesus is God's special gift to the world.

Activity

We recommend that the children respond to the lesson by creating a story board with 4 pictures to retell the story of Jesus' birth. Or for younger children to draw a picture of the nativity scene. Worksheets are available on our website.

Extension/enrichment activities

The Bible Society has released some great video's over the years that can be shown. A recommended video is the clip of the Greatest Journey <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/the-greatest-journey/> . This video is in the style of 'We're going on a bear hunt' and shows the various journeys made by the different characters in the Christmas story.

Class teacher's notes