



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE Christmas Workshop – the significance of incarnation – Video lesson	LEARNING STAGE UKS2	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Tricia Bastable/ Mrs Johanna Jordan
AIM: To understand why Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the significance of incarnation (God coming to the world as a human being) in their lives today. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To explore the Christian belief of incarnation through the Christmas story.	MAIN AREAS OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Beliefs and practices Identity and belonging Symbols and actions Other AOL covered: Prayer, worship and reflection Sources of wisdom Ultimate questions	LESSON RESOURCES Lesson video Copies of Christmas Prophecies Crossword worksheet Photocopies of Christmas advert worksheet (these can be downloaded from our website www.watfordschoolstrust.org/lesson-plans) School to provide: (Scrap) paper for mind map and to practice advert. Colouring pencils/pens

Introduction

Johanna introduces the workshop and explains that today we're going to explore:

- the Christian belief of Incarnation through the Christmas story
- why Christmas is important to Christians

1st Activity

Tricia asks the chn to create a Christmas mindmap (individually or in pairs) She asks them to try to answer these questions:

- What is Christmas to you?
- How do people celebrate Christmas?
- What is Christmas all about?

We suggest you [pause the video](#) to allow them to create their mindmap and then allow time to share their ideas. Have the chn answered the questions? What have the chn said about how people celebrate Christmas? How many of the words written on the mind map are related to the Biblical story of Christmas?

Tricia explains that a lot of our Christmas traditions have grown up around **how** we celebrate rather than **what** we celebrate.

Most of what the chn will have written are likely to be secular things, meaning they are not connected with God. Whereas anything from the Christmas story from the Bible, anything connected with God we can call **Sacred**.

Tricia will explain that Christmas is a Christian festival and will explore the origins of the compound word 'Christmas'. The word Christ is a Greek translation of the Hebrew word 'Messiah'. And Messiah means anointed one/one who was sent to save.

Activity 2

Johanna shows images of the characters from the Christmas story. She asks the chn to identify the different characters and what order the story took place. [Pause the video to allow discussions.](#)

Johanna introduces a version of the Christmas story read by local school children.

She then explains why, for Christians, these events are much more than just a nice story. Christians believe Jesus' birth was part of God's plan, part of the 'Big Story' for the world. The Bible teaches that God made the world (Creation) so that people could be friends with God, however they disobeyed God (Fall) and kept disobeying God's rules (People of God). So, God promised he would send someone special to 'rescue' his people, to restore that friendship. Christians believe that Jesus is this special person, the 'Messiah' or 'Saviour'. And that God had this all planned out centuries before Jesus was born.

Activity 3

Tricia suggests a quick quiz about planning for Christmas. The chn are asked to match the pictures and statements of when Christmas preparations are made. These are the correct answers:

[Christmas trees are planted- 520 weeks; shops order their Christmas cards-48 weeks, Farmers start fattening their turkeys -16 weeks, Christmas puddings are made-15 weeks, Shops put up their Christmas decorations-8 weeks, Christmas singles are released- 1 week](#)

Johanna says that the Bible says that God planned the very first Christmas a long time before it happened. He even announced it 900 years before it happened. Johanna explains that prophets were people who would pass on to the people messages from God. Several children read some Old Testament prophecies that predict what the Messiah would be like and do. Johanna explains how these prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus.

[You might like to pause the video to look at the crossword puzzle based on those predictions which we've included for you.](#)

Tricia explains that Christians believe these prophecies confirm that Jesus was the chosen one sent from God, but not just as a special messenger but as God's son, that he was God himself. We call this 'Incarnation'. Incarnation means God in a human form.

Tricia asks the chn to recall any events in Jesus' life that showed that he had special power (i.e. miracles Jesus did, things he said, his authority, his resurrection from the dead)? There were also many unusual things about Jesus' birth that point to him being special (i.e. the annunciation - Jesus birth was announced, the star, the angels).

We show [Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard \(Gerrit\) van Honthorst \(1590-1656\)](#), as an example of how artists have tried to show that Jesus was God in human form. Notice how the baby appears to be 'glowing', light emanating from him as in religious art, Light is often used as a symbol of God's presence.

Tricia poses the question: why would God want to leave the comfort, security and majesty of heaven to come to earth and become a human being? The concept of Incarnation is a difficult one to explain but Tricia uses an example of Her Majesty the Queen leaving the comfort, security and majesty of Windsor Castle to work in Asda collecting trolleys or to work in a school. [Show pictures of the cut-out of the Queen.](#)

Activity 4

Tricia introduces our next task by explaining the concept behind the American T.V. show 'Undercover Boss'.

In talking partners the chn are asked to think of examples of important or influential people doing more menial or lowly jobs?

[Pause the Video with a still of the question.](#)

Tricia explains that the message of the Bible is that God so loved the people of the world so much and he wanted to demonstrate that by becoming human to restore the relationship between people and God (John 3:16). Tricia mentions our Yr 6 Easter workshop which will be available next term. She concludes by saying that Christmas is a time when Christians think about God becoming human, becoming one of us. We then show a short Christmas advert, called Christmas starts with a giggle.

Activity 5

Johanna sets the final activity: - design a Christmas advert with the true meaning of Christmas. [Several examples are shown.](#) The poster can be a combination of Sacred and Secular Christmas celebrations, but should point to the Christian message of Christmas.

Plenary

If you or your class have any questions, we'd be happy to try and answer them for you. We could even take part in a question and answer session if that would be beneficial. If you'd like to share any of your class' work we'd love to see them and might even be able to display it in our online gallery.

Extension/enrichment activities

What special things do Christians do at Christmas time? Many Christians and Christian organisations try to reach out to the poor/lonely/suffering. Look at some charity projects that take place this year.

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Should Christmas be reserved for Christians to celebrate Jesus' birth?

Class teacher's notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit
www.watfordschoolstrust.org or email info@watfordschoolstrust.org

