



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

| LESSON TITLE | LEARNING STAGE | WST TEACHER/DATE |
|---|--|--|
| Christmas | KS1 | Mrs Tricia Bastable/Mrs Johanna Jordan /Mrs Fiona Penny |
| 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 AREAS/ 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 will bring: Story script Knitted nativity characters PPT with video link https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-greatest-journey/ Worksheet to photocopy Word banks Box with props (heart, cross, crown) Star stickers Extension activity: colouring sheets School to provide: Photocopies of the worksheet Colouring pencils |

Introduction

Ask the pupils whether they are excited about Christmas and what they like most about Christmas? We are going to be thinking about the story of Christmas from the Bible, the special book Christians read. Many people celebrate Christmas around the world.

The reason we celebrate Christmas is that we remember the birth of Jesus. Christians believe that the story of Jesus' birth in the Bible is a true story and they want to remember this event every year because they believe that Jesus is God's son. Show a small gift box with baby Jesus in it. Christians believe that Jesus was God's gift to the world.

Main content

Ask children if they know any characters from the story. Match their responses with the relevant visual aid (knitted characters). Ask children who are sitting nicely to hold each of the characters until they are needed in the story. Or alternatively put them at the front for all to see.

Use the PowerPoint, interactive story and the knitted nativity figures to tell the Christmas story. See the story script for further details.

Discuss how various characters in the story reacted to the news about the birth of Jesus:

- Joseph and Mary when Jesus' birth was announced/travelled to Bethlehem/when Jesus was born?
- The people (incl. the innkeeper) in Bethlehem
- The shepherds
- King Herod
- The wise men
- Did anything surprise you in the story?
- What do you think is special about Jesus?

Christians believe that Jesus was God's son who came into the world so that people could be friends with God again. 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.

Further discuss why Christians believe that Jesus was so special and which events in the Christmas story (i.e. appearance of angels, a star that showed the way, special visitors) showed that Jesus was special. Christians believe that Jesus was and is a king.

- A servant king who served and helped his people. He showed people how to live. Christians believe that Jesus still helps them to live for God today. (crown)
- A loving king who told them about God's love for them. (heart)
- A suffering king who died on the cross to forgive people. (cross)

Christians believe that Christmas is the time to celebrate Jesus' birth because Jesus is the son of God who came into the world to help us be friends with God.

Activity

Create a storyboard with 4 pictures to retell the story of Jesus' birth. Finish the sentences in each box using the word bank.

Extension/enrichment activities

Jigsaw puzzles

Plenary

Show the video clip of the Greatest Journey <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/the-greatest-journey/>

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

What was the good news of Jesus' birth?

Class teacher's notes

