



## R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

| <b>LESSON TITLE</b><br>Christmas Workshop – the significance of incarnation.   | <b>LEARNING STAGE</b><br>UKS2  | <b>WST TEACHER/DATE</b><br>Mrs Tricia Bastable/ Mrs Johanna Jordan/ Mrs Fiona Penny  |
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| <p><b>AIM:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b><br/>To explore the Christian belief of incarnation through the Christmas story.</p> | <p><b>MAIN AREAS OF LEARNING</b> (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22)</p> <p>Beliefs and practices<br/>Identity and belonging<br/>Symbols and actions</p> <p><b>Other AOL covered:</b><br/>Prayer, worship and reflection<br/>Sources of wisdom<br/>Ultimate questions</p> | <p><b>LESSON RESOURCES</b><br/><b>WST will bring:</b><br/>PowerPoint on USB/emailed in advance<br/>Christmas cards<br/>“Go Chatter” video <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I7-enuD3iZRuAeO6LMxBHosMtsyotLv/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I7-enuD3iZRuAeO6LMxBHosMtsyotLv/view?usp=drive_link</a><br/>Prophecies matching cards<br/>Worksheets to photocopy (Christmas poster)<br/>Optional video ‘Christmas starts with a giggle’ <a href="https://youtu.be/MOByXwK-g94">https://youtu.be/MOByXwK-g94</a> <b>School to provide:</b><br/>(Scrap) paper for mind map and to practice advert.<br/>Photocopies of worksheets<br/>Colouring pencils/pens/other art materials as chosen by the school</p> |

### Activity 1: Introduction

Mind map – ask pupils to make a mind map about Christmas (individually or in small groups). Think of questions like: “What is Christmas to you?”; “How do people celebrate Christmas?”; “What is Christmas all about?”. Discuss the mind map. How many of the words written on the mind map are related to the Biblical story of Christmas?

Make the point that Christmas is a Christian festival that has picked up/been merged with several other traditions, particularly Winter Solstice/pagan traditions. Let’s look at the word Christmas which is a compound word. It consists of ‘Christ’ referring to Jesus Christ, and ‘mass’ which means celebration (celebration of Jesus Christ). A lot of our Christmas traditions have grown up around **how** we celebrate rather than **what** we celebrate. (Sacred and Secular)

### Activity 2: Christmas story

Using Christmas cards and working in pairs or small groups, retell the Biblical Christmas story. Can they identify all the different characters involved? What is significant about them? Point out that God welcomed both the rich (wise men) and the poor (shepherds).

Tell the Christmas story using the Go Chatter video (Lego-Christmas story. A Sacred story re-told using a Secular toy.

**Discuss** why Jesus is so significant for Christians. Jesus' birth is part of God’s plan, part of the ‘Big Story’. The Bible teaches that God made the world (Creation) so that people could be friends with God, however they disobeyed God and broke their friendship with God (Fall). So God promised he would send someone special to ‘rescue’ his people and to restore their friendship. Christians believe that Jesus

is this special person, the 'Messiah' (Christ in Greek, which the New Testament is written in, - means 'Chosen One') or 'Saviour' that would enable people to be friends with God again and God had planned this centuries before Jesus was born.

### **Activity 3: Prophecies**

Talking of planning, let's have a quick quiz. Show slide of Christmas planning quiz. Ask chn to match pictures with 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

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 through various prophets. Prophets were people who would pass on messages from God to other people. Ask children to read some Old Testament prophecies that predict what the Messiah would be like and do.

Isaiah 7:14: Christians believe that Jesus was both God and human.

Micah 5:2,4: Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Hosea 11:1: Jesus lived as a refugee in Egypt because king Herod tried to kill him.

Isaiah 29:11: When Jesus grew up, he did many miracles.

Isaiah 53:12: Jesus gave his life on the cross to bring forgiveness to people.

Ask pupils whether they can recall 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 Jesus being special (i.e. the annunciation - Jesus' birth was announced, the star, the angels).

Christians believe that the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus. That Jesus was the chosen one from God. But Jesus wasn't just a special messenger. The Bible tells us that Jesus was God's son, that he was God himself. We call this 'Incarnation'. Incarnation means that God came to earth in a human body but still with Godly power.

### **Activity 4: Incarnation**

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.

**Discuss** why Jesus came. Why would God want to come down from heaven and become a human being? It's as if the King would come from his Palace to collect trolleys at Asda in an Asda uniform or come and clean our school. That's hard to imagine! Introduce the concept of the 'Undercover Boss'. In talking partners, ask the chn to think of examples of important or influential people doing more menial or lowly jobs?

The Bible teaches that God so loved the world and the people that he wanted to come to the world to tell people about God, to show people how God wants them to live but ultimately Jesus came to sacrifice his life to restore the relationship between people and God (John 3:16). More about this in our Easter workshop!

### **Activity 5: Christmas poster**

Design a Christmas advert with the true meaning of Christmas. Show examples. The poster can be a combination of Sacred and Secular Christmas celebrations but must point to the Christian message at Christmas: Jesus' birth.

### **Plenary**

Christmas is a special time for Christians. It reminds them of how much God loves everyone that he wanted to come to earth as one of them. Show Christmas starts with a giggle clip <https://youtu.be/MOByXwK-g94> How will you celebrate Christmas this year and what is important about Christmas for you?

### **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](http://www.watfordschoolstrust.org) or email [info@watfordschoolstrust.org](mailto:info@watfordschoolstrust.org)