

The National Junior C of E Primary School

Unit: Incarnation

Subject: RE

Term: 2

Unit Overview / Key Question:

Was Jesus the Messiah?

Why did Christians believe that the world needed a 'Saviour'?

Incarnation marks the point where the Old Testament ends with the coming of the Messiah (a savior, a rescuer or the chosen one). The people of God returned from exile in Babylon but their promised lands are still occupied by foreign forces. They begin to have new hope - God will save them.

Christians believe that Jesus was this Messiah sent by God to rescue them from their current situation. However, most Jewish people at the time did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah - and Jewish people today still do not think he was.

Symbols and Key Festivals



Christmas is an annual festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus. For Christians it is a special religious that began from the story in the New Testament of the birth of Jesus in stable in Bethlehem. Some Christians worry that this meaning of Christmas is lost in the tinsel, turkey and TV.



Christians believe that the Messiah would be the son of God and would be sent to rescue them. Jesus is believed to be the Messiah by Christians.

What?

Key Knowledge

What is a messiah?	A messiah is someone who is a leader and saviour. Jesus was said to be the promised saviour of the Jewish people. The people of God were in need of a saviour after they returned from exile this is where the Old Testament ended. Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled these expectations, and that he is the Messiah. Christians see Jesus as their Saviour.
What are the characteristics of a messiah?	The term Messiah is Hebrew and means 'anointed one'. This is a title given to the person believed to be the saviour, who has been chosen to bring salvation to humankind. Christians believe that the Messiah was sent by God to save humanity.
What do Christians believe is the true meaning of Christmas?	Many Christians argue that Christmas has lost its real meaning - they believe that Jesus is lost in the tinsel, turkey and TV. Some Christians have turned to advertisement campaigns to get the message about their beliefs about Christmas to people.
How does belief change the view of Christmas?	How is Christmas celebrated differently in Christian or non-Christian families? Some Christians start Christmas Day with a midnight service, called Midnight Mass. Christians often celebrate Christmas by giving and receiving presents and cards. This reminds them of the gift of Jesus, beginning his earthly life.
Why the people of God need a rescuer?	Examine the situation: The People of God were taken into exile in Babylon in 586BCE. They return after about 50 years, but their Promised Land is still occupied by foreign forces. They begin to have a New Hope - God will rescue them! He will send a rescuer, a saviour - a Chosen One or Messiah.
What would a 21 st century messiah be like?	What would the Messiah be like? Where would they be born? What characteristics would they have? What would the Messiah have focused on solving first? Would the Messiah be similar to Jesus in their teachings or would they be different?

Vocabulary

Incarnation	The belief that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, also known as God the Son, "was made flesh".
Messiah	Is someone who is a leader and saviour.
Saviour	A person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty.
Theological	The study of the nature of God and religious belief.
Peacemaker	A person who helps others solve a conflict and reach a peaceful solution.
Gospel	A gospel is a written account of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
Prophecy	A prediction that will happen in the future.
Old Testament	The name of the first part of the Bible, the one written before Jesus Christ.
New Testament	The name given to the part of the Christian Bible that was written after the birth of Jesus Christ.

Prior Knowledge

From previous year groups children already know that Christians believe God is Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They believe The Father creates; he sends the Son who saves his people; the Son sends the Holy Spirit to his followers. They have learnt that Jesus, the Son of God, is seen by Christians as revealing what God the Father is like. Children have learnt about the Christmas story/the nativity: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, sheep, angels, wise men, shepherds, a stable, a star and so on. They have also looked at Christmas carols and songs that explain the importance of Christmas to Christians.

