Incarnation UC 1.3: Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Metacognition opportunities in red. Revisiting prior learning and developing sticky knowledge.

Week	Learning Objectives	Activity:		Assessment
1	To know that Christians believe that Jesus is God and was born as a baby.	Look at the story of Beauty and the Beast and discuss what the characters look like and who they really are. Look at baby pictures of people they know (staff/ parents/ celebrities) and discuss and annotate what qualities this babies grew up to have. Look at an image of baby Jesus. What can we tell about him just by looking at his picture? Christians believe he was very special – God		Can the Y2 children explain what incarnation means? Can Y1 explain that baby Jesus was God in human form? Can all children know that Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem?
2	To give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus	on Earth. Explain what 'incarnation' Flesh. Provide a Christmas story trail in chi parts of the story- children to identify placed. Recall prior learning from last	urch - of props to signify key where the parts should be	R – Who is Jesus? Y1 – What happens in the Christmas story? Y2 – How was Jesus referred to
	is important for Christians.	church. At each part of the trail, the gather a picture to stick a die (5 side	relevant part will read and	by other names? This will be revisited in a few

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	To know that his birth is extraordinary (Y2).	Whenever the cube is rolled, pupils should talk about the relevant parts and ideas in the story. Y2 – look at the Big Frieze section relating to incarnation. Draw out the names in the frieze 'Prince of Peace' and 'King of Kings'. Return to the word incarnation.	weeks time. Whenever the cube is rolled, pupils should talk about the relevant parts and ideas in the story.
3	To know how symbols represent aspects of the biblical story and Christians use these to guide them.	Sort images of Christmas in venn diagram of sacred (Biblical) Christmas and secular (non biblical) / Christmas. R/ Y1 – work with support. Y2 – work as a group and feedback together. Eg: santa is secular. Crib is sacred. Y2 - When trying to understand secular: Look at church school website and non church school and what is the difference?	Can children draw on prior knowledge of the biblical narrative to sort images accurately? Y2 – can they explain why?
	To know lots of people celebrate Christmas but only Christians believe that Jesus is	Provide actual objects (eg: candy cane) as a resource on worship table to refer to.	

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God in the flesh (Incarnation)

The candle symbolises that Jesus is the 'Light of the world'

The wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end which symbolises God- Eternal

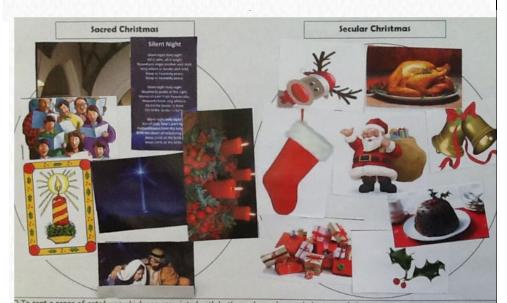
The dove symbolises the spirit of the Lord and peace in the world.

The star resognises that the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem

The candy cane symbolises the shepherd's crook.

The angel recognises that the angel brought the good news of Jesus' birth.

The crown represents the wise men and Jesus as the King.



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4	To know how	Assessment of prior learning: Whenever the cube is rolled, pupils	R/Y1 – identify the kings in the
	symbols represent	should talk about the relevant parts and ideas in the story. Can they	artistic image.
	aspects of the	remember each part?	
	biblical story and		Y2 – How does a crown symbolise
	Christians use these	Look at The Adoration of the Magi, Pieter Aertsen, c. 1560 -	what Christians believe?
	to guide them.	Rijksmuseum and use a viewfinder cut out to focus on certain parts. Y2 could do this independently. Eg: the wise men's gifts. Can they	
	To understand the	spot the kings? Discuss that Y2 should know Jesus was referred as	
	significance of the kings (linked to	King of Kings – even though in the picture he is a baby.	
	giving) within the	Look at the wise men's gifts – touch and feel gold, smell	
1	narrative.	frankincense. Discuss significance of these gifts.	
		R/Y1 – paint a collaborative picture of the Adoration of the Magi – their own version.	
		Y2 – have a sheet with 2 crowns on (1 shiny/ gold and 1 crown of thorns) and unpick which of these relates to what Christians believe about Jesus.	

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5	R/Y1 -To decide what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time. Y2 – Think talk and ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it eg: about being generous.	Listen to In the Bleak Midwinter- think together about the words in the last verse 'What can I give him. Poor as I am?' 'Yet what can I give him. Give him my heart.' Discuss what this might mean for a Christian: loving Jesus and giving your heart and life to God is not a seemingly expensive gift, but to Christians it is still an important one. (Task 1) Explain that Christmas is a time for giving- the wise men gave presents when Jesus was first born. It's also a time to remember that poorer people (shepherds) visited Jesus, who came for both rich and poor people. As Christmas is a time for both giving and thinking of the poor, lots of Christians like to give presents to help those in need at Christmas time. Children to write their own thank you to someone who does something for them. Put it in a class box, wrap it up to make it look	Can they all state what they are thankful for? Y2 – why is it important for Christians to give as well as receive?
6		special. Open this up in a worship session to show KS2 later that week. Final Assessment lesson:	How do they respond to
		Set the question, give them thinking time in pairs. Video their responses to the question.	What do Christians celebrate at Christmas?

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Show this version and compare with their own. Free Lesson Resources KS1-2 Faithinschools Q2 What do Christians celebrate	
at Christmas?	

Link to worship:

Christingle: look at the symbols of a Christingle.

The orange – the world Red ribbon – blood of Christ Cande – Jesus is the light of the world The 4 cocktail sticks with fruit and sweets – the 4 seasons and all of God's creation.