



Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

RE Knowledge Organiser

**Prior Learning:**

In Year One children will have learnt what a parable is and know the story of 'The Lost Son' from the bible. They will understand what this story means to Christians and how it shapes their beliefs. They will know how Christians put their beliefs into practice in worship.

**Key RE learning Outcomes for this unit:**

**Make sense of belief:**

- Recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels
- Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians

**Key RE learning Outcomes for this unit:**

**Understand the impact:**

- Give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the Nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas

**Key RE learning Outcomes for this unit:**

**Make connections:**

- Think, talk and ask questions about Christmas for people who are Christians and for people who are not
- Decide what they personally have to be thankful for, giving a reason for their ideas.

**Areas of Reflection**

- Tell the story of the Nativity from the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1 and 2.
- Look at a selection of Christmas cards: which ones have got a clear link to the story in Luke? Ask pupils to explain the links.
- Visit St.Bartholomew's Church to find out what will be happening around Christmas. Find out about the colours the vicar/priest might wear; what other signs will there be about Jesus' birthday and that this is important to Christians?
- Introduce the word 'advent', when Christians prepare for Jesus' arrival. Find out about some Advent traditions (e.g. Advent wreath, candle, calendar; making a crib scene, etc.).
- Make connections with the kinds of decorations people put up for birthdays with those put up by Christians for Jesus' birthday. What decorations would connect with the story in Luke? Which ones are not connected to the Bible, but to other secular (non-religious) Christmas traditions?
- People give gifts and they also say 'thank you' at Christmas. Ask pupils to create the 'thank you' prayers of all the characters in the Nativity story in Luke. Think about all the people pupils would liked to thank at Christmas time. Ask pupils to create some of their own 'thank you' statements and give them out.



**Key RE Vocabulary**

<b>nativity</b>	The story of Jesus Christ's birth.
<b>Jesus Christ</b>	The son of God born to Mary and Joseph.
<b>Bethlehem</b>	The biblical birth place of Jesus.
<b>stable</b>	A building used to keep horses.
<b>Vicar</b>	A member of the church who teaches the word of God.
<b>advent</b>	The period of time leading up to the bith of Jesus.
<b>decorations</b>	Objects used in celebrations to decorate spaces.
<b>disciples</b>	A follower of Jesus during his life - there were 12.
<b>Gospel According to Luke</b>	Part of the New Testament - stories of Jesus's life written by Luke, one of Jesus' disciples.
<b>New Testament</b>	The second part of the Christian Bible telling the stories of Jesus by his earliest followers - the disciples.

