

Learning focus points

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

- Start – think about what sort of person would be needed to help in different situations: if you are being bullied, if a boss won't promote people of different faiths in his company
- Look at the 'big story' on the frieze and the transition from the Old to the New Testament
- Examine the situation – God will rescue the People of God by sending a rescuer, a Chosen One – Messiah
- What kind of saviour? Be an investigative journalist.
- Examine the written evidence – prophecies, expectations
- Write a report from the scene – Jesus' followers came to believe he was the Messiah
- The real meaning of Christmas?
- What do Christians do at Christmas?
- Reflect on learning – was Jesus the Messiah? Why might people think the world needed a saviour?

Learning Outcomes

Making sense of the text: Explain the place of Incarnation and Messiah within the 'big story' of the Bible; Identify Gospel and prophecy texts, using technical terms; Explain connections between biblical texts, Incarnation and Messiah, using theological terms.

Understanding the impact: Show how Christians put their beliefs about Jesus' Incarnation into practice in different ways in celebrating Christmas; Comment on how the idea that Jesus is the Messiah makes sense in the wider story of the Bible.

Making connections: Weigh up how far the idea that Jesus is the Messiah – a Saviour from God – is important in the world today and, if it is true, what difference that might make in people's lives.



Writing opportunities

Create a 'Messiah wanted' poster or radio advert

Hot seat Mary and Joseph

Write a newspaper report claiming that the Messiah has arrived, and is Jesus, comparing it with the Jewish expectations in the wanted poster.

Reading opportunities

Resource sheet 1a – prophecies

Sheet 1b – summarises key points

Resource sheet 2 – Matthew 1:18-24, 2:1-12

Resource sheet 3

New vocabulary	Definitions
Incarnation	<i>The belief that Jesus was God 'in the flesh' on earth.</i>
Messiah	<i>The saviour of mankind, promised by God</i>
Saviour	<i>Jesus - redeemer of sin and saver of mankind's souls</i>
Salvation	<i>Faith in Christ means mankind's sins are forgiven</i>
Christ	<i>The Greek word for Mesiah</i>

Cross-curriculum links

British Values

PSHCE – charity, community



Pre-learning/website links

www.presentaid.org

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (from several films)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdyJO-aAv8>

Eastern Orthodox Church

<http://request.org.uk/life/church/the-eastern-orthodox-church/>



Discussion questions to have at home:

Why did people think the world needed a saviour?

Was Jesus the hoped for Messiah?

Why do Christians want Christmas to be about Christ?