



Religious Education

Incarnation: Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Digging Deeper.

Background Information

The birth of Jesus is recorded in two of the Gospels — Matthew and Luke. Although this happens near the start of the New Testament, it is quite a way into the 'big story' narrative of the Bible if we consider that this starts with Creation. With 'the Fall', sin enters the world and remains in it. God therefore carries out a 'rescue mission' for humanity to help save people from their sin. The culmination of God's rescue plan starts with the birth of Jesus. This is crucial to the Christian faith. By coming to Earth as Jesus, God is able to show and tell people how they should be living, and demonstrate what it is like to have a close relationship with the Father. Without the Incarnation, Christians believe, God would not have been able to make the ultimate sacrifice, leading to the salvation of his people. Christians use the birth stories not only to guide them in their celebrations at Christmas, but also to remind them about the place of Jesus in the 'big story' of God's relationship with humans. Jesus is the saviour and rescuer, whose birth was prophesied but came to pass in unexpected ways, amongst poor and marginalised people.



In this unit the children will...

- Recognise that Incarnation is part of the 'Big Story' of the Bible.
- Retell the story of the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with Incarnation—Jesus is 'God on Earth'.
- Give at least 2 examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story in churches and at home.
- Think, talk and ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it.

By the end of this unit....

All children can:

- Explain what Incarnation means.
- Retell the story of the birth of Jesus.
- Give at least two examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story.
- Think, talk and ask questions about the Christmas story.

Most children will:

- Recognise that Incarnation is part of the 'Big Story' of the Bible.
- Retell the story of the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with Incarnation.
- Give at least two examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story both in churches and at home.

Some children will:

- Think, talk and ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it.

Why is
Christmas part
of the Big Story
in the Bible?



Key Vocabulary

God, Bible, Christmas, Christians, Jesus, nativity, angels, disciples, shepherds, wise men, gold, frankincense, myrrh, Big Story.