

Topic:	Year group	Term
Christmas and Hannukkah Birth of Jesus - symbolism of light	Year 2	7 Sessions

Background knowledge

The focus of this unit is the theme of celebration through the exploration and experience of the festivals of Christmas and Hannukkah. The starting point is the familiar practice of giving gifts at Christmas, which is shared by most Christians and people from a secular background, then the unit explores the Christian belief that Jesus is God's gift to and the light of the world. The unit also explores the origins and significance of some of the practices associated with the Jewish festival of Hannukkah, including the symbol of light.

What should I already know?

- I know the story of the birth of Jesus.
- I know Christians think of Jesus as a gift from God.
- I know some gifts can be gifts of feelings e.g. love, happiness and hope.

R.E. Agreed Syllabus / Key Skills	The Journey
Know the basic story of the birth of Jesus - emphasis on Christmas as a 'festival of light' To explore the symbolism of light/the star and customs associated with light. Introduction of the Christian belief of Jesus as 'the light of the world' Advent candle; Christingle <i>I can talk about the festival of Hannukkah.</i> <i>I can describe the importance of light.</i> <i>I understand the idea of something being special.</i> <i>I can describe some of the things Christians do to celebrate Christmas.</i> <i>I can retell the story of the birth of Jesus.</i>	1. Know about the key features of the Hannukkah story and festival. 2. Explain the importance of light and understand light represents the presence of God. 3. Know what is meant by the idea of something being special or precious. 4. Know why giving is an important idea for Christians and is central to how they celebrate Christmas 5. Know what is of value to Christians and how this might be expressed in action 6. Retell the story of the birth of Jesus. 7. To prepare for Christmas service in church / to make Christmas crafts e.g. cards.

Outcomes

An overview of what children will know / can do

Working towards: Children will retell elements of the story of Christmas with support. They will describe their own feelings and experiences of giving and receiving gifts. They will start to understand the importance of light. They will be able to describe some parts of the festival of Hannukkah.

Expected: Children will retell the main events associated with Christmas. They will understand the concept of a precious, special gift, and relate the idea of giving and receiving gifts to their own experience. They will understand the importance of light. Children will know the origins of the festival of Hannukkah and some practices associated with it.

Exceeding: Children will explain that Christians believe that Jesus is God's gift to the world, which is why they give gifts at Christmas. They will make connections between the stories of the birth of Jesus and Christian attitudes to gifts, giving and forgiveness. They will understand that light represents God's presence. Children will make connections between some of the rituals of Hannukkah with key features of the Hannukkah story.

Key Vocabulary	Timeline / Diagrams
Angels - are powerful, smart spirits that obey God's commands and praise him with singing. They sometimes appear to humans in human form. They can deliver messages to people in person or in dreams. Jesus - Jesus of Nazareth, is the central figure of Christianity. Christmas - is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child Jesus. Frankincense- burned in Jerusalem's sacred temples during ancient times. Myrrh - is used as a medicine and a perfume. Gold - Gold is very valuable and represents God's love because His love is more precious and more valuable than all the gold. The three gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) had a spiritual meaning Hope - To desire especially with expectation that the wish will be granted Love - Strong and warm affection Joy - Joy is the expression of inner happiness and contentment. Peace - Agreement and harmony among people. Hannukkah - is a Jewish holiday that lasts for eight nights and usually occurs in December. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah celebrates a military victory of the Jews over foreign rulers. ... The Jews then cleaned, rebuilt, and rededicated the Temple in 164 bc Latkes - is a small pancake usually made with grated potatoes. Latkes are traditionally eaten during Hanukkah. Menorah - is a candelabrum with eight candles that is displayed in Jewish synagogues.	Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday which celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the larger Syrian army. It also celebrates a miracle that happened during this time, where just a day's supply of oil allowed the menorah in the rededicated Temple in Jerusalem to remain lit for eight days. Hanukkah commemorates a historical event that took place in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BCE, when the Greek empire was the ruling power. In 168 BCE, the king Antiochus IV Epiphanes outlawed Jewish practice and defiled the Jewish Temple in the city by installing an altar to Zeus Olympios and sacrificing pigs.  The map, titled "Journeys of Mary and Joseph", illustrates the travels of the Holy Family. It shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Dead Sea to the east. The land is divided into regions: Galilee (north), Samaria (central), Judea (south), and Idumea (southeast). Key locations marked include Nazareth, Capernaum, Hazor, Mt. Tabor, Caesarea, Joppa, Ashdod, Ascalon, Gaza, Beersheba, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. A numbered path indicates their journey: 1. From Nazareth to Jerusalem; 2. From Jerusalem to Bethlehem; 3. From Bethlehem back to Jerusalem; 4. From Jerusalem to the Dead Sea; 5. From the Dead Sea back to Nazareth. The Jordan River is also shown.

Key people / places

Important people or places

Mary

Joseph

Baby Jesus

Angel Gabriel

Shepherds

Inn Keeper

Three wise men

King Herod

Jerusalem

Nazareth

Judah Maccabee

King Antiochus

Great Temple of Jerusalem

Assessment questions / outcomes

What is meant by the idea of something being precious or special?

Why do people give gifts at Christmas?

Why do Christians think of Jesus as God's gift to the world?

How and why is Hannukkah celebrated?

What is the origin and meaning of some of the activities associated with Hannukkah?