Drove Primary School

Year 5 R.E. – Term 2
Is the Christmas story true?

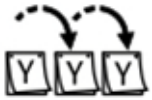
What should I already know?

- The Gospels were not written immediately and differ due to the different viewpoint of the writer/narrator, but that Christians believe them to be 'true'.

RE Skills:

- To explain how 'true' could mean different things to different people, and how stories can be 'true' in different ways.
- To explain the Christian belief that Jesus was the Incarnation of God.
- To express an opinion on whether the Christmas story is true and what this might mean to Christians.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

Consubstantial		God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit exist separately and together as one.
Disciples		12 of Jesus' special friends
Gospel 'writers'		Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – four of Jesus' disciples.
Incarnation		God becoming man or literally being "made flesh".
New Testament		The second part of the Christian Bible, written between 50AD and 100AD.
Old Testament		The first part of the Christian Bible, written between 1200BC and 100BC.
The Gospels		Literally means "good news", books of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life.
Tradition		The passing on of ways of thinking, acting and/or believing. Traditions can impact a society (e.g. The King's speech on Christmas Day) or a family (e.g. having a birthday tradition in your family).
Trinity		The complete relationship between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit.
Truth		Historic fact, scientific truth, personal truth i.e. belief/faith.

Teaching Sequence

1. To discuss how eye-witness accounts may differ.
2. To share what we know about the Christmas story.
3. To investigate different accounts of the Christmas story in the Bible.
4. To question whether Jesus was really born on the 25th December. (Trip)
5. To evaluate what we know about the Christmas story.
6. To share my own thoughts about a meaningful story.

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Key Knowledge

Associations and Traditions

There are lots of different words, acts and ideas that are **associated** with **Christmas**. These might be objects such as hats and decorations or they might be acts such as wrapping presents.

Christians believe that all acts of God **associated** with **Christmas** are connected to **love** and God's **love** for people.

Christmas traditions may include:

- Sending cards
- Giving gifts
- Singing **carols**
- Eating **Christmas** dinner
- Decorating a tree

Some people argue that the 'true meaning of **Christmas**' is now lost and that **Christmas** has instead become victim to **commercialism**. Other people disagree with this and say that the important messages of **Christmas** are still remembered.

Incarnation and Paradoxes

Incarnation is an important idea in Christianity. It is all about how God became human in the form of Jesus and suffered as a human can do. Christians believe that God is an all-powerful creator and a pain bearer and that through his **incarnation** as Jesus, he was not a 'big giant in the sky', but a regular human with qualities found in all of us. God being an all-powerful creator and a vulnerable human is a **paradox**.

One of the ideas behind the 'true meaning of **Christmas**' is helping others. As a **vulnerable** baby, Jesus was forced to flee to Egypt to escape King Herod. This made him a refugee. At **Christmas**, people often do charitable acts to help the **vulnerable**, including refugees.

The 'True Meaning of Christmas'

Christians celebrate **Christmas** each year. They believe that the 'True Meaning of **Christmas**' involves showing **gratitude** to God for what he did and remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, by worshipping him, giving gifts and thinking of the poor and less fortunate.

Christmas cards can be **secular** or Christian. Christian cards show the true meaning of **Christmas** by displaying important images from the **Christmas** story to remind Christians about why they celebrate **Christmas**.

Christmas carols often celebrate different parts of the birth story of Jesus. However, some are more focused on traditions associated with **Christmas** and are sung as general celebrations of the **Christmas** festival.