

What should I already know?

- To know if God important to everyone.
- To remember the Christmas story and start to explain that Christians believe Jesus was a gift from God.

RE Skills:

- To explain what Christmas means to me and talk about whether this involves giving and receiving gifts.
- To start to explain the Christian belief that Jesus was God in human form and why God gave him to the world.
- To start to tell you what Christmas means to Christians and what it means to me.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

Bethlehem 	The town where Jesus was born in a stable.
Christian 	A person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Nativity 	The story of the birth of Jesus celebrated by Christians.
Shepherds 	First people to learn of the birth of Christ.
Stable 	Royalty would be born in a palace, but Jesus was born in a stable.
Star 	The star led the wise men to Jesus. It also portrays to Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.
Wise men	The wise men travelled a great distance because the star signified that a king had been born. They chose gifts fit for royalty.

Teaching Sequence

1. To know what Christmas means to me.
2. To explore the meaning of Christmas to Christians.
3. To know that the nativity story tells Christians about Jesus.
4. To understand why Christmas is meaningful to Christians.
5. What is the true meaning of Christmas to Christians?
6. To design a Christmas gift to make the world a better place.

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Key Knowledge



Christians believe in the Trinity. This is the complete relationship between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit. The three are “consubstantial”, which means that they exist separately and together as one. God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son and sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. Mary agreed to allow this to happen and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is the Christian concept of “**incarnation**”: God becoming man or literally being “made flesh”.

This enquiry investigates the meaning of Christmas to Christians and examines the elements we see both with the Christmas story in the Bible, and Christmas today.

The significance of some elements within the Christmas story are as follows:

Shepherds: these were the first people to learn of the birth of Christ. In Jewish culture of the time, the shepherds were very lowly because they were unclean and had to sleep with the animals as part of their job. That they should be told first signifies to Christians that God loves the poor and outcast person.

Star: The star led the wise men from a great distance to Jesus. It also portrays to Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

Wise men and their gifts: The wise men travelled a great distance because the star signified to them that a king had been born. They chose gifts fit for royalty and which signified Jesus’ life to come (see Year 1 Autumn 2 for more details).

Stable: Earthly royalty would be born in a palace, but Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. This signifies to Christians that Jesus had no need of pomp or finery because he was not an earthly king. It is also an indication that there would be no room for Jesus in the lives of some people he would encounter in his life because they believed that he did not fit the traditional Jewish idea of the Messiah.