

Unit Question 1.2	Religion(s) Covered
Why Does Christmas Matter To Christians? (Incarnation)	Christianity

Year Group: 1

Suggested Hours: 6

Key Vocabulary	RE Skills	Points to Note
Advent Bethlehem Nativity God's Son Celebration Saviour Good News Shepherds Wise Men Angels	Investigate Express Reflect Retell the Christmas Story Make links between the Christmas story and Christian practise	These activities are from 'Understanding Christianity' published by RE Today and used by permission This unit focuses on Luke's Gospel (other classes in school could focus on Matthew's account: chapters 1&2)

Key Question 1: How do we get ready for Christmas?	Make a list of all the things we do to get ready for Christmas – shopping, wrapping, cooking and writing cards. Why are they exciting? Look at two different Advent Calendars (one with a nativity scene and one with nothing to do with Christmas story) Talk about what they help us to do. What is similar about them and what is different? Which one would a Christian use and why? Talk about what Advent means and why it is a special time.
Key Question 2: What's so special about this baby?	Invite someone in who is expecting a baby. Talk about preparation for hospital, clothes, nappies, cot, pram, car seat etc. Ask the Mum how they are feeling and why? Share the story of the Angel telling Mary she was going to have a baby but not just any baby – God's Son. How would Mary have felt? Explore all the different emotions. Hot seat Mary.
Key Question 3: What's the good news in the story of Christmas?	Share some examples of good news together. How did they feel when they got it? Read the story of the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Shepherds. How was the birth announced to the world? Why was it such good news? What did the Angels say Jesus had come to do? What did the Shepherds do when they heard it? Design a Christmas Card that shows the Good News of Christmas.
Key Question 4: Why do we celebrate by giving gifts?	Think about the best gift they have ever given and ever received. What was it and why was it so special? Have a wrapped Christmas gift and say that inside it is the greatest gift for Christians? What might it be? Unwrap a figure of baby Jesus. Talk about why Jesus is God's gift. Share story of Three Wisemen and their gifts. Draw/make gift they would give to Jesus to show how special Jesus is?
Key Question 5: What's a Christingle?	Show an advert for a Christingle service. What might it be about? Look for clues in the picture. Show the items needed to make a Christingle and have on cards the information about each part of the Christingle. Can the children match up the item with the correct part of Christingle? How is Jesus like a light for the world? Make own Christingles and have a class Christingle service.
Unit Assessment: Design a set of three stained glass windows	Explain that the church has asked them to design a set of three stained glass windows telling the Christmas story. What will they include? What is the most important part of the story? What do they want people to notice in their windows in particular? What title will they give their work and why?