

Unit Question U2.8	Religion(s) Covered
Christmas in the Gospels: Why do Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah? (Incarnation)	Christianity

Year Group: 6

Suggested Hours: 6 hours

Key Vocabulary	RE Skills	Points to Note
Advent Messiah Christ Saviour Incarnation	Interpret Apply Discern	These activities are from 'Understanding Christianity' published by RE Today and used by permission

Key question 1 How can we find out about Christmas according to the gospel?	<p>Look up the Matthew and Luke stories in the Bible and list in columns what each respective author included in their version of the first Christmas.</p> <p>Discuss how to use Bible references.</p> <p>Identify which gospel does not mention the Christmas story – discuss why this might have happened.</p> <p>Make comparisons between the two gospels of the Christmas story – give ideas and explanations of what it is trying to say.</p>
Key question 2 What does Sacred and Secular mean and how do we identify it?	<p>Visit a shop or take photos of items that are sacred and secular on sale. Print off photos of sacred and secular – can pupils split them into two defined groups? (discuss the message this gives)</p> <p>Talk about Advent and what it means</p> <p>Look at variety of Advent items calendars versus candles</p> <p>Look at TV listings – make a graph to present time allocation for sacred/secular</p>
Key question 3 What is advent and how does the church prepare for advent?	<p>Invite a member of clergy in or plan a visit to see how the church prepares for advent.</p> <p>Design/make an advent calendar</p> <p>Discuss why families from other faiths celebrate Christmas/Advent – give and receive presents</p> <p>Label an Advent wreath – what is the significance of the candles and their colours?</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/what-is-christmas-like-for-christians/z4xcjhv</p>
Key question 4 What would a Christian think Christmas should be about?	<p>Use the words of some Christmas carols as a reminder of the importance to Christians of the birth of Jesus. Contrast with some secular Christmas music. What impression of Christmas do the different sorts of music give?</p> <p>Look at a selection of Christmas cards, examine images and messages.</p> <p>Invite a Christian in and prepare questions to hot seat them.</p>
Key question 5 What festivals do Christians celebrate at Christmas?	<p>Look at Christingles and their meaning.</p> <p>Make a Christingle.</p> <p>Label a Christingle with their meanings</p> <p>Research Christmas around the world and identify similarities and differences.</p>

Unit Assessment:
Why do
Christians
believe that
Jesus is the
Messiah?

Ask the children to provide good reasons to this unit question and expand it further to 'Why do Christians believe the world needs a Saviour?'

Obviously not everyone will agree that Jesus is a Saviour sent from God. Explore the non-religious response that humans need to sort the world out by themselves: how might humans heal division and bring peace? Reflect on ways in which the children may make a difference- P4C opportunities