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Reception Why is Christmas special for Christians? F2

Week 1 Recap on the joy that the birth of a baby brings. Using story sack, bring out the key figures from Nativity. How much do they already know? Can they arrange figures in order of importance. Read version of Nativity story. Has the order of importance changed? Arrange figures to form a crib scene.

Week 2 Link birthday celebrations to the celebration of Jesus' birthday. What is the same and what is different?

Week 3 Consider Christmas artefacts. Candles, cards, decorations, advent calendars, stocking, food etc. Which are familiar to them and which are not?

Week 4 Discuss Christmas gifts. Link with the story of the three wise men/kings. Discuss how Christians believe Jesus to be the most precious gift.

Week 5 Explore some traditional Christmas carols. Why do Christians sing as part of their celebrations?

Week 6 Reinforce learning through Nativity performance and enhanced continuous provision.

Y1/Y2 Who do Christians say made the world? 1.2 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?1.3

Week 1 Introduce idea of manmade created objects and their creators. Then consider what creator of a natural object would be like.

Week 2 Religious people believe their God created the world. Tell Jewish/Christian story of creation, using music, dance, poetry as appropriate.

Week 3 Discuss how Christians thank God for creation- Saying grace, harvest etc. Prayers, songs and festivals. Consider how non believers also feel it is important to feel gratitude and to share.

Week 4 If a creator does exist, what questions would they ask the creator? How would the questions be different if there were no creator?

Week 5 Why is Christmas good news for Christians? What happens during the season of Advent and why is it important?

Week 6 Explore which Christmas traditions and decorations are linked with the Nativity story and which are non religious/secular.

Y3/4 What kind of world did Jesus want? L2.4

Week 1 Discuss what possessions and activities are important to them. Jesus as the "fisher of men". Story of Jesus calling his disciples. What did he expect them to give up? Which would have been hard?

Week 2 The meaning of Gospel. Why do the gospels differ in their contents? Why would some information be included and some left out? Relate to modern day biographies.

Week 3 Consider stories such as The healing of the leper and the Good Samaritan. How did Jesus want people to behave towards others? Jesus' practice of showing love to most vulnerable or rejected as an example to believers.

Week 4 What do Christian churches do to reflect this teaching of Jesus- reaching out to groups of people e.g. Toddler groups. food banks. Look at websites of local churches for evidence. Consider what constitutes most important work. Can they give good reasons for their choices? Would a Christian's choices differ from a nonbeliever?

Week 5 What does a Christian leader do to promote the sort of world that Jesus' wanted? Invite a local Christian leader into school to talk about their work.

Week 6 What kind of world would they like to have? How do their thoughts compare and contrast with those of Jesus?

Y5/6 Creation and science- conflicting or complementary? U2.2

Week 1 Discuss genres of literature. Listen to story of Creation in Genesis. What do they find interesting, surprising or puzzling? Consider it as a detective story or a newspaper report- what evidence supports or goes against this? Week 2 Look at The Message translation

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201&version=MSG

Compare with the genre, purpose and meaning of Genesis. Is it a literal account or a poetic description? Differing views amongst Christians.

Week 3 Consider the scientific account of creation. How does this align with a Christian's literal or poetic interpretation of Genesis account? Children generate questions about the beginning of the world. Are their questions better answered by a scientific or bible account of creation?

Week 4- Find out about some Christian scientists. How do they reconcile their work and their religious beliefs? (Links on Cornwall Agreed Syllabus).

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Week 5 What aspect of nature do they feel in awe of? e.g. gazing at the night sky. Record feelings. How might the feelings of someone with a belief in a creator differ from someone with no belief?

Week 6 Ask pupils to see how far they agree or disagree with the statement: 'Genesis explores why the universe and life exists. Science explores how the universe works the way it does.' Come up with some questions that science definitely can answer (e.g. to do with properties and laws of nature)

and ones that it cannot (e.g. to do with questions of personal meaning and value). Consider the starting question of the unit, giving good reasons.