

What you have already learnt:

- Identify and describe the core beliefs and concepts studied
- Make simple links between stories, teachings and concepts studied and how people live, individually and in communities
- Raise important questions and suggest answers about how far the beliefs and practices studied might make a difference to how pupils think and live
- Make clear links between texts/sources of authority and the key concepts studied
- Describe how people show their beliefs in how they worship and, in the way, they live
- Make links between some of the beliefs and practices studied and life in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly
- Offer informed suggestions about what texts/sources of authority might mean and give examples of what these sources mean to believers
- Identify some differences in how people put their beliefs into practice
- Give good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make
- Talk about what they have learned and if they have changed their thinking

Key Knowledge:

The idea of a Messiah, or saviour, was very important to the Jewish people, especially during the time when Jesus lived. For hundreds of years, their land had been invaded by many different foreign powers. By the time of Jesus, the Romans were in control, and the Jewish people were hoping for a Messiah who would save them, defeat their enemies, and bring peace.

Many believed the Messiah would be a great king, like King David, who would rule from Jerusalem and help everyone follow God's laws. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, some people thought he might be this promised king.

But Jesus turned out to be different from what many expected. Instead of being a warrior or king, he was a man of peace. Early Christians believed that Jesus was not just a prophet or king but God in human form. They saw Jesus as the one who could save people from sin and bring them closer to God. This belief in Jesus as the Messiah led to the beginning of Christianity, which eventually became a separate religion from Judaism.

The Gospels are stories written by people who knew and followed Jesus. Prophecies, on the other hand, are special messages from prophets, who were often outsiders telling the Jewish people how they should live. These prophecies can be hard to understand and were made long before Jesus was born.

Matthew, one of the Gospel writers, believed that the old prophecies about a Messiah were coming true in Jesus. For example, the prophets Micah and Isaiah, who lived around 700 years before Jesus, wrote about a special baby who would be born, be a descendant of King David, and be called "God with us." They also mentioned that this baby would be born in Bethlehem and become a leader for the Jewish people.

When these prophecies were first written, they were thought to describe someone from that time. But by the time of Jesus, many Jewish people saw them as signs that God would send a new saviour. Christians believe that Jesus is this saviour, and that he is actually God in human form.

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING BLOCKS

PUPILS WILL KNOW THAT:

- Jesus was Jewish.
- Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh.
- They believe that his birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God to restore the relationship between humans and God.
- The Old Testament talks about a 'rescuer' or 'anointed one' – a messiah. Some texts talk about what this 'messiah' would be like.
- Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled these expectations, and that he is the Messiah. (Jewish people do not think Jesus is the Messiah.)
- Christians see Jesus as their Saviour (See Salvation).

- Identify and explain the core beliefs and concepts studied, using examples from texts/sources of authority in religions
- Describe examples of ways in which people use texts/sources of authority to make sense of core beliefs and concepts
- Taking account of the context(s), suggest meanings for texts/ sources of authority studied, comparing their ideas with ways in which believers interpret them, showing awareness of different interpretations.
- **Make clear connections between what people believe and how they live, individually and in communities**
- **Using evidence and examples, show how and why people put their beliefs into practice in different ways, e.g. in different communities, denominations or cultures**
- Make connections between the beliefs and practices studied, evaluating and explaining their importance to different people (e.g. believers and atheists)
- Reflect on and articulate lessons people might gain from the beliefs/practices studied, including their own responses, recognising that others may think differently
- Consider and weigh up how ideas studied in this unit relate to their own experiences and experiences of the world today, developing insights of their own and giving good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make
- Talk about what they have learned, how their thinking may have changed and why

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

Explain the place of Incarnation and Messiah within the 'big story' of the Bible.

Identify Gospel and prophecy texts, using technical terms.

Explain connections between biblical texts, Incarnation and Messiah, using theological terms.

Explain connections between biblical texts and the idea of Jesus as Messiah, using theological terms.

Show how Christians put their beliefs about Jesus' Incarnation into practice in different ways in celebrating Christmas.

Comment on how the idea that Jesus is the Messiah makes sense in the wider story of the Bible.

Make clear connections between the texts and what Christians believe about Jesus as Messiah; for example, how they celebrate Palm Sunday.

Show how Christians express their beliefs about Jesus as Prince of Peace and as one who transforms lives, through bringing peace and transformation in the world.

Weigh up how far the idea that Jesus is the Messiah — a Saviour from God — is important in the world today and, if it is true, what difference that might make in people's lives.

Weigh up how far the world needs a Messiah, expressing their own insights.

Key Vocabulary:

Incarnation: This means that God came to Earth as a human, in the person of Jesus. Christians believe Jesus is both God and human at the same time.

Messiah: A special person sent by God to save people and be their leader. Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah.

Son of God: This is a title for Jesus, showing that he is very special and has a unique relationship with God,

Trinity: This is the idea that God is like three parts in one: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit, all working together as one God.

Gospel: The word "Gospel" means "good news." It refers to the stories and teachings about Jesus found in the Bible.

Atonement: This means making things right again. Christians believe that Jesus made things right between God and people by dying on the cross.

Salvation: This is the idea of being saved or rescued. Christians believe that by believing in Jesus, people are saved from their sins and can be close to God.

Saviour: A saviour is someone who helps or rescues people when they are in trouble or need help.

Opportunities for teaching diversity, equality and expanding cultural capital

- Learning about other religions and their core beliefs, expanding cultural awareness.
- Learning about how to show respect to different people who hold different faiths and beliefs.
- Investigating how different people celebrate milestones in life, including those who do not have a religious belief- promoting respect and tolerance.

Key Concepts:

God
Purposes
Revelation
Faith
Trust
Experience
Searching
Soul
Spirit
Morality
Wonder
Awe
Sacred
Reverence
Prayer
Praise
Reverence
Ceremony
Scripture
Inspiration
Purpose
Freedom
Love

Skills and knowledge which I may use from other subjects:

History

Explore the Roman Empire and the historical context of Jesus' life. Explore the impact of the Roman Occupation on the expectations of the Messiah.

Art

Investigate famous works of art that depict the Incarnation.

English

Engage in creative writing that retells the story of Jesus' birth.

Key Skills

- Apply
- Analyse
- Describe
- Connect ideas
- Consider
- Question
- Discuss
- Respond thoughtfully
- Evaluate
- Create
- Outline
- Link
- Explain
- Recognise impact
- Express
- Investigate

Recall and Remember

What does the word "Incarnation" mean?

- a) A type of celebration
- b) God becoming a human in the form of Jesus
- c) A special holiday
- d) A miracle in nature

Who do Christians believe is the Messiah?

- a) Moses
- b) Jesus
- c) Abraham
- d) David

What does the term "Trinity" describe?

- a) Three gods working together
- b) God as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- c) Three disciples of Jesus
- d) Three angels

Why do Christians believe Jesus died on the cross?

- a) To show bravery
- b) To make things right between God and people (Atonement)
- c) To teach a lesson
- d) To travel to another country