

Year Group Year 1	Worldview Christianity
Strand	Community and identity
Key Question	What do most Christians celebrate together?
Focus of Study	The birth of Jesus in the Gospels; understanding the identity of Jesus being fully human and fully God; the names of Jesus; Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth and it is associated with symbols such as candles; baptism as a celebration of living as a Christian; baptism – Jesus' baptism and different types of baptism; optional extra: Easter is another important celebration in the Christian faith – focus on the key events of Easter but not in detail as this will be addressed in another unit.
Background information for teachers	
<p>Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus, which many scholars believe actually occurred not in December, but at the time of the festival of Sukkot. They then see Jesus as a gift from God, part of the gathering in of the harvest. Sukkot is also the festival commemorating the time that the people of Israel were wandering in the desert after escaping from Egypt, so is also associated with rescue from captivity, preparing to enter the promised land.</p> <p>The story of the birth of Jesus is only told in two of the 4 Gospels (Matthew 1 & Luke 2). Christians believe the Jesus was born of Mary, but that he is the Son of God, both totally human and totally God. The Gospels both confirm that Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod and his biological father was not Joseph who was engaged to be married to Mary. His date of birth is not clear although scholars estimate it being in between 6 – 4 BC.</p> <p>Christians believe that the circumstances of Jesus' birth were foretold in the Old Testament and these prophecies were fulfilled when he was born e.g.</p> <p>Isaiah 7:14 – virgin birth</p> <p>Micah 5: 2 – place of birth being Bethlehem</p> <p>Hosea 11: 1 – Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt with Jesus</p> <p>Christians give thanks at Christmas for the birth of Jesus and the festival is marked with church services, carols and symbols of light (candles, etc.) to remind Christians the Jesus is called the Light of the World. In the Western Church, Christmas begins on 25th December and lasts for 12 days as a feast and until 2nd February as a church season. The period from the Sunday nearest to the 1st December through to 24th December is called Advent. Traditionally this was a period of fasting (going without certain foods). In the Eastern or Orthodox Church, following the Gregorian rather than the Julian calendar, Christmas is on 6th January, and all other dates are adjusted accordingly. Jesus has many names in the Bible – he is called to the Immanuel and Son of God in the Gospel texts about his birth. See Jesus' names resource for more information on the different meanings of his name.</p> <p>Baptism is a Christian celebration where a person publicly declares their faith in Jesus Christ and is immersed in water or sprinkled with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is recognised by most branches of the Christian Church as one of the sacraments and signs of belonging. In baptism children or adults are welcomed into the church; in some denominations, this is the only form of membership; other denominations have a second tier of membership, such as confirmation. Some people prefer to be baptised as adults and so hold thanksgiving or dedication services for their children, allowing them therefore to make their own choice as adults or young people.</p> <p>Water symbolises the washing away of, and forgiveness of sins, and the start of a new life in Christ. The immersion mirrors the death and resurrection of Jesus. The candle given at the end of the service represents the passing from darkness (the world) to light (the Kingdom of God); Jesus is often known as the Light of the World.</p>	

In Romans 6: 3-4, the Apostle Paul summarises and highlights the key importance of baptism which is identification with Jesus Christ. Important to note that most protestant Christians believe that faith in Jesus Christ is the only requirement for salvation, not baptism (Ephesians 2: 8-9). Whereas most Catholic Christians believe that baptism is necessary for salvation.

Additional information on Easter:

Easter is one of the key festivals of the Christian church. It is the festival that focuses on the resurrection of Jesus, after the crucifixion. Most Christians believe that the resurrection of Jesus is the most important facet of the Christian faith and that without it there is no reason for belief (1 Cor. 15:13-19). The date of Easter is set according to the moon, which is why it varies each year, but the events as recounted in the bible take place around the Passover Festival. Passover is the Jewish festival that celebrates the liberation of the people of Israel from Egypt under Moses. The key events of Holy Week are the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the day Christians now call Palm Sunday; the last Supper on the day now known as Maundy Thursday; the crucifixion on Good Friday and the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The cross has been used by Christians as a reminder of the death of Jesus, and also as an illustration of the way that they believe Jesus provides a bridge between humans and God.

Prior learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are things that Christians do that show that they belong for example, they get baptised. • Some Christians also show their commitment to God by going to church.
Building blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians celebrate important events in the life of Jesus. • Christmas is when they celebrate his birth. Easter celebrates his resurrection. • Many Christian celebrations happen in church as well as at home.
Outcomes	<p>I can describe the key features of Christmas e.g., church services, carols, symbols of light, thanksgiving.</p> <p>I can explain what light represent at Christmas for Christians.</p> <p>I can recall some facts about the birth of Jesus from the two Gospels about his early life.</p> <p>I can explain what happens at a baptism and describe the artefacts used.</p> <p>I can explain why baptism is an important celebration in the life of a Christian – I understand that it means new life and new beginning for them.</p> <p>Additional outcome:</p> <p>I can explain what happens in the Christian story of Easter using key events.</p> <p>I can describe what ‘resurrection’ and ‘new life’ mean in the context of the Christian story of Easter.</p> <p>I understand why Christians consider the resurrection being the most important event in the life of Jesus.</p>
National Statement of Entitlement (NSE)	a, b, c, g, h, i, j
Resources	Luke 2 Matthew 1 Isaiah 7 Micah 5

	Hosea 11 Christmas Story - CBeebies - BBC The Christian Story of the First Christmas The Christmas Story - Birth Of JESUS CHRIST All the Names of Jesus - Bible Resources Luke vs Matthew Birth Accounts: Difference and Comparison Bible verses about baptism in the New Testament (Acts 2: 38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; John 3:5; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19) 7 Reasons Why Baptism Is Important What are the seven baptisms mentioned in the Bible? Baptism for Kids YouTube Video Baptism Facts for Kids Mark 1: 1-11 Matthew 28: 18-19 Pictures of Christmas e.g. carol singers; candles; Christmas trees etc.
Engagement	
LO: Give reasons for why people celebrate. Discuss what pupils like to celebrate, how and why they celebrate it. Draw out what children celebrate as a family e.g., weddings, baptisms, Easter, Christmas and New Year. Discuss which one of those celebrations mentioned by the pupils are celebrated by Christian believers. This is a good opportunity for pupils from religious and non-religious backgrounds to talk about what they celebrate and why. Show a variety of images of Christmas (presents, carol singers, nativity sets, candles, Christmas trees etc.) and discuss which of these the pupils think express the Christian meaning of Christmas.	
Enquire and explore	
LO: Compare and contrast the accounts of Jesus in the Gospels The first section of this unit is about investigating Jesus' identity in the gospels. Pupils will be detectives trying to find out who he was and what they learn about his birth. Investigate who Jesus was from the gospels about his birth. Read the two gospel accounts / or relevant sections from children's bibles and compare and explore what is the same and what is different between these two accounts. You can also watch a variety of Christmas story videos on YouTube (some included in the resources section). Draw out the similarities e.g., the place of birth; Jesus' mother and father; Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Jesus was visited by people after his birth; Joseph stayed with Mary). Investigate the differences e.g., the angel appears to Mary in Luke only; an angel appears to Joseph in Matthew only; Luke portrays Jesus as the saviour of the world; Matthew portrays Jesus as the King of the Jews. LO: Investigate the meaning of the gifts given to Jesus Investigate the different gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus and their significance for the life of Jesus. Pupils can learn about the different symbolism behind the gifts of the Magi. Investigate what was prophesied in the Old Testament about the Messiah and look at the three Old Testament texts (Isaiah, Micah and Hosea). Pupils will investigate the Old Testament texts for clues and agree on which of those prophecies are met/ fulfilled in the birth accounts. Why is this significant for Christians that the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Saviour are fulfilled? Draw out that Christians believe that Jesus is the promised saviour whereas Jewish believers are still waiting for the Messiah.	

LO: Investigate and identify Christian Christmas symbols

Explore the different symbols associated with Christmas and focus on the Christian symbols. What are the most important symbols that we have at Christmas? What do these symbols mean for Christians and other people?

LO: Investigate different baptismal practice across the churches

The second part of the unit is to learn about baptisms.

Explore baptism and the different types of baptisms different churches practise e.g., child baptism / Christening and adult baptism. Learn about the promises made in a child baptism and explore the symbols in child baptism i.e., Christening robe, candle, cross on forehead, water. Learn about adult baptism (full immersion) and explore in what way it is different to child baptism.

LO: Learn about the Baptism of Jesus

Learn about the baptism of Jesus by John and why Jesus got baptised. Read the relevant section from John gospel from a children's bible and discuss who was involved in the baptism of Jesus. What role did John have in Jesus' baptism? Draw out that after his baptism Jesus started his ministry of teaching and healing.

NB if taught in spring term, this unit could focus on Easter (see the Background notes section)

Evaluate

LO: Reflect on whether Jesus was a gift to the world

Consider if Jesus was a gift. Why was Jesus born? The Bible says Jesus is the son of God who was sent to be born on Earth. What does this tell Christians about God? In what way is Jesus a gift? Consider the different names given to Jesus. Explore the different names attributed to Jesus in the two gospel accounts of his birth. In Luke's Gospel Jesus is referred to as the Son of the Most High; the Son of God; Saviour; Christ the Lord; a light. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus is referred to as Jesus; Immanuel; king of the Jews; Christ. Pupils can match the correct definitions to the different names of Jesus. What do we learn about who Jesus was from the different names given to him? Which of Jesus' names are the most important ones and why?

Consider why people get baptised. What happens when people get baptised? What difference does baptism make to Christians? How does being baptised change a person's identity? What does baptism mean for the believer? Does someone have to get baptised to be a Christian?

Reflect and communicate

LO: Compare and Contrast Christian and non-Christian Christmas celebrations

Consider Jesus' great commission which is in all the four gospel accounts (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16: 15-18; Luke 24: 44-49; John 20:19-23) and Acts 1:18. Why is it important for Christians to make disciples and baptise them?

Reflect on and compare what Christians and non-Christians celebrate at Christmas. What would you say if you had to describe the true meaning of Christmas for yourself and why?

Assessment Opportunities

Pupils can recall the key events of Jesus birth.
Pupils can list some of the names of Jesus found in the gospel accounts about his birth and can explain some in their own words.
Pupils can describe the key symbols of Christmas and explain the meaning behind those in simple terms.
Pupils can describe the artefacts used in a baptism service.

	Pupils can link some Christian beliefs with the symbols and artefacts connected with baptism.
Notes	