

Year Group	Christian Worldviews Year 4
Strand:	Christianity
Key Question:	Who do Christians believe Jesus is?
Focus of study:	Incarnation, Jesus, God, Messiah
Background information for teachers:	
<p>Focus</p> <p>*Exploration of incarnation and Jesus as son of God. Look at various names for Jesus and explore concept of Messiah</p> <p>Key Terms:</p> <p>* Christian: a person who has received Christian baptism and is a believer in Christianity.</p> <p>* Incarnation: is the Christian doctrine that God became flesh, that God assumed a human nature and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>*Jesus: means “Saviour”, the One who saves His people from their sins.</p> <p>*Christ: means the chosen one.</p> <p>*Emmanuel/Immanuel means “God is with us”.</p> <p>*God/Lord: “Lord” in the Bible is a title that depicts authority and power. “Lord” in the Bible is used to describe both God and Jesus. The Oxford Dictionary describes the meaning of the word “Lord” as “someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler.”</p> <p>*Messiah: means “anointed one” or “saviour”.</p> <p>*Prince of Peace: which reflects His role in bringing peace to the world.</p> <p><u>Who was Jesus?</u></p> <p>Jesus Christ was a real person who lived in Palestine about 2,000 years ago. His life, death and rising from the dead are documented in the Bible books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books are known as the Gospels. His final days on earth and ascension back to heaven are in the Bible book, Acts.</p> <p>The gospels are based on the eye-witness testimony of the apostles, who knew Jesus extremely well. They were his 12 closest followers and spent three years on the road with him, listening to his teaching, watching him miraculously heal people and meeting with him when he was raised from the dead. There are other sources of information about Jesus too. He is mentioned in texts written by non-Christian historians from that era: Josephus, a Jewish historian, Tacitus, a Roman senator, and Suetonius. Thousands of people heard Jesus teach during his lifetime and the Bible has stories of many who were healed by him. Several others saw him die, including a Roman centurion. So, there were many eyewitnesses who were able to give personal accounts to the Bible writers.</p> <p><u>What do Christians believe about Jesus?</u></p> <p>Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – but he is also God himself. Christianity teaches that God exists in three forms at the same time: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus’ birth in around 4BC was foretold by ancient Hebrew writers, known as prophets, hundreds of years beforehand. Devout Jewish believers were (and still are) waiting for the arrival of a Messiah – a great man who would lead the Jewish people to</p>	

freedom and greatness again. The story of Jesus' conception is miraculous – his mother, Mary, a virgin, fell pregnant by the influence of the Holy Spirit. But his birth was very humble – probably in the room of a house where the animals were fed. Little is known of his life before the age of 30 when he began travelling around teaching in synagogues and outdoors. But the Bible recounts that as a 12-year-old boy he went to the temple in Jerusalem and amazed the religious teachers with his knowledge and understanding. And the Bible book, Mark, suggests that as a young man in the town of Nazareth Jesus was a carpenter, like his human father, Joseph. It also states he had four brothers and some sisters too.

What Christians believe about Jesus' incarnation?

Incarnation, central Christian doctrine that God became flesh, that God assumed a human nature and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. Christ was truly God and truly man. The doctrine maintains that the divine and human natures of Jesus do not exist beside one another in an unconnected way but rather are joined in him in a personal unity that has traditionally been referred to as the hypostatic union. The union of the two natures has not resulted in their diminution or mixture; rather, the identity of each is believed to have been preserved.

THE TWO NATURES OF JESUS

Two natures of Christ, in Christianity, the doctrine stating that Jesus, through the Incarnation, became fully human and fully divine and that these natures cannot be separated. The idea that "Jesus Christ is true God and true man" is also referred to as the hypostatic union and is a central tenet of Orthodox Christianity. Indeed, the Christian doctrine of salvation depends on the belief that Christ had to become fully human to share his full divinity with humanity.

Possible festivals and celebrations:

*Christmas

*Epiphany: also, Theofanis or Fota, in Orthodox church is celebrated on January 6 and is a day of joy and brightness, as Christians celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist.

*Easter

*Ascension Day: known as the feast of the Ascension, celebrates when Jesus ascended to heaven. This feast day is one of the ecumenical feasts of Christian churches.

What are the other names of Jesus in the Bible?

There are some 200 names and titles of Christ found in the Bible.

1. Saviour

"That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the **Saviour** of all people, and especially of those who believe" (1 Timothy 4:10 NIV 2011)

2. Redeemer

"I know that my **redeemer** lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth" (Job 19:25).

3. Bread of Life

"Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty" (John 6:35)

4. Lord

“Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, It is the **Lord**” (John 21:7)

5. The seven I am statements: Shepherd “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father...” (John. 10 14-15) **Light of the World** “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.” (John 8:12) There are five other I am statements also found in the book of John – ‘bread of life’, ‘resurrection and the life’, ‘gate’ (or door), ‘true vine’, ‘the way, the truth and the life’.

6. Son of the Living God

And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the **Son of the living God**” (Matthew 16:16)

7. Only Begotten Son

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and **only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

8. Beloved Son

And a voice came from the cloud, saying, This is my **Son whom I have chosen**: listen to him” (Luke 9:35).

9. Holy One of Israel

“Let the counsel of the **Holy One of Israel** draw nigh and come, that we may know it” (Isaiah 5:19)

10–14. Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace

“For to us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace**” (Isaiah 9:6).

15. King of Kings

“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the **King of kings**, and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15)

Why is Jesus called the Messiah?

The New Testament writings abound with references to Jesus as the Christ. The English term “Christ” etymologically means “anointed one” in Greek, as does its synonym “Messiah,” which is derived from Aramaic/Hebrew. The idea that Jesus is the Anointed/Christ/Messiah permeates the New Testament, but these same writings reveal that the title Anointed/Christ/Messiah was only applied to Jesus in a consistent way after his death, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus himself largely avoided the designation because it had developed misleading connotations. He tends to call himself Son of Man (ref a verse or two) During his lifetime Jesus re-educated his followers so that they would have a more accurate appreciation of how the concept of Anointed/Christ/Messiah should be understood in the light of Old Testament teaching. While his contemporaries looked for a king who would exercise political and military control from Jerusalem, Jesus taught that his kingdom would not be defined by political boundaries but would embrace people from every nation. His followers believed that after his resurrection and ascension Jesus was seated as king at God’s right hand in heaven, from where they expected him to

return in the future to judge all humanity. In recognition of his divinely given royal authority, every person is under a genuine obligation to acknowledge personally that Jesus is Lord.	
Prior learning:	<p>Previous unit on 'How are different people inspired by the teaching of Jesus?' Year 3</p> <p>'How do Christians find out what God is like?' Year 2</p> <p>'Why do most Christians call God 'Creator'? Year 1</p>
Building Blocks:	<p>Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son and He is one of the three persons of the Trinity.</p> <p>Christians called Jesus with many names, one of them is Messiah. Jesus is understood as being fully human and fully divine.</p> <p>Jesus came to the world to save people from their sins. He was crucified and resurrected. God sent Jesus to earth to show that He loved humans.</p> <p>The incarnation is one of the central beliefs of Christianity.</p>
Outcomes:	<p>Pupils will know that the Christian God is made up of three equal divine persons. (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit)</p> <p>Pupils will know that Christians believe that God loves humans and sent His only Son in human form (incarnation) to guide/save them.</p> <p>Pupils will know that Jesus is fully God and fully man</p> <p>Pupils will be able to identify and explain several of Jesus' names.</p> <p>Pupils will be able to link some of Jesus' names to a Bible story.</p>
Resources:	<p>Who is Jesus and how did he help people? - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Picturing Christianity: Picturing Christianity » RE Teaching Resources</p> <p>Understanding Christianity - RE:ONLINE (reonline.org.uk)</p> <p>The Incarnation of Jesus Christ: Purpose and Significance for Mankind (christianity.com)</p> <p>5 Ways Jesus Proved He's the Messiah (billygraham.org)</p> <p>What is Christmas? - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>What is Easter? When is Easter 2024? - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>KS2 Religious Studies: The cycle of birth, death and rebirth - BBC Teach</p> <p>BBC - Religions - Hinduism: Vishnu</p> <p>Bing Videos</p>
Engage:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss about what the children already know about Jesus from stories, Assemblies, and festivals. • Look at different pictures of Jesus and discuss his two natures. • Show different images/photos/Art of Jesus/God. Get the pupils to work in small groups and ask questions about the images/ photos/Art/. Ensure that these images reflect the fact that Jesus was not a white British man, • Get the pupils to discuss similarities and differences between the images. 	

Enquire and Explore:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Christmas and Easter story and some of Jesus' miracles, where His divine nature is present. Explore reasons why God sent Jesus to earth. • Explore Jesus' incarnation and his two natures. (Using the Christmas story) • Look at the way Christians celebrate Jesus' life through festivals. • Explore text in the bible about Jesus' life. • Research the word incarnation in other faiths and religions. Find similarities and differences. • Explore the symbols of the Holy Trinity and how it is different around the world. (Venn diagram to compare the qualities of the different parts of God) • The pupils create their own Trinity symbol. • What is Christianity and what is Christianity not? (All Christians believe.....most Christians believe.....some Christians believe.....)
Evaluate:	
	<p>Evaluate how Jesus used both his natures to help people to come closer to God. Is Jesus' incarnation important for Christians and why? Why Jewish people don't believe in Jesus as God's son? Compare the differences / similarities between incarnation in other faiths. (Hinduism)</p>
Reflect and communicate:	
	<p>Reflect on Jesus' humble life, from his birth to his death. Consider how important is Jesus' resurrection for the Christians. Why does Jesus have so many names? What name would you give to Jesus? What would you like people to call you?</p>
Assessment opportunities:	<p>Create a timeline of Jesus' main life events. Create a piece of Art to show the concept of incarnation. Write a reflection on how Jesus' resurrection gives hope to people about an eternal life. Write an acrostic poem about Jesus' different names. Create a wordle to represent the understanding of the incarnation.</p>
Notes	