



Why do Christians perform Nativity Plays at Christmas?



What I already know

Children will have a varied knowledge about Christmas from their previous experience at home, pre-school and Faith related worship places.

Start from discussion as to what children know in order to build on that shared knowledge.

What I will know at the end of this unit:

- The basic Christian Christmas story
- Perform the Christmas story
- Christians believe Jesus is God's son



Concepts I need to understand

Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Linked closely with Easter where Jesus was crucified died and rose from the dead. They worship one God through Jesus Christ the Son who came to save them from their sins. Hence the importance of this story. The idea of sin stemming from the Creation story where Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden fruit.

The Bible includes the Christmas Story in the New Testament – Gospels.

Challenge and Support

Challenge: How would you feel? Why? How did performing in the play/story help you to understand the Christian Christmas Story? Why do you think would Christians share this story? What would you do if you saw an angel? Which gift is most important to you, Why?

Support – Sharing basic Christmas story picture books – sequencing using small world people, asking more closed questions – Who was Mary? What happened to her?....

Resources



- Lion Storytelling Bible
- Beginners Bible clips on Youtube
- Christmas Story books from our school library
- (Luke 1:26–38/Matthew 1:18–25)
- Jesus is born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1–7)
- Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20) and magi (wise men) visit (Matthew 2:1–12)

Ideas for tasks

Helicopter stories to show understanding of story and for performance.

Role play stable with costumes / house with Christmas decorations etc

Small world people and books to retell the story.

Sorting nativity Christmas cards and secular.

Printing wrapping paper – wrapping

Construction – building the stable with small world to play with it.

Nativity set to retell the story with

Writing – Christmas cards invitations to Nativity,



Please read the Understanding Christianity Booklet before planning!

http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/F2_Incarnation_Unit_WEB.pdf



Reflection/Evaluation

Remember to include time to reflect on the story. It could be as part of reading different books about the story or a time where the children are relaxed and sitting together. During Helicopter storytelling. A question on your Reflection area.

What do you think about?
Would you do anything different now you know...? What if....?

Vocabulary

Nativity - The story of Jesus' birth, called the **nativity**, is often retold by children in **nativity** plays. ... Christians often celebrate **Christmas** by giving and receiving presents and cards. This reminds them of the gift of Jesus, beginning his earthly life.

Christmas - is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration by billions of people around the world.

Christian – a person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and in hope that brings.

Jesus - Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God. Other Faiths see him as a prophet.

God – Christians believe there is only one true God who made heaven and Earth.