



Subject: RE Topic: Incarnation – Was Jesus the Messiah?

Year Group: 6

**What I should already know:**

- 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).

**Vocabulary:**

**Incarnation – God revealed as man on Earth**  
**Messiah- 'anointed one' – the title given to a saviour who has been chosen to bring salvation to mankind**  
**Anointed – ceremonially given divine office or holy office**  
 eg Samuel anointed the king – Jesus was anointed by God through His baptism (link to Year 3 Incarnation)  
**Transfiguration – a change of form or appearance**

Watch the Entry into Jerusalem in The Miracle Maker:  
<https://vimeo.com/404287245>  
 Watch from 49:17-50:17

**What I will know by the end of the unit:**

- Explain connections between biblical texts and the idea of Jesus as Messiah, using theological terms.
- 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 world needs a Messiah, expressing their own insights.

**The Entry into Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1-13**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"<sup>a</sup>

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna<sup>b</sup> to the Son of David!"  
 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"<sup>c</sup>  
 "Hosanna<sup>d</sup> in the highest heaven!"

- The story of Jesus entering into Jerusalem is celebrated every year in Christian churches, just a few days before the end of Lent
- It is an important way for Christians to mark the start of Holy Week, when they consider who Jesus is, what happened to him, and what that means to Christians (i.e. Jesus as Saviour and Messiah).
- Although Jesus is treated like a king as he enters Jerusalem, he behaves in a humble and peaceful manner by entering into Jerusalem on a donkey, not like the idea of a regal king or someone who is going to fight off the Romans.
- Christians need to learn that their Messiah was a humble and a peacemaker

**Consider looking at The Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-13**

This is another event in Jesus' life in which his followers receive clues to his true nature

They walk together on a hill top (a 'mountain') when a series of amazing things happen. Jesus shines white, he is seen accompanied by Moses and Elijah, two major prophets of Judaism, and a voice from the heavens describes him as 'my son'.

This awesome event gives us an insight into a moment when Jesus' followers realised he was special, connected to the old prophecies, and a link between God and humanity.