

Key end points for this Christianity unit on Jesus as an inspiration are:

- To know that Jesus is an inspirational figure for many Christians
- To know that there are symbols used in Christianity as a reminder of Jesus and how he was an inspiration.
- To know that Jesus is considered a saviour for many Christians and practising Christians.
- To know that Jesus is considered a figure of humility for many Christians and practising Christians.
- To know that imagery has been used by artists to highlight these qualities.

This unit focuses on the Christian belief that Jesus is the most significant and inspirational figure. While Jesus is also acknowledged in Judaism and Islam, views on his life and role differ. Teachers should use inclusive language, e.g., “from a Christian perspective,” to ensure clarity.

As the fifth Christianity unit, this builds on Year 2’s teachings of Jesus. Children will already understand the idea of Jesus as saviour and have explored parables, including the washing of feet at the Last Supper, which models humility. The unit also introduces the historical setting: Jesus lived during Roman (polytheistic) rule, a period of tension between Romans, Jews, and early Christians—providing context for his suffering and leadership. Children will examine how imagery is used to present Jesus as a saviour, guide, and God. They will link this to art skills (Y2 landscapes, Y4 light) and analyse symbols such as different styles of crosses. If using PKC History, connections will be made to inspiring voices in Y2. They’ll also learn that representation in Christianity varies across denominations.

Children are encouraged to reflect personally, drawing connections between Christian values and their own lives. They will consider who they find inspiring and how Jesus’ actions reflect humility and leadership. Teachers should model respectful, inclusive reflections, using prompts like “I believe... because...”.

Lesson Sequence

Lesson 1: What is a Saviour? Children unpack the word “saviour”. They reflect on what makes someone inspiring and relate this to Jesus’ actions and sacrifices.

Lesson 2: Symbols of Jesus; Building on Y2’s symbols and artefacts, children explore Christian symbols like the cross, dove, bread, and fish. The lamb and crown of thorns are noted but taught separately. Children will learn that some versions of the cross vary by denomination or historical influence (e.g. Celtic cross and its pagan links).

Lesson 3: What Makes a Hero or Saviour?

Children deepen their understanding of a saviour, discussing why Jesus is viewed this way by many Christians. They explore the Christian belief in salvation—that Jesus suffered to save others—and relate this to earlier learning (e.g. feeding the 5000). This discussion prepares them for next lesson's debate. Teachers should note that "practising" Christians refers to those who actively follow their faith.

Lesson 4: Jesus and Humility

Building on knowledge of the Last Supper, children revisit the washing of feet. They explore how Jesus' actions reflect humility, even as a leader. This challenges assumptions about status and service, leading into a class debate: "A true leader should be willing to serve others." Children use examples from Jesus' life to support their views.

Lesson 5 In this lesson, children explore how artists use light, symbols, and body language to show Jesus as a humble leader and saviour from a Christian perspective. They examine famous artworks—such as The Last Supper, Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet, and stained glass windows—to understand how imagery and symbolism communicate beliefs.

Children reflect on how art can express meaning, share their responses to specific pieces, and link the qualities of Jesus to ideas of leadership and inspiration.

Lesson 6 assessment will allow children to use their knowledge organiser to explain why and how Jesus is inspiring to many Christians and how this may inspire people to live their lives using evidence from this unit e.g. imagery and symbolism.

In this unit, children will be asked to relate key ideas in Christianity to their own personal views. Children will reflect upon who is inspiring in their life. They will also use examples of the life of Jesus to reflect upon how this may show humility by viewing themselves in a similar situation. All children should feel included and a part of reflections, this is a key part of the lesson that enables children to consider, share and express their own personal views. This also allows different perspectives to be represented in the lesson formats. Teachers should model reflections to support children and make expectations clear about the language and vocabulary they could use when expressing their opinions e.g. Personally, I feel that ____ is important because,..., In my experience....

The key concepts: imagery, symbolism, belonging, salvation

Key terms: Saviour, humility, hope, unity