

Key end points for this Christianity unit, life of Jesus:

- To know Jesus is the key figure in Christianity and considered a saviour for many Christians
- To know that the ministry of Jesus lasted three years
- To know that Jesus performed a range of miracles
- To know that Jesus chose 12 disciples and Judas betrayed Jesus
- To know that Holy Week was the final week in the life of Jesus
- To know that Jesus was crucified and resurrected

This unit explores the life of Jesus from a Christian perspective. It's important that teachers are aware that Jesus is also recognised in other religions, including Judaism and Islam, though his role and significance differ. To avoid misconceptions, teachers should model clear and precise language such as "from a Christian perspective," "in Christianity," "for many Christians," or "practising Christians believe..."

This unit builds on knowledge from Year 1 Christianity and also Easter and symbols. Children will already have prior knowledge of the concept of Holy Week from a Christian perspective in which they will know that Palm Sunday began the Holy Week, and this was completed after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Children will have prior knowledge of the sequence of these events but will learn this was the final part of the timeline of Jesus.

This has been designed to build on previous learning of Christianity and monotheism in RE as well as building on the foundation of knowledge of Christianity for future units in KS2 such as Year 3 Jesus as an inspiration. This aims to build understanding of the concept of the life of Jesus, this is crucial in understanding his influence for many Christians in later units. Children will briefly explore each of the key moments of the life of Jesus from a Christian perspective.

If Studying History PKC, this unit will directly link and complement the Y2 History unit 'The Romans in Britain' as this will support knowledge of historical context at the time. For this Y2 unit, children will understand the life of Jesus coincided with the time the Romans were in power. This knowledge will be built upon in KS2 as children learn more about Christianity in History.

Reflection continues to be a core part of the RE curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to foster a respectful classroom environment where children feel safe exploring different beliefs and perspectives. All pupils, regardless of their own beliefs, will be invited to reflect on universal themes like betrayal and humility, drawing on personal experience where appropriate.

Lesson sequencing

The sequence of lessons in this series has been designed to provide children with the historical context of Christianity and an idea of the sequence of events that led up to the final week (Holy Week) of the life of Jesus. These lessons will focus more on how Jesus became a figure of significance and why he remains as this in Christianity.

Lesson 1 will introduce the unit by revisiting Jesus as a key figure in Christianity. Misconceptions will also be addressed as children will explore that different nations and cultures may have different views on the appearance of Jesus. Children will also revisit the Bible as the special Christian text that provides information for Christians about Jesus. In this lesson children will learn three key events that happened in the early life of Jesus: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, was visited by the Magi (three wise men) and that he witnessed **injustice** at the temple. Children will be asked the question, 'How do Christians learn about Jesus?' which will help them to develop disciplinary knowledge as they begin to see how Christians use the Bible to understand more about their religion.

Lesson 2 Children will explore the historical context in which Jesus lived, learning that Judea was ruled by the Romans during this time. They'll discover that Jesus was born Jewish, and although many people followed his teachings, others—such as some Jews and Romans—did not, leading to the beginning of Christianity. The key focus is on Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, which Christians believe marked the start of his mission. This moment is considered sacred, as the Bible describes God's Spirit appearing and a heavenly voice declaring Jesus as God's Son. Children will reflect on why Jesus' baptism is important to Christians, link this to personal experiences of friendship and special events, and begin to understand how Jesus gathered his first followers—the disciples.

Lesson 3, In this lesson, children will explore the Christian belief that Jesus performed miracles—extraordinary acts believed to be signs of God's power and love. These moments are central to how Christians understand Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

Key miracles introduced include:

- Calming the storm
- Feeding the 5,000
- Walking on water
- Raising of Lazarus

Through these examples, children will learn that Jesus used his power to help others, show compassion, and demonstrate God's presence. They'll also begin to understand that, for many Christians, these miracles strengthened people's belief in Jesus as the Messiah. Children will reflect on their own experiences of surprising or "impossible" moments and consider why Jesus' miracles might have drawn followers.

Lesson 4, will look the twelve disciples and follow the 'story' of how they were chosen. Children will reflect about humility in this lesson which follows on from Jesus being considered the King of Kings, but humbling himself to wash the feet of his disciples. Children do not need to know the names of all twelve disciples, however, should be know how some became disciples. Teachers may draw attention to Judas as a disciple, the betrayal of Judas will be revisited next lesson.

Lesson 5: This lesson explores the final part of Jesus' life, which many Christians see as the most important. Children will learn that during Holy Week, Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed with palm branches—a moment now remembered as Palm Sunday. Children will reflect on the meaning of forgiveness, drawing connections to Jesus' actions and teachings in his final days. They'll also consider why the empty tomb is a powerful symbol of hope for many Christians. We encourage teachers to think carefully about the content of this lesson and ensure any descriptions of Jesus' death are appropriate for young children.

The suggested assessment task is for children to create their own timeline of Jesus's life including; birth, baptism, miracles and death. This is an open ended task that allows children to show what they understand and remember. Teachers are encouraged to support and scaffold around this task.

The key concepts: miracle, friendship, hope

Key terms: Bible, ministry, preach, miracle, disciple, humility, betrayal