

Unit L2.3 What is the 'Trinity' and why is it important for Christians? [God/Incarnation]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Learning outcomes (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):	Ideas and some content for learning: Teachers can select content from these examples , and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve
<p>Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:</p> <p>Make sense of belief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise what a 'Gospel' is and give an example of the kinds of stories it contains• Offer suggestions about what texts about baptism and Trinity mean• Give examples of what these texts mean to some Christians today <p>Understand the impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship in different ways (in baptism and prayer, for example) and in the way they live <p>Make connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make links between some Bible texts studied and the idea of God in Christianity, expressing clearly some ideas of their own about what Christians believe God is like.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A way in to this unit would be to explore how and why water is used as a symbol in Christianity: use some words to describe how and when it can be cleansing, refreshing, life-giving, beautiful, dangerous, still, flowing, reflective, thirst-quenching. How is water used in Christian baptism – because of its many symbolic meanings.• Introduce the idea of a 'Gospel' – a life-story or biography of the life and teaching of Jesus. Tell pupils the story of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13–17. Ask what they think is going on. Ask for suggestions about the meaning of details: the way the Holy Spirit descends from heaven at the start of Jesus' public life, it pictures the Trinity: the voice of God announces Jesus as the Son of God and the Father, the Father sends the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. Christians believe that one important thing the story teaches is that Jesus is not just a good man, but God made flesh. Ask pupils to list clues they can find in the story for this message.• Look carefully at two paintings of the Baptism (for example, by Verrocchio and Daniel Bonnell – see www.art191.com). Discuss similarities and differences between how the different painters show God. Christians believe God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They sometimes describe the Trinity according to their different roles: God the Father and Creator, God the Son and Redeemer, God the Holy Spirit as the presence and power of God at work in all life today. Ask pupils to list ways in which these pictures show the Trinity. Ask them to make their own pictures of the baptism of Jesus which include symbols for the voice of God and the Holy Spirit.• Ask pupils to draft a suggestion for a baptism prayer for a baby in a Christian family today: from their learning about the Trinity, what words do they think will be in the prayer? Investigate what happens and what prayers are said at Christian baptisms. Ask pupils to write prayers with their suggestions: what did they miss out? (Note that baptism has been introduced in Units F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F22, F23, F24, F25, F26, F27, F28, F29, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F35, F36, F37, F38, F39, F40, F41, F42, F43, F44, F45, F46, F47, F48, F49, F50, F51, F52, F53, F54, F55, F56, F57, F58, F59, F60, F61, F62, F63, F64, F65, F66, F67, F68, F69, F70, F71, F72, F73, F74, F75, F76, F77, F78, F79, F80, F81, F82, F83, F84, F85, F86, F87, F88, F89, F90, F91, F92, F93, F94, F95, F96, F97, F98, F99, F100, F101, F102, F103, F104, F105, F106, F107, F108, F109, F110, F111, F112, F113, F114, F115, F116, F117, F118, F119, F120, F121, F122, F123, F124, F125, F126, F127, F128, F129, F130, F131, F132, F133, F134, F135, F136, F137, F138, F139, F140, F141, F142, F143, F144, F145, F146, F147, F148, F149, F150, F151, F152, F153, F154, F155, F156, F157, F158, F159, F160, F161, F162, F163, F164, F165, F166, F167, F168, F169, F170, F171, F172, F173, F174, F175, F176, F177, F178, 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