



# Incarnation

16<sup>th</sup> November

R.E



# Rationale

**: Make sense of belief:**

- Explain the place of Incarnation and Messiah within the 'big story' of the Bible
- **Identify Gospel and prophecy texts, using technical terms**
- Explain connections between biblical texts, Incarnation and Messiah, using theological terms

**Understand the impact:**

- Show how Christians put their beliefs about Jesus' Incarnation into practice in different ways in celebrating Christmas
- **Comment on how the idea that Jesus is the Messiah makes sense in the wider story of the Bible**

**Make connections:**

- Weigh up how far the idea of Jesus as the 'Messiah' – a Saviour from God – is important in the world today and, if it is true, what difference that might make in people's lives, giving good reasons for their answers.

The way to get  
started is to quit  
talking and  
begin doing.

Walt Disney





**Learn the ‘big story’ of the Bible Recall the term ‘incarnation’ – Christian belief in Jesus as God ‘in the flesh’, one of the three persons of the Trinity – Jesus comes to heal the effect of sin and ‘the Fall’.**

**As a way in, consider what kind of person is needed when people need help (e.g. if they are being bullied, in an accident, if one country is under attack from another one, etc.). Discuss the qualities someone might need to ‘save’ the situation.**

**Outline the situation of the People of God (see Guidance p.139) – their land occupied by enemy forces for over 500 years, hopeful that God would send them a saviour – the hoped-for ‘Messiah’.**

# Introduction

**What qualities would such a Saviour need? We may become investigative journalists to find the answer to the question: Was Jesus the hoped-for Messiah? Give them the following Bible texts (from books of the prophets in what Christians call the Old Testament) that point out the Jewish expectation: Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6–7; Isaiah 11:1–5; Micah 5:2. everyone thinks Jesus is a Saviour sent from God.**

**Explore the non-religious response that humans need to sort the world out by themselves: how might humans heal division and bring peace? Reflect on ways in which your pupils might make a difference.**

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# Introduction

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, unto us  
a Son is given; and the government  
will be upon His shoulder. And His  
name will be called Wonderful,  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.



# Prophecies about the coming of Christ



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MIGHTY GOD  
*Everlasting Father*  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
ISAIAH  
9:6

# Success Criteria/Brief

- Read Matthew 1:18–24, 2:1–12 – texts from a Gospel. Ask your investigators to look for evidence in Matthew's account that he saw Jesus as the Messiah – any clues that Jesus meets the expectations from the Isaiah and Micah texts? Interview some witnesses – get Mary, Joseph, Herod, some wise men into the class hot-seat and grill them. Write up the final news article, claiming the Messiah has arrived and it is Jesus, presenting evidence. (Note that while Christians believe Jesus – who was Jewish – was the promised Messiah, most Jewish people summarise the expectations creatively (e.g. an annotated 'Wanted!' poster for the Messiah). • were not convinced at the time, and Jews today still don't think he was.) • Gather together all ideas pupils associate with Christmas. How many of them are to do with Christianity and Jesus? Investigate some Christian advertising campaigns to put across the 'true meaning' of Christmas as being about God sending a 'Saviour' (e.g. [churchads.net/#sthash.zlXKBj2E.dpuf](http://churchads.net/#sthash.zlXKBj2E.dpuf)). What message are they putting across? How do they show the belief that Jesus was the Saviour, come to heal the division between people and God, and between people?



# The Visit of the Magi- Separate Powerpoint

## Open Wise men, Mathew 2

- How does the visit of the Magi relate to prophecies in the old Testament.
- Does Herod's actions reinforce this?
- What are the strengths weaknesses of

# Write together a success criteria for your article.



- Ask pupils to do their own advertising campaign, expressing the Christian meaning of Christmas, including the idea of incarnation. Explore how Christians might celebrate Christmas in ways that reflect the belief in a saviour bringing peace with God and good news for all people, e.g. helping at homeless shelters, [www.presentaid.org](http://www.presentaid.org) or Urban Outreach's 'Christmas Dinner on Jesus' programme: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltPWf4k3LG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltPWf4k3LG8)
- Ask pupils to express clearly an answer to the unit question, giving good reasons: Why do Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah? Expand this idea: why do Christians believe the world needs a 'Saviour'? Make connections with earlier learning about sin and 'the Fall' (see Unit L2.1). What difference would it make if everyone believed Jesus is the Saviour? Obviously, not



# Thank You

