# ST LAWRENCE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNING JOURNEY

**SUBJECT: RE UNIT: INCARNATION TERM: AUTUMN 2 YEAR GROUP: OAK**

| **THE BIG QUESTION** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'** | | | |
| **END OF UNIT OUTCOME** | Create a Class Display<br>Draw a picture and finish the sentence:<br>"Christmas matters to Christians because…" | | |
| **OBJECTIVES** | • Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians.<br>• Recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels.<br>• Give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas.<br>• Decide what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time. | | |
| **CONCEPT: Transformation** | | | |
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| **LESSON 1 QUESTION** | **How do people get ready for a new born baby?** | | |
| **KEY KNOWLEDGE** | **Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians.**<br>- Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live as a baby called Jesus.<br>- When Jesus first came, he was not a big man, just a baby with a mummy called Mary. | | |
| **RICH TASK** | Discuss who in the class has younger siblings, cousins, and so on. How do we feel when new babies are on the way and born? What we do to prepare?<br><br>Think about getting a bedroom ready for a new baby, and discuss what we would put into it. Although all babies are special, imagine the new baby is even more special than most, because this one is also God.<br><br>• Ask pupils to imagine getting a room ready for a **very special baby** – this baby is also **God's Son**.<br>What would they put in the room? (soft blanket, cradle, star mobile, special light, etc.)<br>Pupils can **draw or sketch** their ideas.<br>• Discuss who might come to visit Jesus – shepherds, wise men, angels, maybe family and friends.<br>• Show **photos of babies and young children** and talk about how they need care and love – just like baby Jesus did. | | |
| **SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE** | **S –** images to support understanding<br>**C –** children to write a sentence to explain why Jesus was a special baby | | |
| **KEY VOCABULARY** | Jesus<br>Mary / Joseph<br>God | **RESOURCES** | Photos of babies/young children. |

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| | Christian<br>Christmas<br>Celebrate<br>Special | | |
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| **LESSON 2 QUESTION** | **Why do Christians believe Jesus was such a special baby?** | | |
| **KEY KNOWLEDGE** | **Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians.**<br>- Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live as a baby called Jesus.<br>- When Jesus first came, he was not a big man, just a baby with a mummy called Mary. | | |
| **RICH TASK** | Tell the story from the Gospel of Luke using pictures, emphasizing:<br>o Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem<br>o No room at the inn<br>o Jesus born in a stable<br>o Angels appearing to shepherds<br>o Shepherds visiting baby Jesus<br>In small groups:<br>• Pupils take turns rolling the cube and retelling or discussing the part of the story that comes up.<br>• Encourage use of key vocabulary: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, stable, manger, angel, shepherds, God, prayer.<br>• Extension: Pupils can add their own sentences about what each character might have felt.<br>• Ask pupils: *Why do Christians believe Jesus was such a special baby?*<br>• Summarise: Christians believe Jesus is God's Son, came to show love, and that his birth is celebrated at Christmas.<br>• End with a short prayer thanking God for Jesus. | | |
| **SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE** | S – give children sentence starters<br>C – children to extend ideas by explaining how people might be feeling at different points in the story. | | |
| **KEY VOCABULARY** | Jesus, Mary, Joseph, stable, manger, angel, shepherds, God, prayer. | **RESOURCES** | Nativity story images<br>Large picture dice |
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| **LESSON 3 QUESTION** | **How do Christians get ready for Christmas?** | | |
| **KEY KNOWLEDGE** | **Give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas.**<br>- the word 'advent' means the arrival of something or someone.<br>- the four weeks leading up to Christmas are Advent, when some Christians wait and prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus. | | |

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<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">- Understand some advent traditions such as advent calendars, advent candles.<br>- Christmas Day is the day when Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.</td></tr>
<tr><td>RICH TASK</td><td colspan="3">Show pupils a selection of Christmas cards (real or printed images).<br>Sort them into two groups:<br><br>1. Cards that show the Nativity story (e.g., baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, stable, star, shepherds, wise men).<br>2. Cards that do not show the Nativity (e.g., snowmen, robins, Christmas trees, presents).<br><br>"What can you see?"<br>"Which ones help tell the Christmas story?"<br>"Which ones are just winter or festive pictures?"<br>"Why/when do we give Christmas cards?"<br>"Why do Christians give out Christmas cards?"<br><br>Discuss other traditions we might have to get ready for Christmas. Discuss which traditions are part of the Christian faith. Explain:<br><br>• Advent is the time when Christians get ready for Christmas.<br>• The Advent wreath is a circle to show that God lasts forever and love never ends.<br>• The candles remind Christians to get ready for Jesus' birth.<br><br>• "Why is the wreath a circle?"<br>Because God's love goes on and on.<br>• "Why do Christians light candles in Advent?"<br>To get ready for the birth of Jesus.<br>• "How does this help Christians prepare for Christmas?"<br>• Christians use the Advent wreath to help them get ready for Christmas by remembering Jesus and thinking about love, hope, peace, and joy as they wait for his birthday.</td></tr>
<tr><td>SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE</td><td colspan="3">S- picture prompts (Widgit) to support sorting activity<br>C- Write a label or short sentence about one candle's meaning (e.g., hope, love, joy, peace).</td></tr>
<tr><td>KEY VOCABULARY</td><td>Christmas<br>Nativity</td><td>RESOURCES</td><td>Christmas card images<br>Green / red card</td></tr>
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| | Mary<br>Joseph<br>Baby Jesus<br>Star<br>Angel<br>Shepherds<br>Advent<br>Wreath<br>Candle | | Colour card for candles |

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| **LESSON 4 QUESTION** | **How do people show gratitude at Christmas?** |
| **KEY KNOWLEDGE** | Decide what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time.<br>- at Christmas, many people put up decorations to celebrate Jesus' birthday.<br>- Different characters in the Christmas story (shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Wise men) showed gratitude or thankfulness in the Christmas story. |
| **RICH TASK** | Briefly recap the Christmas story and link it to gratitude:<br>• Mary and Joseph were thankful when Jesus was born safely.<br>• Shepherds were thankful for the good news from the angels.<br>• Wise Men showed thankfulness by bringing gifts**.**<br>"How were these people thankful? How do we show thankfulness today?"<br><br>**Activity 1: Nativity 'Thank You' Paper Chain (Red & Green)**<br><br>1. Give each child strips of red and green paper.<br>2. On each strip, they write a *thank you word* linked to the Nativity (e.g., thank you for Jesus**,** thank you for the angel**,** thank you for the star**,** thank you for family**, etc.).**<br>3. Staple or glue the strips together into a long paper chain.<br>4. Hang it in the classroom as a Christmas decoration.<br><br>**Activity 2: Our Own 'Thank You' Paper Chain (Blue & Purple)**<br>Explain:<br>People today also have many things to be thankful for at Christmas — family, friends, food, presents, safety, kindness, teachers, and more.<br><br>1. Give pupils blue and purple strips of paper.<br>2. On each, they write a thank-you message for someone in their own life (e.g., thank you Mum, thank you for food, thank you for my friends, thank you teachers).<br>3. Link these into a second chain to display in the classroom.<br><br>**Circle Time Reflection**<br>Ask pupils:<br>• "How do people show gratitude at Christmas?"<br>• "What are *you* thankful for this year?" |

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| **SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE** | S- Picture prompts and sentence stems<br>C- compare thankfulness today with thankfulness in the Nativity Story | | |
| **KEY VOCABULARY** | Christmas<br>Gratitude / Thankfulness<br>Nativity<br>Mary<br>Joseph<br>Shepherds<br>Wise Men<br>Gifts<br>Celebrate<br>Thank you | **RESOURCES** | Red and green card<br><br>Blue and purple card |
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| **LESSON 5 QUESTION** | **Why does Christmas matter to Christians?** | | |
| **KEY KNOWLEDGE** | Show a selection of pictures from previous lessons (Advent wreath, candles, Nativity scene, wise men, shepherds, star, Christmas cards, paper chains).<br><br>• "What do you remember about this?"<br>• "Why is it important to Christians?"<br><br>Retell the Christmas story simply.<br><br>Discuss:<br><br>• Jesus was born, and Christians believe he is God's Son.<br>• Christmas is Jesus' birthday celebration.<br>• It reminds Christians of hope, love, joy, peace, and God being with them.<br>• Christians try to show thankfulness, kindness, and giving at Christmas.<br><br>Christmas matters to Christians because it is when they celebrate Jesus being born, which brings them joy, hope and love. | | |
| **RICH TASK** | Create a Class Display<br><br>Draw a picture and finish the sentence:<br>"Christmas matters to Christians because…"<br><br>• "…it is Jesus' birthday."<br>• "…God sent his Son."<br>• "…it brings hope."<br>• "…people show love and are kind."<br>• "…it reminds them of the Christmas story."<br>• "…they are thankful." | | |

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| **SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE** | S - adult to scribe ideas<br>C – extend thinking – extra question – Why does Christmas matter to you? | | |
| **KEY VOCABULARY** | Christmas<br>Jesus<br>Nativity<br>Celebration<br>Hope<br>Love<br>Peace<br>Joy<br>Advent<br>Thankfulness / Gratitude<br>Birthday<br>Christian | **RESOURCES** | Picture template |
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