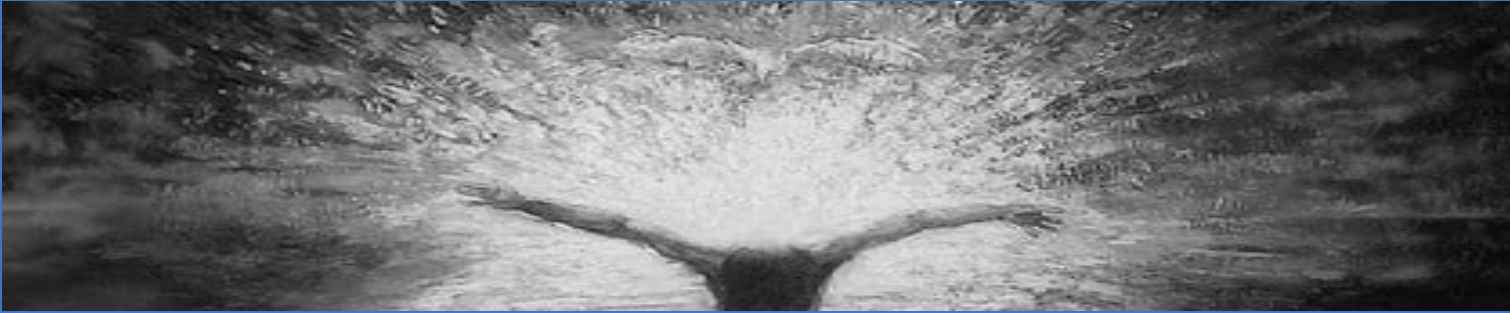


Topic Title: Christianity – Incarnation/God

Year 3 Autumn 2



Background for Teachers:

Taken from *Understanding Christianity*:

Christians believe that God is Trinity: God as three in one. This links to the concept of Incarnation, God coming to Earth in Jesus and the concept of Gospel – the good news of God's rescue plan for humanity. In the context of the 'big story' of the Bible, God is the same throughout, Christians argue, but in broad terms, the role of God the Creator and Father, Jesus the Son and Saviour and the Spirit – Comforter and power of God – come to the fore at different parts of the story (i.e. Old Testament, Gospels, early Church).

Many religions believe in one God: Jews, Muslims, Sikhs also say, with Christians, that God is one. Belief in the Trinity, however, is distinctive to Christianity. The belief is accepted as a mystery of faith, but there is much theological reflection on what it means and why it matters.

For Christians, God in Trinity is not a 'high and mighty' or 'selfish' God, demanding that all humans bow and scrape. In Christian understanding, the invisible God is right here now, by the Spirit, they say, and is also revealed in human form through the life and teaching of Jesus. So the belief in the Trinity is practical: Christians too try to make God's presence real in any situations – to make words into actions, and look for the Holy Spirit in all situations.

Another aspect of this belief in God in Trinity is that God can be seen in what God does. Many children in the 7-9 age range might ask what God looks like. Christians reply that they can see God in Jesus, but that God is invisible, so they know God through what God does. The Holy Spirit – like the wind – has invisible power.

The Bible does not use the word Trinity, but the belief that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit arises from passages like the ones studied here. Christians use the Bible to try to understand what it says about God.

Previously On ... (Links to Prior Learning):

Show the following key vocabulary: God, Gospel, Jesus, Son of God, Holy Spirit, baptism – children to complete a 'Never Heard the Word' grid.

Enquiry Question:

What is the Trinity?

Disciplinary Focus:

Theology

Big Questions:

What do Christians learn from 'The Miracle Maker'?

What clues are there that Jesus is God come to Earth to rescue humanity?

What evidence is there that God is Trinity – three in one?

What does a priest or minister pray at a baptism? Why?

What connections are there between baptisms in churches today and the story of Jesus' baptism?

What does water symbolise in baptism?

What is the Lord's Prayer and how do Christians interpret it?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 1	<p>LO: to understand that Christians believe God is Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p><i>Making Sense of the Text</i> <i>Understanding the Impact</i> <i>Making Connections</i></p>	<p>Starter: ‘Previously On ...’ – show the following key vocabulary: God, Gospel, Jesus, Son of God, Holy Spirit, baptism – children to complete a ‘Never Heard the Word’ grid to ‘rate’ their understanding of each word. Give an explanation if they think they know what a word means.</p> <p>Input: Introduce the idea of a ‘Gospel’ – a life-story or biography of the life and teaching of Jesus. Tell children this story from one of the four Gospels, Matthew Chapter 3. You might use keyword ‘bingo’ to support them in listening out for key terms. What do they think is going on?</p> <p>You might want to use a video clip – for example, ‘The Miracle Maker’. What do the children think each of the details means? The water? The voice? The dove?</p> <p>At the very start of Jesus’ public life, it pictures the Trinity: the voice of God announces Jesus as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit is present in the form of a dove.</p> <p>Q- What do Christians learn from ‘The Miracle Maker’?</p> <p>Christians believe that one important thing the story teaches is that Jesus is not just a good man, but God, come to Earth to rescue humanity. What clues can the children find in the story for this message?</p> <p>Children to look carefully at two paintings of the Baptism (for example, by Verrocchio and Daniel Bonnell). What similarities and differences are there in how the different painters show God?</p>	<p>Task: Christians believe God is three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children to list the evidence for this belief in each of the pictures.</p> <p>Further challenge: children to make their own pictures of the baptism of Jesus, which include symbols for the voice of God and the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Plenary: Invite children that have completed the further challenge to share their own pictures – what evidence is there for the Christian belief that God is three in one?</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 2	<p>LO: to understand that Christians believe God is Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p><i>Making Sense of the Text</i> <i>Understanding the Impact</i> <i>Making Connections</i></p>	<p>Starter: What do the children think Christians always say when they baptise a baby, or a grown-up. Give them the clue that it includes the Trinity.</p> <p>Input: Explain that Christians are baptised with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to join the Christian community. Teach the children about baptising babies and adults in the Christian Church today. Use film or video (see Resources). A good enquiry strategy would be to show short clips or two baptisms (a baby and an adult) with the sound turned down. Ask the children to work in pairs to create a simple commentary. What do the children think is being said during the baptisms? Why? Listen to the real commentary and compare.</p> <p>What do the children think a priest or minister prays at a baptism? Include some words, details or images from the story of Jesus being baptised – and from last lesson. Compare with some actual prayers (see links in Resources) – was there anything missing from their ideas?</p> <p>What do Christians learn from the story of Jesus' baptism?</p>	<p>Task: Children to write a baptism prayer, including some agreed key words and details or images from the story of Jesus being baptised.</p> <p>Further challenge: make list of similarities and differences between the baptisms of a baby or an adult in churches today and a list of connections to the story of Jesus' baptism (see Resource Sheet 3).</p>	<p>Plenary: What does water symbolise in baptism? How many examples can the children give?</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 3	<p>LO: to describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity.</p> <p>Making Sense of the Text Understanding the Impact Making Connections</p>	<p>Starter: Read through the Lord's Prayer as a class – what does it ask for? Refer back to this Collective Worship to scaffold the discussion as necessary: https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3370/the-lords-prayer</p> <p>Input: Explain that the Lord's Prayer asks for God to be with people who hear the prayer and for Christians, this sense of God being with them, all around them and even within their lives, is a part of believing in God the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Q- What is the Lord's Prayer and how to Christians interpret it?</p> <p>Use a song to explore this idea with the class. For example, Stephen Fischbacher's song '<i>God behind, God beside, God ahead</i>', which expresses Christian belief about the presence of God the Holy Spirit in everyday life.</p>	<p>Task: Children to write an additional verse for the song to express their ideas about where God is found.</p> <p>Further challenge: children to explain how the Christian belief about the presence of God the Holy Spirit in everyday life is expressed through their verse.</p>	<p>Plenary: What would be the best way to help Christians remember the Lord's Prayer – and where might they most need to be reminded of it? Look at www.thechristiangiftcompany.co.uk for the kind of things some Christians use.</p>

LEARNING OBJECTIVE		WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS	DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES	PLENARY
Lesson 4	<p>LO: to express ideas about what the God of Christianity is like.</p> <p>Making Sense of the Text Understanding the Impact Making Connections</p>	<p>Starter: Show the children ice melting and steam coming from boiling water – how do the children think Christians might use ice, water and steam to explain the Trinity? Build on the children’s ideas to discuss how all three are the same but different.</p> <p>Input: Show a Twix and explain that this is another example of how Christians explain the Trinity – chocolate, caramel and biscuit but all one bar. Do the children think this is a more or less effective way of understanding the Trinity?</p> <p>Show three circles at the edge of a large piece of paper with the words ‘baptism’, ‘prayer’ and ‘Trinity’ written within them. What connections are the children able to identify between them? How many connections can they make between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible stories and texts they have looked at • Christian ideas about God • Their work on water • Their learning about baptism 	<p>Task: Children to complete their own ‘linking thinking’ circle diagrams, building on the ideas discussed during the whole-class introduction.</p>	<p>Plenary: ‘Hard, harder, hardest’ – what idea might the children share about God with a 4-year-old? A 6-year-old? And older child?</p>

What is the Trinity? (Core Learning)

Some children will ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that incarnation is part of the 'Big Story' of the Bible. • Tell the story of the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with incarnation – Jesus is 'God on Earth'. • Give at least two examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story in churches and at home; for example, using nativity scenes and carols to celebrate Jesus' birth. • Ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it: for example, about being kind and generous.
Most children will ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know that Christians believe God is Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • Explain how Christians believe the Father creates; he sends the Son who saves his people; the Son sends the Holy Spirit to his followers. • Offer suggestions about what texts about baptism and Trinity might mean and give examples of what these texts mean to some Christians today. • Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship (in baptism and prayer, for example) and in the way they live.
Some children will ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know that Jesus, the Son of God, is seen by Christians as revealing what God the Father is like. • Know that Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God's power at work in the world and in their lives today, enabling them to follow Jesus.

