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| **Strands** | Bible and Christian Beliefs; Faith in Action, Actions leading to Faith; Mediation, Prayer and Worship | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Early Childhood (Year K-2) | **Created** May 2021 | | **Review** 2025 |
| **Aim** | This unit facilitates students exploring the Christian festival of Christmas: the story of God’s gift “Immanuel” to us in Jesus; of our response in faith; and in sharing with others. | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * What the Old and New Testament tell us about the Nativity * The different ways Christians celebrate Christmas and why this festival is important to Christians | | **Religious Studies Skills**   * Critical thinking * Concept cracking * Praise and thankfulness | |
| **Resources** | [The Christmas Promise](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/the-christmas-promise-hardback) by [Alison Mitchell](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/alison-mitchell) & [Catalina Echeverri](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/catalina-echeverri) | | A Christmas picture book that links the Old Testament promises with “the arrival of King Jesus”. | | |
| [Song of the Stars](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/song-of-the-stars-board-book-edition/) by Sally Lloyd-Jones | | A Christmas picture book that clearly portrays Jesus as God’s gift to the world. | | |
| [Jesus Story Book Bible](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/jesus-storybook-bible/) by Sally Lloyd-Jones | | The Christmas story in this Bible is great for children and links the story to the Old Testament promises about Jesus. | | |
|  | ASC video on Christian festivals | | This is a short 3-minute video, available on the ASC website that outlines the Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas. | | |

| **Lesson** | | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | | **Resources** |
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| **1** | Unwrapping Christmas | What is Christmas like for my family? | 15min  15min  15min | Activity: Play pass-the-parcel. Explain that in this unit we will be unwrapping Christmas and discovering why Christians celebrate Christmas. The prize at the end could be a simple Christmas decoration.  Activity: Make a class poster with magazine pictures. Students to find and cut out pictures of things that remind them of Christmas time e.g. food, toys, presents, Christmas trees.  Extension: Think, Pair, Share: My favourite thing about Christmas is; one thing I know about Christmas is; my favourite Christmas thing on the class poster is; at Christmas time I like to eat; or Christmas reminds me of… | Pass-the-parcel  Old magazine pictures, cardboard, glue |
| **2** | The Christmas promise | What is the Christmas promise?  Where can we find the story of Jesus’ birth in the Bible? | 5min  10min  10min  10min  5min  5min | Activity: Make a promise to the class that in the last 5 minutes of the lesson you will let them do something they like doing (you insert activity here based on class). Discuss what a promise is (an agreement to do something later)  Activity: Show children a Bible and explain that there are two parts in the Bible. The Old Testament and the New Testament. Explain that the Old Testament is a long story about a group of people trying to find the new king God promised. Jesus is the king God promised.  The New Testament is about King Jesus and his people. We find the story of Jesus’ birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Ask the students what they would expect to happen if a future king/queen was being born? e.g. expensive hospital, good doctors. You could refer students to the births of Prince George, Princess Charlotte, or Prince Louis.  Read: The nativity story from the Christmas Promise, Song of the Stars or the Jesus Storybook Bible. All pick up on the idea of Jesus being the ‘Yes’ to all God’s promises in the Old Testament or the forever king that God promised.  Watch: A retelling of the nativity story. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ>  Online Quiz: complete the online Christmas quiz individually or as a class. [Online Christmas quiz](https://request.org.uk/festivals/christmas/christmas-quiz/)  Make sure you leave enough time to honour your promise from the start of the lesson. | Bible  Book: [The Christmas Promise](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/the-christmas-promise-hardback) by [Alison Mitchell](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/alison-mitchell) & [Catalina Echeverri](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/catalina-echeverri) or [Song of the Stars](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/song-of-the-stars-board-book-edition/) by Sally Llloyd-Jones  Bible: [Jesus Story Book Bible](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/jesus-storybook-bible/) by Sally Lloyd-Jones (video clips available on YouTube of stories from this Bible) |
| **3** | The Christmas Story | What are Christians’ celebrating at Christmas time? | 5min  10min  30min | Show the students some Birthday Cake candles and a party hat. Explain to the students that for Christians, Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ Birthday. You could even sing Happy Birthday Jesus!  Read: Re-read the Christmas story from a different Bible, book or watch it on a short video (Luke 2:1-7). Explain to the students that Jesus is not a normal king. Though Jesus was the Prince of Heaven, he had become poor. Though he was God, he became a baby. Jesus came to be a servant. A great light that would point people back to God.  Activity: ask the students to make a Birthday card for Jesus. | Party hat, candles  Children’s Bible or [video](https://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-resources/festivals-resources/christmas-festival/2013/10/17/the-story-of-christmas/) of the nativity  Cardboard, craft supplies. |
| **4** | The Characters in the Christmas Story | Who are the characters in the Christmas story?  How do the characters in the Christmas story respond to Jesus birth?  What does Immanuel mean? | 5min  15min  5min  20min | Activity: If you have a younger class bring some dress ups and let the children play for 5min or if you only have a few dress-ups available ask for volunteers to come up the front and put them on. Explain that in today’s lesson we are going to be looking at the different characters in the story and how they responded to Jesus as well as thinking about who the characters thought Jesus was.  Recount: Bring in a nativity set and re-tell the Christmas story using the pieces or set out some props so students can re-tell the story in small groups. As you introduce each character to the students, talk about how they respond to Jesus’ birth and who they think Jesus is. If you don’t have a nativity display, you could use small toys, or you could make finger puppets.  Activity: Write the word Immanuel on the board and tell students it means ‘God is with us’. Discuss why Christians believe this is so special and how this links with the birth of Jesus (God coming from heaven to be with us).  Craft: Use the Christmas Craft Worksheet. Colour and cut out baby Jesus and the sign. Stick the sign to the back of the envelope and place baby Jesus inside with some cut up yellow paper (hay). It should look a little like Jesus in a manger. | Dress-ups  Nativity display  Worksheet: Christmas Craft, coloured pencils, strips of yellow paper, envelope for each student. |
| **5** | Celebrating Christmas | How does my family celebrate Christmas?  What are some different ways of celebrating Christmas?  Why is Christmas important to Christians? | 10min  10min  15min  10min | Share: Students participate in a sharing circle about what their family does to celebrate Christmas. Discuss that there are lots of different ways that people can celebrate Christmas. Students identify similarities and differences (e.g. worship in Church, give gifts, share a meal, phone relatives).  Discuss: Talk about how Christians celebrate Christmas at church e.g. Christmas carols, describe the four weeks before Christmas which the Church calls Advent – there may be a change of colour in the Chapel from green [ordinary time] to purple for Advent – before the white or gold colour for Christmas. This is a time of giving to the needy, as a practical way of sharing gifts, of re-telling the nativity story. You could make a PowerPoint of different images that demonstrate how different people celebrate Christmas.  Guest Speaker: Ask the school Chaplain or a local Parish Priest to come in and explain how Anglicans celebrate Christmas and why Christmas is important to all Christians. If your guest speaker was willing you could have a question time.  Play some Christmas carols. Play some fun ones to start with and get the children to sign along. Following this play some more reflective carols and ask students to have a time of quiet while they reflect/meditate on the Christmas story. | Website: [How different Christians celebrate Christmas](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zkc86sg/revision/2)  Chaplain or Parish Priest  Christmas carols and speakers |
| **6** | Jesus, God’s gift. | Why do Christians believe Jesus is a good gift? | 5min  10min  20min  10min | Think, Pair, Share: Ask the students about the best and worst gifts they have received ….. or with a younger group bring in some different toys and ‘share’ them with the students for 5min.  Brainstorm: discuss with students that God shared his Son with us when Jesus was born – he gave us a great ‘gift’. Brainstorm the reasons why Christians believe Jesus is the ‘best’ gift (e.g. Jesus is God, Jesus saves people from sin, evil and suffering).  Worksheet: Nativity Storyboard (mixed up)  Brainstorm: Students encouraged to think about things they could share with the school community e.g. the gift of singing (a Christmas carol at a school assembly), the gift of service (by picking up rubbish), the gift of patience (by waiting patiently in a queue). Students make a Christmas craft and give it as a gift. | toys  Worksheet: Nativity Storyboard (mixed-up) or Christmas Story Cards |
| **7** | Christmas sharing, in action | How can we share our gifts at Christmas time? |  | Focus on a school-based service-learning project that allows students to ‘share’ at Christmas e.g. can drive or singing carols at a nursing home. Contact Anglicare if you need some suggestions. It would be good to pick an activity were students give expecting nothing in return. |  |