

Year 4 Religious Education: The Christmas Story and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Nativity story for Christians and identify the origins and meanings of various Christmas traditions.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Christmas story and the reasons why Christians celebrate this festival. Read the term or question on the front, recall the answer, and then flip to check your understanding.

Nativity

The account of the birth of Jesus Christ, often depicted in a model or play.

Advent

A period of four weeks before Christmas, representing a time of preparation and waiting.

Bethlehem

The town where, according to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus was born.

Who were the first people to visit the baby Jesus in the Nativity story?

The shepherds, who were told by angels that a Saviour had been born.

What do the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh represent?

They represent the gifts brought by the Wise Men; gold symbolises kingship, frankincense represents worship, and myrrh represents mortality.

Incarnation

The Christian belief that God became human in the form of Jesus.

Emmanuel

A name for Jesus meaning 'God with us', which Christians reflect upon during the Christmas season.

Why do many Christians give gifts at Christmas?

To remember the gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men and to celebrate God's gift of Jesus to the world.

What is the significance of the star in the Nativity story?

It served as a guiding light that led the Wise Men from the East to find the baby Jesus.

What does the word 'Christ-mass' literally mean?

It is derived from the 'Mass of Christ', the service where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.

How is the evergreen tree a symbol in Christmas celebrations?

It represents everlasting life and the hope that Christians believe Jesus brings to the world.

Why is the Christmas story considered a 'Gospel' event?

'Gospel' means 'Good News', and for Christians, the birth of Jesus is the beginning of the good news of his life and teachings.