

Who is Jesus?

Overview of the Material and Lesson Ideas

'Christianity Unpacked' is a complete toolkit for teaching the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. The purpose of this section is to look at the question, 'Who is Jesus?' and explore importance that he still has for Christians today.

Below is an index of key material for use within this topic, please note that there is further material available on the RE:quest and RE:start sites that you may also find helpful.

FILMS

| Title | Aim | Content overview |
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| Who is Jesus? | To explore who Christians believe Jesus is both from a historical and faith perspective. | Myth, Man or God? A brief introduction to one of the most influential men in history. |
| Describe Jesus in one word. | To explore how Christians would describe Jesus on a personal level. | Various Christians attempt to describe who Jesus is to them in one word. |
| Christianity Basically - the Trinity | To explore the teaching that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. | In this short film the doctrine of the trinity is explained |
| Christianity Basically - Jesus, the Son | To explore the place that Jesus holds in the Trinity | In this short film the belief of God the Son, as part of the Trinity is explained. |
| Resurrection Evidence: What happened to the Body? | To examine the arguments for and against Jesus' physical resurrection. | The arguments for and against Jesus' physical resurrection are explored from a Christian viewpoint. |

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| A Miracle - Jairus' Daughter | To explore one a Jesus' miracles | This is a modern day retelling of the healing of Jairus' 12 years old daughter. The miracle is retold from the girl's perspective. |
| A Miracle - Martin's Story | To explore the Christian belief that miracles still happen today. | Martin retells the story of when he was rushed into hospital close to death and his amazing recover that even baffled doctors. |
| A Parable - The Good Samaritan | To explore Jesus' teaching on the subject of what it means to 'love your neighbour as yourself.' | This film recalls the parable of the Good Samaritan as told by Jesus in the gospels. |
| A Parable - The Waiting Father | To explore Jesus' teaching on God's love and forgiveness. | In this film Jacky is getting ready for the arrival of some piglets on her smallholding. As she awaits the delivery, Jacky retells the parable of the waiting father and the prodigal son. |

WORKSHEETS AND PRINTABLE RESOURCES

| Title | Aim | Content overview |
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| Think about Jesus activity sheet | To explore what we can only been known about Jesus | This sheet gives a list of statements about Jesus. Pupils need to discuss which of the statements are fact and which are statements of faith. |
| Talk about Jesus activity sheet | To explore what the Bible says about Jesus. | This sheet looks at what the Bible teaches about Jesus and what impact these teaches may have on a Christian's faith and daily life. |

Who is Jesus? - Medium Term Plan

| Aim | Key Questions | Activities | Resources |
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| 1. To gain an overview of Jesus' life | 1. Who is Jesus? | <p>1. Begin by brainstorming everything the children know about either a famous sports team / personality or a TV / music star. Try to pick someone who will divide opinions. Ask the question, 'Who is...?' Write down all the pupil statements but without explaining what you are doing divide them into two categories the facts and the opinions. See whether the pupils can work out how you have split the statements. Discuss the difference between a fact and an opinion and ways that you can verify a fact. Explain that you are going to be exploring the question, 'Who is Jesus?' and that as you do so they need to be able to differentiate between a fact and an opinion / statement of faith. They also need to be sensitive to others beliefs.</p> <p>Watch the Who is Jesus film? (this film will work better with older pupils) and the Interactive Introduction to 'Who is Jesus?'</p> <p>Discuss whether there was anything in the films that they already knew or anything that was completely new to them.</p> <p>Working in groups give the pupils the 'Think about Jesus' activity sheet. Let them discuss what they think are facts and what are faith statements. Ask them how they would verify the facts and explain that most of what we know about Jesus comes from the Bible but that there are also other sources of information that people refer to.</p> | <p>1. Interactive Introduction to 'Who is Jesus?'</p> <p>Who is Jesus? - film</p> <p>Think about Jesus - activity sheet.</p> |
| 2. To begin to understand who Christians believe Jesus is. | 2. What do Christians believe | <p>2. Get a team of pupils to describe in one word a famous person - see if the rest of the class can guess who is being described. Explain how we describe someone depends on the relationship we have with that person. If we know them well we may use far more personal and intermit words.</p> | <p>2. Describe Jesus in one word - film</p> <p>Christianity Basically - The Trinity</p> |

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| <p>3. To explore the biblical account of Christmas</p> | <p>about Jesus?</p> <p>3. What does the biblical account of the first Christmas teach us about Jesus?</p> | <p>Watch the ‘Describe Jesus in one word,’ film. Discuss whether the pupils were surprised at some of the words that were used. Why were they surprised? Discuss what we can learn from the film about a Christian view about Jesus.</p> <p>Establish that the Trinity is at the very heart of the Christian faith and that Jesus is part of the Trinity.</p> <p>The concept of the Trinity is not an easy one to grasp. In order to help the pupils in this you may want to look at some of the Christian art surrounding this doctrine. (e.g. the Celtic knots, the Orthodox Icons or the modern symbols.)</p> <p>Watch the two Christianity Basically films (please note that there are two other films in this series available on RE:quest - The Father and The Holy Spirit http://request.org.uk/?s=Christianity+basically).</p> <p>After discussing the fact that the teaching of the Trinity firmly establishes Jesus as God, you could allow the pupils to be creative and get them to draw a picture or create a design that helps to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.</p> <p>3. Begin with the Great Big Christmas Quiz - it is interesting for the pupils to realise that some of what they ‘know’ about Christmas is not fact but tradition that has built up over the years.</p> <p>Watch ‘The Story of Christmas’ film. Although this is done in a very light hearted way there are a lot of facts within the film that often people forget or have never known.</p> <p>Concentrate on the wise men’s gifts - gold for earthly leadership, frankincense for religious leader and myrrh for death. For older or more able students let them research some of the gospel stories - decide whether they are referring to Jesus as an earthly leader, a spiritual leader, his death or whether they are referring to more than one of the categories. For younger or less able students give them the stories that you want them to discuss.</p> | <p>- film</p> <p>Christianity Basically - Jesus, the Son - film</p> <p>3. The Story of Christmas - film</p> <p>The Great Big Christmas Quiz http://request.org.uk/festivals/christmas/2013/06/14/christmas-quiz/</p> |
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| <p>4. To explore the biblical account of the resurrection.</p> | <p>4. Did the resurrection happen?</p> <p>If so - what does it tell us about Jesus?</p> | <p>4. Either watch one of the accounts of the first Easter http://request.org.uk/?s=Easter or read the biblical account of the first Easter. Explain that the death and resurrection of Jesus are essential to the Christian faith - http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-today/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/ - this is a good film to explain this concept.</p> <p>Refer back to the lessons and discussions about fact and opinion. In today's lesson the question of whether the resurrection is a fact or an opinion is going to be discussed. The film 'Resurrection Evidence,' looks at the arguments in some depth. For more detail planning on this subject you can visit: http://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-ideas/festivals-ideas/2014/03/18/lesson-plan-the-resurrection/</p> <p>If appropriate you could establish a class debate with one side debating that the resurrection is purely a matter of faith and the other arguing that it was an actual event in history that has strong evidence to prove it.</p> <p>Consider: 'If the resurrection is factually true - what impact would that have on a Christian's life and what does it teach us about Jesus?'</p> <p>The pupils could write a blog as if you were one of Jesus' followers on that first Easter - in it include the change in emotion and attitude of the group from the Last Supper, the Crucifixion through to the Resurrection.</p> | <p>4. Resurrection Evidence - What happened to the body?</p> <p>RE:quest http://request.org.uk/?s=Easter</p> |
| <p>5. To explore what the miracles tell us about Jesus?</p> | <p>5. What is a Christian view of miracles?</p> <p>What do miracles tell us about Jesus?</p> | <p>5. Remind the pupils of the statement in the Interactive Introduction - Who is Jesus? - 'Christians believe that miracles are like signposts pointing to who Jesus actually is.'</p> <p>You could begin this session with the miracles diamond nine - this activity helps discussion work http://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-ideas/2013/12/03/ideas-to-use-in-a-lesson-on-miracles/</p> <p>Further discussion starters can be found at http://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-ideas/2014/05/06/miracles/</p> <p>Look at a biblical account of a miracle - the film of Jairus' daughter is a good one or you could read an account from the Bible. If these events did</p> | <p>5. A Miracle - Jairus' daughter - film</p> <p>A Miracle - Martin's story - film</p> <p>For similar resources visit: http://request.org.uk/bible/accuracy-reliability/2013/07/18/what-is-a-miracle-3/</p> <p>Or http://request.org.uk/?s=Miracles</p> |

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| <p>6. To explore the teachings of Jesus</p> | <p>6. What can we learn about Jesus from his teachings and parables?</p> | <p>happen - what do they tell us about Jesus?</p> <p>Linking back to the diamond nines, ask the question: 'Do miracles still happen today?' After the pupils have time to discuss this show Martin's story. Ask, 'Is this a miracle, luck or simply a case of doctors doing their job?'</p> <p>Presume miracles can happen. Christians believe that only through the power of God can miracles happen - if that is the case what do miracles teach us about who Jesus is?</p> <p>What difference does a belief in miracles have on a person's life? Finish with diamond nines - have our view of miracles changed?</p> <p>6. As well as being great sources of teaching, Christians believe that the parables and Jesus' other teaching give an insight into Jesus' own heart and the things that concerned him. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus gives a practical illustration of what it means to 'love your neighbour as yourself.' And in the parable of the Waiting Father - Jesus teaches about the love that God has for each one of us.</p> <p>Allow the pupils time to explore some of the parables - what are the main themes? What does this tell us about what really concerned Jesus? What were the issues that were on his heart?</p> <p>Be creative - in groups either rewrite and act out one of Jesus' parables in a modern context OR consider what issues from the modern world would Jesus be most concerned about. Write a parable that reflects that concern.</p> | <p>6. The Good Samaritan - film</p> <p>Story Time - the Waiting Father - film</p> <p>For similar material visit: http://request.org.uk/?s=Parables</p> |
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