

CHRISTMAS – MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to give children the opportunity to hear the story of Christmas and to introduce the children to the person of Mary.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit follows on from the Advent unit and focuses upon the story behind Christmas and presents.

PRIOR LEARNING

Many children will know that Christmas is a time for receiving presents.

SKILLS

Role-play, speaking, listening, drama, music.

VOCABULARY

Mary, Jesus, Christmas, crib, manger, stable, baby.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and that Mary is his mother.

Less able children will know that Christmas is about Jesus who was a baby and that he had a mum.

More able children will be able to recall some elements of the Christmas story.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R2 Hear the stories of Jesus' birth.

Ch2 The role of Mary and her 'Yes' to God's Word.

- Explain to the children that Jesus was born as a baby just like them and needed lots of love and care.
 - Tell the children that Mary was Jesus' mother: she had a job to do like our mothers.
 - What jobs do our Mum's do?
 - Look at pictures of some of the things that Mum's have to do for their children and family.
 - Ask the children to recall the things they like their Mum doing for them.
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- Share a big book story of the birth of Jesus – focus particularly on Mary caring for her baby.
 - Through role-play, retell the story.
 - Ensure that dressing up clothes are available. Allow the children to explore characters in the version they have heard.
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- Build the crib without Jesus or the wise men before the holiday.
 - Talk with the children about the stable being a special place for baby Jesus to be born. Recall the different things that would have been in the stable.
 - Learn simple carols which reinforce the story and include crib or crib figures in liturgies.
 - Place Jesus in the crib during a special liturgy to begin new term.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R2 Hear the story of Christmas.

- To know that at Christmas we celebrate the birthday of Jesus.
- Be able to hear and recall part of the story of Jesus' birth.

Ch2 Come to know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus.

- To know that Mary is the mother of Jesus who loved and cared for him.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Ensure crib in nursery is robust enough for children to play with the characters.

Role-play area to become a stable.

Dressing up clothes allow children to explore the story at their own level.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 2: 1-20 – The Birth of Jesus

Mt. 1: 18-25

OTHER LINKS

- Making cards.
- Performance for parents.
- Party.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Giving thanks for mothers and Mary the Mother of Jesus.
- Include simple carols.
- Crib figures as focus.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?