

The Incarnation

Lesson 3 of 14

Religious Education

Miss Kendrick



What the Nativity story tells us about Jesus.

Christians traditionally believe the nativity story shows that Jesus was not just a special human, but that he was God incarnate. Firstly, Jesus' birth is a miracle. Mary was a virgin. This links to a prophecy in the Old Testament, which says, 'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.' This prophecy was from Isaiah who lived a long time before Jesus. He said that a virgin will become pregnant and the son will be called 'Immanuel'. Immanuel means 'God with us'. Christians believe that Jesus' birth fulfilled this prophecy and that therefore Jesus was God whilst on earth in human form.



What the Nativity story tells us about Jesus.

Christians traditionally believe that Jesus is fully human. He was born as a baby. He did not simply appear human, but was human. Christians believe Jesus' humanity is important and that he fully experienced everything humans experience: hunger, tiredness, happiness - he ate food and spent time with friends. He did not shy away from human experience.



What the Nativity story tells us about Jesus.

In the Nativity story, Jesus is given gold, frankincense and myrrh. These are very strange gifts to give a baby! But these gifts have deep symbolism.

- Gold is what you would give to a king, and represents the belief that Jesus is the promised King or Messiah, whose kingdom will never end.
- Frankincense is a type of incense which was used in worship to represent prayers going up to heaven, and shows the belief that Jesus was God and worthy of worship. The magi also worship Jesus in the story.
- Finally Jesus is given myrrh – this is the most strange gift. Myrrh is a perfume that was used to embalm dead bodies. The myrrh symbolises the belief that Jesus came to die for people's sins.



Answer the questions below in full sentences

- 1) What prophecy do Christians believe was given about Jesus? What did it say Jesus would be called?
- 2) Do Christians traditionally believe that Jesus human? Give a reason from what you have read to support your answer.
- 3) Do Christians traditionally believe that Jesus is God? Give a reason from what you have read to support your answer.
- 4) Explain what beliefs about Jesus are expressed in the gifts brought by the magi (wisemen).

E.g: Gold was what you would give to a _____ It shows Jesus was...

