



YEAR

3

UNIT C

ADVENT

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit involves children looking at Bible stories of the Annunciation and Visitation. They will explain how Mary and Elizabeth prepared to welcome and recognise Jesus Christ. They will develop their understanding of Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas and reflection on Christ being in the world.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Where the unit fits in The unit links to previous work in Year 1 and Year 2 on the story of the Annunciation.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children:

- had heard the story of the Annunciation
- had some experience of the customs and symbols of Advent.

SKILLS

Group work, discussion and speaking and listening skills, research skills, empathetic writing.

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Annunciation, Mary, Elizabeth, Visitation, Advent, welcome, recognise, presence.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know the stories of the Annunciation and Visitation. Understand that both Mary and Elizabeth recognised and welcomed the presence of Christ. Be able to think about how Christians use the Season of Advent as a time of preparation to welcome and recognise the presence of Christ.

Less able children will know elements of the stories of the Annunciation and Visitation. Understand that Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas.

More able children will have a greater understanding of the stories of the Annunciation and Visitation and how the presence of Christ affected the lives of Mary and Elizabeth. They will understand that Advent is a season to prepare and welcome Christ and will be able to identify lots of ways in which his presence can be recognised today.

A.T.1 A.T.2

2c 2a
2b
2c

2c 1b

3a 3b
3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C2 Elements of sacramental celebration, major liturgical seasons.

R1 Hear, read and explore the gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus; the annunciation and visitation.

- Discuss the word “preparation” and find definitions from dictionaries and thesaurus.
- Create acrostic poems to support word association with this theme.
- Advent is a time when Christians prepare to welcome and recognise the presence of the Lord Jesus, celebrating his birth in the Season of Christmas. Recall with the children what they know about Advent.
- Share the story of the annunciation with the children.
- What titles does the angel give to Jesus? Find out the meaning of the titles.
- Find Nazareth on a map.
- Emphasise that saying yes to the angel was Mary’s free choice, a free response on her part. Recall previous work on choices.
- Prepare a character study of Mary’s thoughts and feelings before, during and after the annunciation.
- Look at posters, religious works of art and Christmas cards to help the children reflect upon this event.
- Look at the words of the text which express Mary’s willingness to welcome and receive Jesus into her life. Do you think that this was an easy choice for her?
- Ask the children to consider all the different things that Mary would have had to do to prepare to welcome Jesus into her life. What thoughts do you think were going through her mind?
- Learn some carols and hymn about the annunciation.
- Children will read the story of the visitation.
- Look at the text and highlight the words and phrases in the story which show how Elizabeth welcomed and recognised the presence of Jesus in the womb of Mary.
- Children to “hot-seat” both Elizabeth and Mary and ask questions about what happened at their meeting. What would you really want to know from Elizabeth and Mary about this special event?
- Create play scripts and focus on the words and expressions of the characters.
- Write postcards from Mary to Joseph, explaining what had happened at the meeting with Elizabeth.

- Introduce children to the custom of the Jesse Tree
- Explain that this is an Advent custom reminding Christians about the ancestors of Jesus who had been waiting for the coming of the Messiah.
- Find out the meaning of the word “Messiah”.
- Create Jesse Trees. Research different characters and the symbols that are associated with each character.
- During Advent Christians prepare for the birthday of Jesus and remember that it is a time to think about the presence of Jesus in the world.
- Read with the children the parable of the sheep and the goats. What does this tell you about the presence of Jesus?
- Does the parable say anything about the sort of things that Christians should be doing?
- Introduce Children to the work of MISSION TODAY and CAFOD. What are they doing to recognise the presence of Jesus in some of the poorest people of our world?
- Ask the children to think of other places we can come into the presence of Jesus today. Explore church building, Blessed Sacrament, celebration of Mass and family life as important moments.
- Prayer is a particular time when we become aware of Jesus being with us. Ask the children to share their reflections.
- Create Advent prayers about recognising the presence of Jesus.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C2 A developing awareness of the customs, traditions, major liturgical feasts and seasons.

- Know that Advent is the season when Christians prepare to welcome and recognise the presence of Christ at the celebration of Christmas.
- Know and recall the story of the annunciation
- Empathise with Mary's thoughts and feelings at this event.
- Identify what Mary said and did to welcome the news that she was to be the mother of Jesus.

- Know the story of the visitation.
- Understand that Mary and Elizabeth welcomed and recognised the presence of Jesus.
- Be able to write about and discuss this story in detail.

- Know about the custom of the Jesse Tree and some of the ancestors of Jesus.

- Know that Christians believe that the presence of Jesus can be found in different circumstances of life.
- Understand some of the reasons why Christians show great care for those in need.
- Identify Christian signs and symbols as a reminder of the presence of Jesus.

- Discuss and think about prayer being an important moment to welcome and recognise the presence of Jesus.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use internet facilities to discover other Christian customs from around the world associated with Advent.

Create a class display about the work of these charities and link it with this Advent theme.
Visit the church if possible to look at different signs and symbols that remind us of the presence of Jesus.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 1: 26-26 – The Annunciation

Lk. 1: 39-45 – The Visitation

OTHER LINKS

Multi-cultural links: Identify preparation for special seasons as a feature common in many world religions.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Pray the Hail Mary as an important Advent prayer. Recognise links with the words of the angel at the Annunciation.
- Introduce children to a simple version of the Magnificat.
- Use the Advent Wreath as part of the class prayer focus.
- Use a version of the Angelus in class prayer.

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?