



YEAR

4

UNIT C

ADVENT

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work the children will learn about the ancestors of Jesus and that he was descended from the House of David. Through this work the children will be able to place the story of the first coming of Jesus into an historical context.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 2 and in Year 3 about the ancestors of Jesus and those who waited for him to come.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the structure and meaning of the Season of Advent.

SKILLS

Research skills, thinking skills, discussion, sequencing skills.

VOCABULARY

Family tree, Jesse Tree, ancestors, Names of Jesus' ancestors.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know that Jesus was descended from the House of David. They will know some stories about some of Jesus' ancestors and will be able to recognise how important their relationship with God was to them. Children will be able to place some of the characters into an historical sequence and will identify some important symbols for these different people as featured on the Jesse Tree.	3a 3c	3c
Less able children will know some facts about a few of the ancestors of Jesus. They will recognise that the Jesse Tree is telling the story of the family tree of Jesus.	2a 2c	2b 2c
More able children will know some reasons why we recall the ancestors of Jesus during Advent. They will be able to recall in detail some stories of Jesus' family and their relationship with God.	3a 3c	3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C4 The Church's celebrations of significant events in the life of Jesus: Advent.

C6 Signs and symbols and their significance in liturgy.

R1 Hear, read and explore key imagery that speaks of God in the Old Testament.

- Brainstorm with the pupils what they can remember about Advent.
 - Discuss the Advent wreath, the four Sundays of Advent and the liturgical colours used during this season.
 - Explain that Advent is the beginning of a new Church year, a time of preparation to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world.
 - Research the meaning of the word "Advent".
 - Read the opening prayers for the four Sundays of Advent. What ideas do these prayers give us about Advent?
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- Ask the children to find out about their family tree. Collect names, dates and photographs of Grandparents and Great Grandparents, etc.
 - Jesus was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph. Explain that St. Matthew begins his Gospel about the life of Jesus by giving a list of his ancestors.
 - Look at the list of names of Jesus' ancestors and pick out the following key characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Ask the pupils if they know any stories associated with these characters and find at least three important facts about their lives. Ask the pupils to come up with a symbol they would use to describe the character. Create fact files as a way of recording this work.
 - Explain to the pupils that the family tree of Jesus is known as the "Jesse Tree" after one of his ancestors. Read the story of Jesse and his son David who was chosen to be King. Ask the children some questions about the text. Where did Samuel go to meet Jesse and his family? Do you think Samuel was surprised that God chose David above the other sons? Why?
 - Create newspaper reports about the anointing of David as King. Ask the pupils to come up with headlines that highlight the strange choice of David as King.
 - To conclude this section, make Jesse trees highlighting some of the important ancestors of Jesus.
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- Ask the pupils if they have ever had to speak up for someone.
 - The prophets of the Old Testament spoke on behalf of God and proclaimed his message to the people of Israel.
 - Focus on the words of the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah. What is God promising in these readings? What qualities will this special person who is coming into the world have? Make lists of them.
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- Explain to the pupils that the Jewish people were waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Ask them to find the meaning of the word.
 - Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Does Jesus have some of the qualities that Isaiah spoke of? Which ones especially?
 - Ask the pupils to imagine they were Prophets today. Write scrolls with a prophecy proclaiming the coming of the Messiah. What words would you use? Who would you tell of the coming of the Messiah?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C4 A developing awareness of the customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons.

C6 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols for Christians around the world.

- Know that Advent is the beginning of a new Church year and a season to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world.
- Explain the meaning of the Advent wreath.

R1 Of how to find their way round the Bible; that there are different types of literature in the Bible; that the Bible is God's living Word handed on in the living tradition of the Church; that the first five books of the Old Testament are the Torah (Law) of the Jewish Faith.

- Know that all human families have a history and ancestors that come before them.
- Know that Jesus was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph.
- Know some of the stories of the ancestors of Jesus. These will include Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Ruth and David.
- Understand that many of them had a special relationship with God and responded to God's call to share his life.
- Identify the symbol for the characters of the Jesse Tree.

- Know that some of the Old Testament prophets spoke of the coming of a special person into the world that would be the Messiah.
- Think of ways they might proclaim the coming of the Messiah today.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Have copies of the Sunday Mass prayers available for the pupils to read.

Create a display of some family histories of members of the class.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 1: 1-16 – The Family Ancestors of Jesus

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 – The anointing of David as King of Israel

Isaiah 7: 14-15 – Messages of the Prophets

Isaiah 11: 1-2

Jeremiah 30: 21-22

OTHER LINKS

DT links to create a Jesse Tree for the school, church or classroom.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use different Advent symbols during Collective Worship.
- Use the prayers for the Sundays of Advent in the respective weeks of the season.
- Read stories of the ancestors of Jesus as you create the Jesse Tree.
- Pray for those who proclaim the coming of Christ today.

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?