



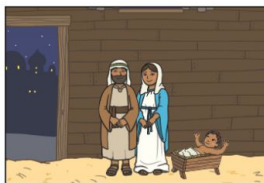
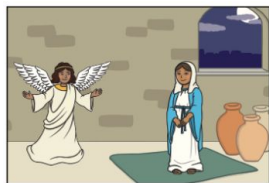
Enquiry Question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning?

Key Vocabulary	Meanings
Christian	Christianity is focussed on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe to be the Son of God.
Christmas	A Christian festival that celebrates Jesus' birth on 25th December.
Bethlehem	An ancient town in the West Bank, near Jerusalem, that is famous for being the birthplace of Jesus Christ.
Traditions	A tradition is a belief, principle, or way of acting that people in a particular society or group have continued to follow for a long time

Christians Beliefs

God chose a young Jewish woman called Mary, who was engaged to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his Son. He sent his angel, Gabriel, to give her this special message.. Mary agreed to what God asked and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Christians believe this is called the Incarnation – when God became human, or was “made flesh.” Jesus was born in a stable and was visited by lots of people such as shepherds and later by wise men who travelled from far away. These visitors were very different from each other (they came from different social classes), showing that Jesus came for everyone, rich or poor.

Each part of the story has a special meaning for Christians:



Shepherds	The first to hear about Jesus' birth. They were poor and seen as unimportant, showing that God loves everyone, even those others might forget.
Star	Led the wise men to Jesus. It reminds Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.
Wise Men and Their Gifts	The wise men followed the star because they believed it showed that a great king had been born. They brought gifts fit for a king (Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh), which also pointed to Jesus' future life and the important things he would do.
Stable	Earthly kings are usually born in palaces, but Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. This shows that Jesus did not need riches or luxury. It also reminds Christians that some people did not accept Jesus because he was not the kind of king they expected. He came to serve others, not to be a rich or powerful king.



### Enquiry Question: What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?

Key Vocabulary	Meanings
Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church.
Symbol	A sign or shape with a special meaning.
Incarnation	The Christian belief that God took human form in Jesus Christ.
Frankincense	An aromatic resin used in incense and perfumes.
Myrrh	An anointing oil.
Church	A worship place for the Christians.
Christingle	An ornament made in many homes and church at Christmas with significance to each part of it.
Nativity	The occasion of a person's birth.
Secular	Not connected to religion or not based on religious beliefs.

Christians believe in the **Trinity**, which means that **God is three persons in: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit**. Each is different, but they are all one God.

Christians believe that God chose a young Jewish woman named **Mary** to be the mother of his Son, **Jesus**. Mary was engaged to a man called **Joseph**, who was a carpenter. God sent the angel **Gabriel** to tell Mary about his plan. Mary agreed to do what God asked, and later **Jesus was born in Bethlehem**.

This event is called the **Incarnation**, which means **God becoming human**.

### The Symbolic Meanings of the Christmas Story

- **Angel** – Shows Jesus was sent by God.
- **Star** – Guided the wise men; Jesus is the light guiding people to God.
- **Wise Men & Shepherds** – Rich and poor together show Jesus is God's gift to everyone.
- **Gold** – Symbol of Jesus' kingship.
- **Frankincense** – Shows Jesus as priest, connecting people to God.
- **Myrrh** – Points to Jesus' suffering and death.
- **Stable & Manger** – Show Jesus' humble beginnings.
- **No Room at the Inn** – Reminds Christians to make space for Jesus in their lives.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and Christians believe he was God's son. Mary was his mother and Joseph was engaged to her at the time. Christingle is a festive, candle-lit Christian celebration that takes place during Advent. It is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service.

The elements of the Christingle have a symbolism

- The **orange** represents the world.
- The **candle** reminds Christians of Jesus whom they believe to be the light of the world.
- The **red ribbon** goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, reminds Christians that Jesus died.
- The **four cocktail sticks** are the four seasons
- The **sweets** (or sometimes dried fruit) remind Christians of God's gifts to the world





# Knowledge Organiser: Christianity      Autumn 2: Year 5

## Enquiry Question: Is the Christmas story true?

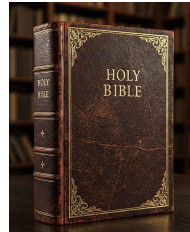
Theme: Incarnation



Key Vocabulary	Meanings
Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church.
Incarnation	The Christian belief that God took human form in Jesus Christ.
True	Real or actually happened.
Truth	A bigger idea. It can mean what people believe to be real or meaningful, even if it's not something that can be proven like a fact.
Church	A worship place for the Christians.
Nativity	The occasion of a person's birth.
Gospels	"Good news" - books of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life.
Gospel 'writers'	Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - four of Jesus' disciples.
Disciples	Jesus' special friends.
Trinity	The connection between God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christians believe they are different but completely united as one God.

- The Bible tells the story of Jesus' life in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).
- The Gospels were written after the events happened. Stories were told and shared before being written down, so exact dates and times are not always known or important.
- A festival date (like Christmas) doesn't have to be on the exact day the event happened - it's a day chosen to remember and celebrate it.
- The Gospels that tell about Jesus' birth (Matthew and Luke) agree on the main events - that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that Mary was his mother, that God played a special role in his birth, and that angels announced the good news.
- Although they include different details (for example, Matthew mentions the wise men and Luke mentions the shepherds), these differences do not disagree with each other. They simply add more to the whole story of Jesus' birth.

Some clues in the Christmas story suggest that Jesus may not have been born in December. The shepherds were out in the fields at night, which was unlikely in the cold winter months. This makes some people think that Jesus may have been born in the spring, when the weather was warmer and flocks were kept outside. However, Christians celebrate his birth on 25th December to remember and honour the event.



The Christmas story is an important belief for millions of Christians around the world and has been followed by the Church for thousands of years. The four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' life, and two of them describe his birth. These different accounts help Christians understand the story more deeply. People may notice and describe events in different ways, so each Gospel gives a unique view of what happened. The idea of "truth" can depend on the writer, the reader, and how they understand the story's meaning.



## Enquiry Question: Do Christmas celebrations and traditions help Christians understand who Jesus was and why he was born?

Key Vocabulary	Meanings
Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church.
Advent	The period beginning on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday. Before Christmas. Literal translation is coming so this is the time of preparation.
Incarnation	The Christian belief that God took human form in Jesus Christ.
Celebration	A social gathering or enjoyable activity held to celebrate something.
Christian	One who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Tradition	Customs or beliefs passed from generation to generation
Messiah	A saviour from God prophesied about in the Old Testament and Jewish Scriptures.

Christians celebrate the arrival of Jesus as God's Son. They are thankful because they believe Jesus brought a message from God about how to live a good and loving life. He performed miracles, helped people, and offered forgiveness for sins. Christians believe that through his death and resurrection, Jesus gave everyone the chance of a fresh start with God. They believe Jesus was God "incarnate" – meaning God made human. The Incarnation is the belief that God became fully human while still being fully divine.

Christians believe that Jesus' birth in a stable showed that he was not traditional royalty. At the time, many Jewish people were hoping for a powerful leader or Messiah who would free them from Roman rule. Instead, Jesus was born into humble surroundings to show that his kingdom was different — not about power or riches, but about love, peace, and care for the poor and needy.

Tradition	Symbolism	What it teaches about Jesus
Advent candles	Four candles for hope, peace, joy, and love	Jesus brings light and hope to the world
Nativity plays	Retelling the birth story	Helps Christians reflect on Jesus' humble beginnings
Gift-giving	Reflects the gifts of the Wise Men	Reminds Christians that Jesus is God's gift to humanity
Midnight Mass / Church services	Celebration of Jesus' birth	Time to worship and thank God for sending Jesus
Carols	Songs retelling the Nativity story	Spread the message of Jesus' love and peace
Star on the Christmas tree	Represents the Star of Bethlehem	Reminds Christians that Jesus is the light who guides people to God
Angel decoration	Represents the angels in the Nativity story	Reminds Christians of God's message of peace and the announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds

