

Unit 4.2 Christmas – Why is Jesus described as the light of the world?

Overview of unit

- Give pupils an understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus is the 'light of the world.'
- Explore the multi-faceted metaphor of bringing light into people's lives

Key Questions

- Why is Jesus described as the light of the world?
- What does the light do to the dark?
- Why is light such a powerful symbol?
- Is light a good metaphor for Jesus?
- The sun already light the world so how can Jesus be the light?
- In what ways do the actions of Christians show the light of Jesus in the world today?
- Why do people of faith light candles?

Key Knowledge and Understanding: What will we be learning about in this unit?

By the end of this unit pupils will know that:

- Hanukkah is an important Jewish festival of light
- Light is used as a metaphor to describe Jesus and his impact on the world
- The light of Jesus brings hope in dark places

By the end of this unit pupils are expected to be able to:

- Talk with understanding about the ways in which Jesus' followers bring light into the world
- Create light metaphors for Jesus that show understanding of Jesus' actions and divinity
- Ask important and relevant questions about religious experiences and beliefs
- Talk with understanding about the symbolism of Jesus as light

Christian concepts

God – Creation – Fall – People of God – **INCARNATION** – Gospel – **SALVATION** – Kingdom of God

Christian values

Hope
Peace

Key Vocabulary

Jesus	The man who Christians believe is the son of God and whose life, death, and resurrection as reported in the New Testament of the Bible are the basis of the Christian religion.
Light	The natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible.
Candles	A mass of wax containing a wick that can be burned to give light or heat.
Christingle	A lighted candle symbolizing Christ as the light of the world, held by children at a special service generally held in the period between the beginning of Advent and Candlemas.
Light of the World	In Christianity, Jesus is believed to bring the light to show the way back to God.
Saviour	Christians believe that Jesus gave up his own life to save humans from their sins
Incarnation	A person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or quality
Dreidel	A four-sided spinning top, played during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah
Hanukkah	The Jewish festival of light
Hannukiah	A nine-branched candelabrum lit during the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah
Jerusalem	Christians believe this is where Jesus was brought as a child and presented in the temple and also where he preached.
Temple	A building for religious worship

Key Experiences

- discussing the key questions
- sitting in a darkened room in candlelight
- considering how Jesus and the actions of his followers brings light into people's lives