

Unit 4.2: Christmas - Exploring the symbolism of Light.

Christian Concepts:

Incarnation: (When God became a man - Jesus, the God-Man.)

Salvation: (Jesus died in the place of people, so that anyone who believes and trusts in Him will be 'saved' or rescued from death and able to be in heaven with God for ever.)



Values:

Hope
Peace



Key Vocabulary:

Candles: Blocks of wax, with a central wick, which is lit to produce light.

Christingle: A lighted candle, symbolizing Christ, held by children at a special Advent service.

Dreidel: A small four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side.

Hanukiah: A candle holder with nine branches that is lit during the festival of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah: A Jewish festival remembering the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Jerusalem: A holy city for Jews, Christians and Muslims; the capital of the ancient kingdom of Judah and of the modern state of Israel.

Jesus: The Son of God; Saviour; the third person of the Trinity.

Light: A natural agent that makes things visible.

Light of the World: A phrase Jesus used to describe himself and his disciples.

Temple: A building dedicated to the worship of a god or gods.

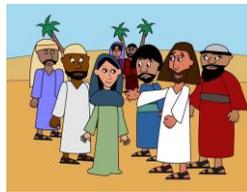
Key Bible Verses:

John 1:1-9

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.'

John 8:12

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'



The sick woman.
Mark Ch 5.



Jairus' daughter.
Mark Ch 5



Terry Waite

Held hostage in Lebanon for five years. Chained in the dark, Jesus was a light to him.

Hanukkah: The Jewish Festival of Light. The Maccabean Jews, led by Judah Maccabee, rebelled against King Antiochus and won.



The Hanukiah burned for 8 days in the temple and the oil did not run out.



Dreidels were played with to conceal Jewish lessons.

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 lights the world so how can Jesus be the light? How did Jesus bring light? How does Jesus bring light?