

RE SCHEME OF WORK
KEY STAGE 2
Mid-term planning

Year 5: Unit 2

Term: Autumn 2

Year:

Does God communicate with humans?

Key Concepts: Sacred text; Prophecy; Revelation, Incarnation

Learning Objective: to understand the Christmas story from a Biblical viewpoint

Brief Background Knowledge for teachers

In the Bible God is shown to communicate with man in a variety of ways: dreams, visions, angels and on occasion directly face to face. In the garden of Eden, God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day; God gave Noah the instructions for building the ark and Abraham, Moses and the other Patriarchs are shown to have regular conversations with God. The books of the Old Testament from Isaiah through to Malachi are considered to be books of prophecy, that is they contain words that were given to people by God and recorded for others to read. Many of the prophecies concerned the wrongdoings of the nations that surrounded Israel and promised restoration from captivity for Israel. Some of the passages are read during advent and in the traditional carol services at Christmas, (Isaiah 6 and Micah 2 e.g.) because Christians link them to the birth of Jesus. There are also prophecies that Christians link to the Easter story (e.g. Isaiah 53). Christians take these prophecies to show that Jesus is the son of God. There are other examples of God communicating with humans in the Christmas narrative: Angel Gabriel announces the birth to Mary, an angel communicates with Zechariah concerning the birth of his son (John the Baptist); God speaks to Joseph in a dream, angels appear to the shepherds, the Magi are warned in a dream to avoid Herod. Believing that Jesus is the son of God means that most Christians believe that Jesus is a communication form God; see John 1 and that the words Jesus spoke have the same authority as revelations from God. Christians also understand prayer as communication with God as it is both speaking and listening; in reading the Bible Christians understand that they are reading God's words. The key words are revelation (God revealing something to people) and prophecy which is the people in turn speaking out what they believe they have heard. The Holy Spirit is considered by many Christians to be another way in which God communicates with humans, as they are inspired. For Sikhs, God communicates through meditation; he has revealed himself through his creation as he is creator, sustainer and destroyer. God communicates by his spirit, and also through people's common sense and divine enlightenment.

Expected Learning

Pupils will know the specific prophecies that Christians link to the birth of Jesus and they will evaluate their contribution to understanding of the Christmas story; they will know the ways that God communicates to people during the Christmas narrative and the impact of people's responses; they will know the different ways that Christians believe God communicates with them and the difference that makes to their lives; they will understand the Christian view of the Bible as the words of God

Developing

Pupils will know that Christians believe that the birth of Jesus was foretold long before it happened and that God was directly involved in the narrative, communicating with many of the main characters in the nativity story; they will know that angels are heavenly beings that bring God's word to people and that people acted on what they heard

Excelling

Pupils will know that for Christians the prophecies of Jesus birth are an important part of the narrative; they will know that Christians believe God still speaks to them today and they can compare and contrast Biblical prophecy with prayer and revelation; they will consider how and why people believe prophecy.

Engage:

- Play Chinese whispers; unfold a scroll and read a message; dress someone as a herald and get them to announce something. What makes people want to listen to a message? What helps people to decide if the message is true?
- Tell the story of how Guru Nanak met God (disappeared in the river for three days) – what made people think that his message was true?

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Enquire & Explore: (AT1)

- Read the prophecies about Jesus from the Old Testament (Micah 2; Isaiah 6). Would people have listened to these messages? Are they clear and easy to understand? What do they really mean?
- Read about how the angel announces the birth of Jesus – perhaps focus on the carol “Hark the Herald Angels sing”. Read about the prophecies spoken over baby Jesus at his presentation in the Temple. What is different about these prophecies? Read the comments made about prophecy in the Bible – about a prophet having no honour in their home town, about recognising a prophet by the truth of what they say.

Evaluate: (AT2 Impersonal)

- What do the prophecies contribute to the Christmas story? Does it make sense without them? Do the prophecies change the children’s understanding of the Christmas story?
- What is God communicating to people?
- Is it God? How do the children decide if it is God? What would make people think it was or wasn’t God?
- Compare the usual view of the Christmas story with the biblical version.
- What message do they think God might have for the world? Are there prophets today? How do we know or decide? What about the phrase “Prophet of doom”? How and why is that used? Is it fair? Do prophets only prophecy bad things?

Reflect & Communicate: (AT2 Personal)

- If God communicates with people how should people respond? What difference would it make to their lives if they had a message from God? Do the children think God speaks to them? Do they need to do anything differently as a result of what they have discussed?
- Do the last piece of paper in the world reflection again (if not done at the end of the previous unit) but this time imagining that they are God. What would he need to say to the world today?

Evaluation:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went well? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even better if: |
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Some suggested resources:

- Hark the Herald Angels sing carol words and music;
- The Story of Guru Nanak;
- Bibles; Bible verses about prophecy; www.biblegateway.com (search facility)
- Pictures of angels and other messengers – heavenly and human.
- RE Today publications: Reflections

**RE SCHEME OF WORK
CLASS RECORD SHEET
Assessment opportunities & activities**

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Some pupils will have made more progress and be using a developing religious vocabulary to:

- Describe and show the links between biblical prophecy and the Christian understanding of Christmas
- Describe the reasons why characters in the Christmas narrative and the story of Guru Nanak believed and acted on what they heard
- Describe and show understanding of the impact of prophecy on the lives of believers at the time and today
- Suggest reasons for the range of responses to prophecy today, linking that to the Christmas story
- Devise four good questions that they might ask to test a “prophecy”
- Apply some of the Bible verses about prophecy to their own lives, describing the impact they have on their values and beliefs

Most pupils will be able to use an increasing religious vocabulary to:

- Link a biblical prophecy from the Old Testament with the Christmas story – annotate a passage or a picture to show the links
- List some similarities between the way God communicated with Guru Nanak and Christian prophets
- Investigate the links between the prophecies about Jesus and the events of his life, including the Christmas story
- Describe the impact of prophecy on the understanding of the Christmas story
- Ask questions about the influence prophecy on believers
- Write their own reflections on the impact of prophecy in their lives and that of others

Some pupils will not have made as much progress and will be able to use religious words and phrases to:

- Annotate a picture of the Christmas story to show knowledge of two Old Testament prophecies
- Identify angels as messengers of God and their role in the Christmas story and say in what ways that is similar to Guru Nanak or not
- Suggest reasons why Mary/Joseph/the shepherds acted on the words of the angels
- Ask questions about whether prophecy happens today
- Write a story about the visit of an angel and the effect of the angel in the story
- Show how they might respond to a prophet