

LOWER KEY STAGE 2 INTRODUCTION

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UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

TEXT IMPACT CONNECTIONS

LOWER KEY STAGE 2



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INTRODUCTION

This resource offers ideas and support in helping teach about Christianity in lower KS2. It builds on work done in KS1, building the foundations for pupils' understanding in RE as they move through school.

THE UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY APPROACH COMPRISES:

- three elements which run through all of the units, from EYFS to KS3:
 - Making sense of the text
 - Understanding the impact
 - Making connections.
- core Christian concepts, which tell the 'salvation narrative' or 'big story' of the Bible
- knowledge 'building blocks' which set out core learning.

These are all outlined below, and more details are given in the *Teacher's Handbook* that came with this pack.

This resource looks to encourage excellent and creative teaching by giving teachers confidence about the subject knowledge required, and offering a wide range of tried-and-tested activities for the classroom.

KEY PURPOSE

The key purpose of these materials is to support pupils in developing their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it.

It does this by integrating pupils' developing understanding of significant theological concepts within Christianity with their own self-understanding and understanding of the world, as part of their wider religious literacy.

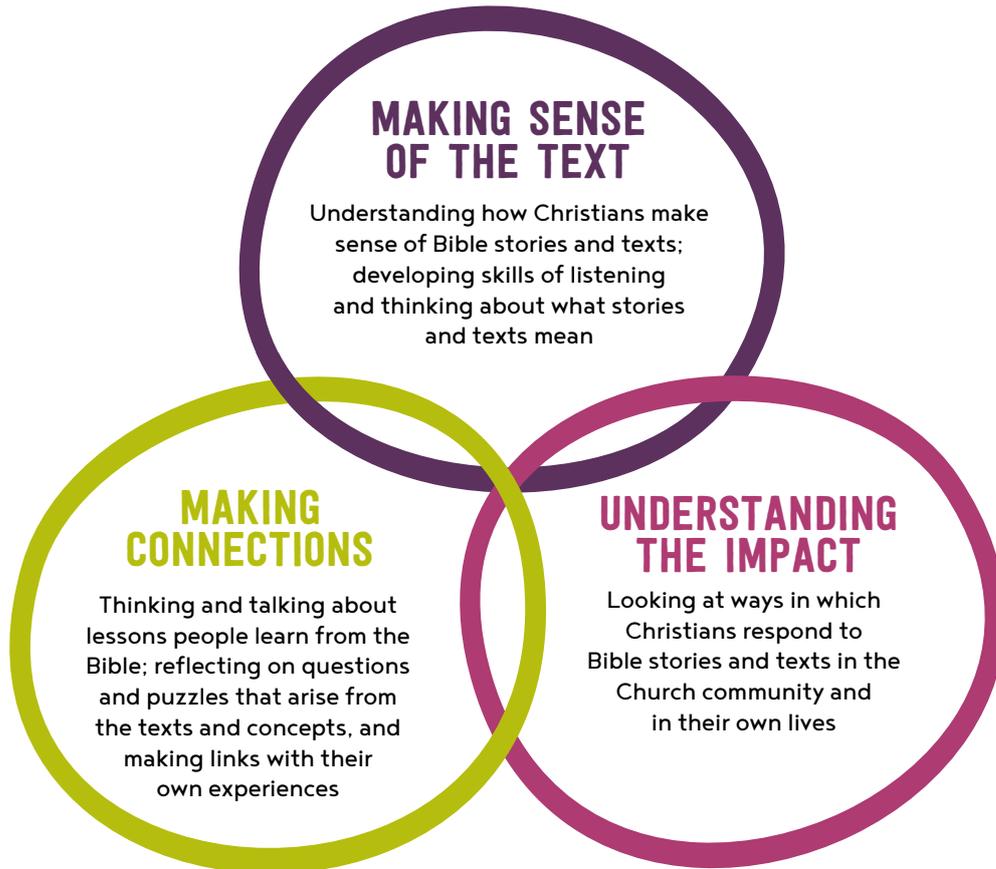
AIMS

- to enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
- to enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
- to develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.



THE APPROACH

Understanding Christianity explores core Christian concepts. It starts with exploring what the Bible says, placing these ideas within the wider Bible story. Each unit addresses a concept, such as God, Creation or Gospel, through some key questions. It looks at some important teachings found in key Bible texts, and then explores their impact for Christians. Pupils have opportunities to learn from the ideas explored. Each unit incorporates the three elements below:



The units of work usually begin with a 'way in', then flow from **Making sense of the text**, on to **Understanding the impact** of the text and the concept on the Church community and Christian living, then explore **Making connections**. This means that the move from text outwards through the world of the Christian and to the world of the pupil runs through each unit.

There is flexibility and freedom within this structure, however, hence the overlapping circles in the above diagram, and teachers are free to weave together activities from different elements to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.



ACHIEVING THE OUTCOMES

Teachers are not expected to do all of the activities suggested, nor necessarily in the order presented. They should select activities as appropriate to their class's age and stage, in order to enable them to achieve the outcomes, as illustrated in the diagram above.

If they achieve the outcomes quickly, teachers can move on. Any additional activities can be used to embed understanding further.

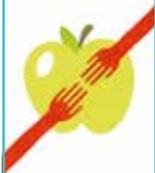
CORE LEARNING AND DIGGING DEEPER

It is intended that all schools do the 'Core Learning' units, which provide around 6-8 hours of teaching and learning. Some classes may make swift progress and so teachers may like to move on to deepen learning by using the 'Digging Deeper' unit. This section is also intended for those VA Church schools who may be studying Christianity for two thirds of their RE provision.



CORE CONCEPTS AND THE 'BIG STORY' OF THE BIBLE

In order to give KS2 teachers the background to the resources, this is a summary of the core concepts that are explored as part of the 'big story' of salvation, as understood within Christianity. The Lower KS2 units explore all of the following concepts:

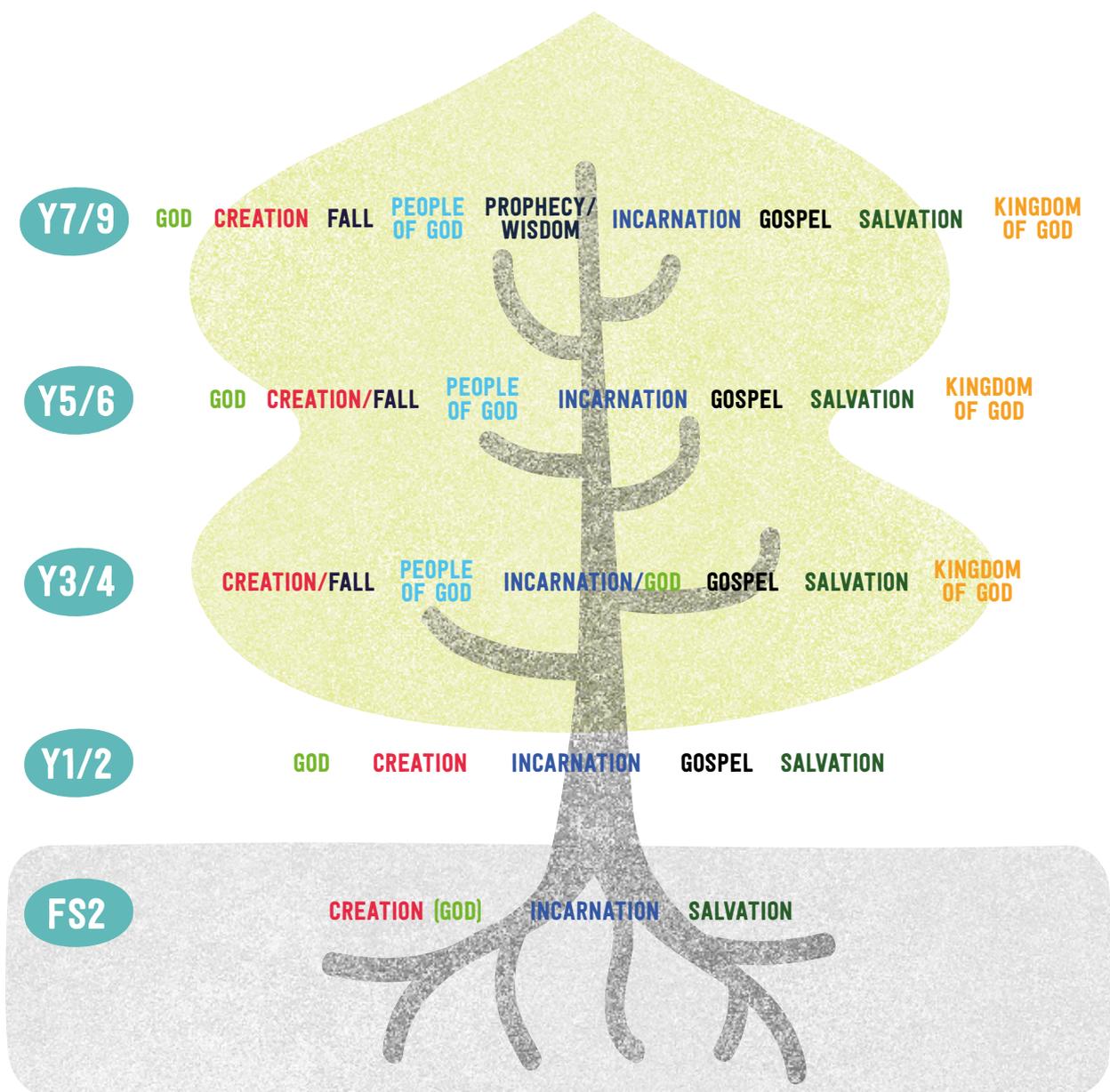
	GOD	Fundamental to Christian belief is the existence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
	CREATION	The universe and human life are God's good creation. Humans are made in the image of God.
	FALL	Humans have a tendency to go their own way rather than keep their place in relation to their Creator. This attitude is called sin, and Genesis 3 gives an account of this rebellion, popularly called 'the Fall'. This describes a catastrophic separation between God and humans, between humans and each other, and between humans and the environment. This idea that humans are 'fallen' and in need of rescue (or salvation) sets out the root cause of many problems for humanity.
	PEOPLE OF GOD	The Old Testament tells the story of God's plan to reverse the impact of the Fall, to save humanity. It involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God. The Bible narrative includes the ups and downs of this plan, including the message of the prophets ¹ who tried to persuade people to stick with God. The plan appears to end in failure, with the people of God exiled and then returning, awaiting a 'messiah' – a rescuer.
	INCARNATION	The New Testament presents Jesus as the answer – the Messiah and Saviour, who will repair the effects of sin and the Fall and offer a way for humans to be at one with God again. Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh, and that, in Jesus, God came to live amongst humans.
	GOSPEL	Jesus' incarnation is 'good news' for all people. ('Gospel' means 'good news'.) His life, teaching and ministry embody what it is like to be one of the people of God, what it means to live in relationship with God. Jesus' example and teaching emphasise loving one's neighbour – particularly the weak and vulnerable – as part of loving God.
	SALVATION	Jesus' death and resurrection effect the rescue or salvation of humans. He opens the way back to God. Through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.
	KINGDOM OF GOD	This does not mean that no one sins any more! The Bible talks in terms of God's 'Kingdom' having begun in human hearts through Jesus. The idea of the 'Kingdom of God' reflects God's ideal for human life in the world – a vision of life lived in the way God intended for human beings. Christians look forward to a time when God's rule is fulfilled at some future point, in a restored, transformed Heaven and Earth. Meanwhile, they seek to live this attractive life as in God's Kingdom, following Jesus' example, inspired and empowered by God's Spirit.

¹ Prophecy is a key concept that will be explored in the project resources, along with the concept of 'wisdom' – which encompasses writing and teaching about how Christians should live and behave in relationship with God.

Pupils in lower KS2 will make progress in understanding some of the main beliefs and practices of Christianity. It is not necessary for pupils to grasp the 'big story' in any detail, but they should begin to see that most Christians see this wider 'big story', and it will help the teacher to see where the core concepts fit on the timeline. The 'big story' frieze is a simple way which can be used throughout KS1 and KS2 to help pupils see how the story fits together.

The core concepts fit into a spiral curriculum, whereby concepts are revisited and explored in more depth as pupils move through the school. These are explored through key questions, however, and so are not applied exclusively - links and connections will be made between concepts during units.

Teachers can see in the diagram below where pupils' learning will go as they move up the school by noting the way core concepts are re-visited in older year groups.



KEY QUESTIONS

CONCEPT	Y1/2	Y3/4
GOD	1.1 What do Christians believe God is like?	(See 2a.3)
CREATION/FALL	1.2 Who made the world?	2a.1 What do Christians learn from the Creation story?
PEOPLE OF GOD		2a.2 What is it like to follow God?
INCARNATION	1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?	2a.3 What is the Trinity?
GOSPEL	1.4 What is the good news that Jesus brings?	2a.4 What kind of world did Jesus want?
SALVATION	1.5 Why does Easter matter to Christians?	2a.5 Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?
KINGDOM OF GOD		2a.6 When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?



BUILDING
BLOCKS

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING BLOCKS

These indicate the kind of knowledge and understanding pupils are expected to begin to grasp through their RE activities in KS1 and Lower KS2. The resources offer opportunities for pupils to grasp more than these, of course, but the intention is that it is better to focus on developing a deeper understanding of these few concepts than trying to go too broad too young.

GOD

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe in God, and that they find out about God in the Bible.
- Christians believe God is loving, kind, fair, and also Lord and King; and there are some stories that show this.
- Christians worship God and try to live in ways that please him.

End lower KS2 (9)

(See Incarnation)

CREATION AND FALL

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that Christians believe:

- God created the universe.
- The Earth and everything in it are important to God.
- God has a unique relationship with human beings as their Creator and Sustainer.
- Humans should care for the world because it belongs to God.

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that Christians believe:

- God the Creator cares for the creation, including human beings.
- As human beings are part of God's good creation, they do best when they listen to God.
- The Bible tells a story (in Genesis 3) about how humans spoiled their friendship with God (sometimes called 'the Fall').
- This means that humans cannot get close to God without God's help.
- The Bible shows that God wants to help people to be close to him – he keeps his relationship with them, gives them guidelines on good ways to live (such as the Ten Commandments), and offers forgiveness even when they keep on falling short.
- Christians show that they want to be close to God too, through obedience and worship, which includes saying sorry for falling short.



PEOPLE OF GOD

End KS1 (7)

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that:

- The Old Testament tells the story of a particular group of people, the children of Israel – the People of God – and their relationship with God.
- The People of God try to live in the way God wants, following his commands and worshipping him.
- They believe he promises to stay with them, and Bible stories show how God keeps his promises.
- The Old Testament narrative explains that the People of God are meant to show the benefits of having a relationship with God, and to attract all other nations to worshipping God.
- Christians believe that, through Jesus, all people can become the People of God.





INCARNATION

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe that Jesus is God, and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
- The Bible points out that his birth showed that he was extraordinary (for example, he is worshipped as a king, in Matthew) and that he came to bring good news (for example, to the poor, in Luke).
- Christians celebrate Jesus' birth; Advent for Christians is a time for getting ready for Jesus' coming.

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe Jesus is one of the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Christians believe the Father creates; he sends the Son who saves his people; the Son sends the Holy Spirit to his followers.
- Christians worship God as Trinity. It is a huge idea to grasp, and artists have created art to help to express this belief.
- Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God's power at work in the world and in their lives today, enabling them to follow Jesus.



GOSPEL

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe Jesus brings good news for all people.
- For Christians, this good news includes being loved by God, and being forgiven for bad things.
- Christians believe Jesus is a friend to the poor and friendless.
- Christians believe Jesus' teachings make people think hard about how to live and show them the right way.

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe Jesus challenges everyone about how to live - he sets the example for loving God and your neighbour, putting others first.
- Christians believe Jesus challenges people who pretend to be good (hypocrisy), and shows love and forgiveness to unlikely people.
- Christians believe Jesus' life shows what it means to love God (his Father) and love your neighbour.
- Christians try to be like Jesus - they want to know him better and better.
- Christians try to put his teaching and example into practice in lots of ways, from church worship to social justice.





SALVATION

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Easter is very important in the 'big story' of the Bible. Jesus showed that he was willing to forgive all people, even for putting him on the cross.
- Christians believe Jesus builds a bridge between God and humans.
- Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead, giving people hope of a new life.

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians see Holy Week as the culmination of Jesus' earthly life, leading to his death and resurrection.
- The various events of Holy Week, such as the Last Supper, were important in showing the disciples what Jesus came to earth to do.
- Christians today trust that Jesus really did rise from the dead, and so is still alive today.
- Christians remember and celebrate Jesus' last week, death and resurrection.



KINGDOM OF GOD

End KS1 (7)

End lower KS2 (9)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe that Jesus inaugurated the 'Kingdom of God' - i.e. Jesus' whole life was a demonstration of his belief that God is king, not just in heaven but here and now ('Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven').
- Christians believe Jesus is still alive, and rules in their hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit, if they let him.
- Christians believe that after Jesus returned to be with God the Father, he sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to help the Church to make Jesus' invisible kingdom visible by living lives that reflect the love of God.
- Christians celebrate Pentecost as the beginning of the Church.
- Staying connected to Jesus means that the fruit of the Spirit can grow in the lives of Christians.



OUTCOMES

END-OF-PHASE OUTCOMES

Each of the three elements of the teaching and learning approach is important, and pupils should make progress in all of them. Below are the end-of-phase outcomes related to each element. Each unit takes bullet points from these end-of-phase outcomes and applies them specifically to the unit questions.

Teachers are expected to use these alongside the knowledge building blocks in the assessment systems used within their own schools. See the *Teacher's Handbook* for more details.

Teaching and learning approach	End Lower KS2 outcomes <i>Pupils will be able to:</i>
 <p>ELEMENT 1: Making sense of the text</p> <p>Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of meanings of texts for Christians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order at least five key concepts within a timeline of the Bible's 'big story'. • List two distinguishing features of at least three different types of biblical text, for example, Gospel, parable, letter. • Make clear links between biblical texts and the key concepts studied. • Offer suggestions about what texts might mean, and give examples of what the texts studied mean to some Christians.
 <p>ELEMENT 2: Understanding the impact</p> <p>Examining ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make simple links between Bible texts and concepts studied and how Christians live in their whole lives and in their church communities. • Describe how Christians show their beliefs in worship and in the way they live.
 <p>ELEMENT 3: Making connections</p> <p>Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the texts and concepts studied, and discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise questions and suggest answers about how far the big ideas explored in the Bible and the concepts studied might make a difference to how pupils think and live. • Make links between some of the stories and teachings in the Bible and life in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly.



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