

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Jesus becoming human	Who is Jesus? Is Jesus God? Did God come to earth as a baby?	Link back to the idea in the puppet sketch about Adam wanting to talk hamster language. Think about times it might be useful to 'become' someone or something else! Hide the letters J E S U S around the room. Ask the children to find 'Jesus' in the classroom! Talk about the Christian belief that God came to earth as a human being - as Jesus.
The story of the shepherds Luke 2 v 8-20	I wonder how the shepherds felt when they heard the news? I wonder why the angels came to the shepherds? I wonder why the shepherds ran to Bethlehem? I wonder what happened next? Where did the shepherds go after they had visited baby Jesus? I wonder if the message was special? Going deeper... Why is this part of the nativity story only in Luke's gospel? What message do you think Luke wanted to get across? If angels appeared to announce the birth of Jesus today, would they still go to the shepherds first? Why/why not?	Use Godly Play or reflective storytelling to retell this story and ask appropriate 'I wonder' questions. Alternatively, use a bible or bible storybook to retell the story, or encourage the children to act out the story. Invite the pupils to read the text in Luke 2 v 1-20. Explore the text by considering its place in Luke's gospel. Ask the 'going deeper questions'. Invite the children to retell the story as if it happened today. Ask the children to consider the importance of the story and message for Christians. These activities could also be done in the explore stage. http://www.godlyplay.uk
Meaning of names	Do you know why you have your name? What can names tell us about people? What is the meaning of your name?	Invite the children to find out the meaning of their own name or give them some names and meanings to match up. For young children, you might hide their names around the room and ask them to find their name.
The perfect present	What is the best present you have ever had? What made it so special? Why might Christians say Jesus was a special present?	Invite children to talk about, draw or bring in to school (or perhaps a photo) their best present! Talk about why they are so special? Come up with a list of criteria for the 'best present ever'. Use these criteria in the explore stage.

These materials support the religious education enquiry process advocated in the local agreed syllabi in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on the Christian belief in Jesus as Immanuel.

Engage

Explore

Express

Exploring

Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Songs and artwork about God with Us	<p>What can we learn about Christian beliefs through music and art?</p> <p>What does the word Immanuel mean?</p> <p>How have composers and artists expressed the Christian idea of 'God with us'?</p>	<p>Listen to different Christian songs and carols about Jesus as Immanuel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE_tuMplOho https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2QITt18Y24 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EflthMfwlyl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPHh3nMMu-l https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO7ySn-Swwc (this is an instrumental version of the Advent carol "O Come O Come Immanuel" that the children might write their own words to)</p> <p>What do they tell Christians about Jesus? Can the children write their own songs based on the Christian beliefs they have learned about? Or perhaps rewrite the words to a song they have listened to?</p> <p>Explore different images and paintings of Jesus' birth. There are many readily available on the internet. What can we learn about the Christian idea of 'God with us' through this artwork?</p>
Christian belief that Jesus is the perfect present	<p>Was Jesus a present? What kind of present might he be? Is a 'present' a good description of Jesus?</p>	<p>Invite children to use their criteria from the engage/enquire stage and decide if Jesus could be the best present ever! Talk about why Christians might see Jesus as a present- link back to the GenR8 presentation.</p>
Christian belief that Jesus is a baby and a king	<p>Why do Christians call Jesus a king? What can we learn about Jesus from the nativity story?</p>	<p>Ask the children to place on a continuum line the words baby and king. The continuum line should be from weakest to most powerful. You might like to add other words that would go in between. Link back to the shepherd story and explain how for Christians Jesus is both a baby and a king. Children might write poetry or create artwork to represent both aspects of Jesus.</p>
God with us poem	<p>What does the word 'Immanuel' mean?</p>	<p>Read and analyse the 'God with Us' poem used in the GenR8 presentation. See the additional resource materials.</p>
Names of Jesus	<p>Why does Jesus have lots of names? What do the names of Jesus tell Christians about his character? Who gave Jesus his names?</p>	<p>Hide the letters J E S U S around the room and ask the children to 'find Jesus'! Talk about the idea that 'Jesus' is there but can't be seen. Ask them to suggest meanings for the word Jesus (One who saves) and Immanuel (God with us). Ask them if they have heard of any other names of Jesus. There are lists available on line if you google it. You may want to use something like Pinterest to see creative ideas on this theme.</p> <p>You may want to make some literacy links e.g. what other I or E words might Christians use for Jesus e.g. eternal, everlasting, ensign, exalted, example, important, incarnate, innocent, I am, image of God, inspiration...</p>
Isaiah - God with us	<p>What does it mean for Christians to say 'God with us'? Did Jesus fulfil a prophecy?</p>	<p>Look at the prophecy in Isaiah 7 v 14 which says that a virgin will give birth to a son and all him Immanuel. Create acrostic poems using the word Immanuel (or Emmanuel). Use what they have learned about the Christmas story to help them. Children might write their poems on 'scrolls' that could be made into Christmas decorations for a tree.</p>

Evaluating and Expressing		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Incarnation- a focus on the Christian belief that God came down from heaven in human form.	<p>Why do Christians believe God came as a baby?</p> <p>Why is it important for Christians that Jesus was God and human at the same time?</p> <p>If God came down to earth now, where would he go?</p> <p>What would he do?</p> <p>Why do Christians still say 'God is with me'?</p>	<p>Create sculptures of Jesus to represent how children think he would appear now if he was to 'come down from heaven' in the 21st Century. You may want to link to news items about a sculpture of a 'homeless' Jesus, which was put in various places.</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/galleries/p0265l3x</p> <p>Use Photoshop (or similar) to create images of Jesus imposed into every day scenes in the local and global community.</p>
Jesus' presence in the world today	<p>How do Christians try and share the message of Jesus in the world today through their actions?</p> <p>If we looked in the world today, where might Christians say we could find Jesus?</p>	<p>Use the Christian Aid resources for Advent that will be available from October 2015</p> <p>http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christmas/advent.aspx</p> <p>In addition, Christian Aid has a wealth of resources to use year round: see http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/primary/ResourceOverview/classroom.aspx</p>
Modern rewrite of the story	What if Jesus came as a baby next week?!	<p>Ask the children to rewrite the story in dramatic form as if he was born next week. Where would his birth take place? Where would Mary and Joseph stay? Who would be the first visitors? Bring out the idea that for Christians Jesus is still active in the world today through the Holy Spirit.</p>

**Note: Immanuel and Emmanuel are interchangeable! Different resources use different spellings*

The Emmanuel Project

Helen Matter, the RE Adviser for St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese (mainly the Suffolk area) writes:

The Emmanuel Project is about to be published on CD. The units we have been writing and delivering on courses over the last two years are finally being compiled onto CD so they can be bought and used more easily.

The 22 Christianity units are based on key concepts, include enjoyable and interesting ideas for teaching and learning and list helpful resources. The units cover all the Christianity learning themes needed by schools following the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus (as well as other local agreed syllabus).

All the units follow an enquiry-style approach and address seriously the issues of challenge in the teaching of Christianity criticised nationally by Ofsted in 2013.

We would like to thank all the teachers and children involved in writing and trialling the materials.

What is on the CD?

- *6 EYFS units – each focussed on Christianity and including an encounter with another faith. Each unit refers to the ELGs, gives great ideas for continuous provision, as well as the RE syllabus.*
- *7 KS1 units – matching the required Learning Themes for Christianity in the syllabus, with reference to units which can be used for Judaism*
- *9 KS2 units - matching the required Learning Themes for Christianity in the syllabus*
- *Three Introductory sections giving overviews of schemes of work and showing how the units fit together.*

The CD will cost £75 + p and p.

If you would like to place an order please contact: helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org