

Was Jesus the messiah?

Outcomes

-  Explain the place of Incarnation and Messiah within the 'big story' of the Bible.
-  Identify Gospel and prophecy texts, using technical terms.
-  Explain connections between biblical texts, Incarnation and Messiah, using theological terms.
-  Show how Christians put their beliefs about Jesus' Incarnation into practice in different ways in celebrating Christmas.
-  Comment on how the idea that Jesus is the Messiah makes sense in the wider story of the Bible.
-  Weigh up how far the idea that Jesus is the Messiah – a Saviour from God – is important in the world today and, if it is true, what difference that might make in people's lives.



The situation:

The People of God were taken into exile in Babylon in 586BCE. They return after about 50 years, but their Promised Land is still occupied by foreign forces. They begin to have a New Hope — God will rescue them! He will send a rescuer, a saviour — a Chosen One or Messiah. This is the situation when the Old Testament ends. However, the land remains occupied by different forces — at the start of the New Testament, this is by the beastly Romans. The people have been waiting a long time — and some are despairing, but some still hope.

Key skills

Discerning—be able to use some evidence and examples, to show how and why people put their beliefs into practice in different ways, e.g. in different communities, denominations or cultures

Analysing— reflect on and articulate some lessons people might gain from the beliefs/practices studied, including their own responses, recognising that others may think differently