

Enquiry Question: Is the Christmas story true?

Worldview/Faith
– Christianity



In this unit, we will investigate whether a sacred text has to be “true” to help a believer understand their religion.

- **Gospels:** literally means “good news”, books of the New Testament recounting Jesus’ life.
- **Gospel ‘writers’:** Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – four of Jesus’ disciples.
- **Disciples:** Jesus’ special friends
- **Truth:** historic fact, scientific truth, personal truth i.e. belief/faith?

- The Bible tells the story of Jesus’ life in books called the Gospels.
- The Gospels were written down later — people told the stories many times before writing them, so exact dates weren’t remembered.
- Sometimes we celebrate special events on a date we choose, not the exact day it happened (like celebrating Scouting on the founder’s birthday).
- The Gospels that tell about Jesus’ birth all agree on the important parts and don’t disagree with each other.

Some parts of the story make it seem unlikely that Jesus was born in December. For example, the Bible says sheep were out in the fields, which means the weather was probably warm — so Jesus may have been born in the spring instead.



The Christmas story is very important to millions of Christians around the world and has been believed for thousands of years. The Bible has four books about Jesus’ life, and two of them tell about his birth. Having more than one story helps Christians understand more about what happened and what it means. Different people notice different things and tell the story in their own way. This means that what someone thinks is “true” can depend on who is telling the story and how the person listening understands it.

Links to other aspects and beliefs:

- **Trinity:** This means God is three-in-one — God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are different, but also all part of one God.
- **Incarnation:** This means God became human — Jesus was God living on Earth as a person.

Truth: “Truth” can mean different things — something that really happened (a fact), something science can prove, or something you believe in your heart (faith).

Personal connection:

- What do I believe about Christmas? Do I need to believe the story is true to celebrate at Christmas time if I want to?
- Are there other stories I have learnt about that may or may not be true? Does it matter or is it more important that I understand the message in the story?