

Knowledge Organiser

Subject: RE and RL

Topic: Should every Christian go on a Pilgrimage?

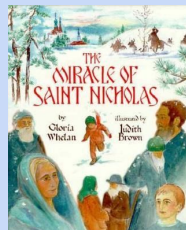
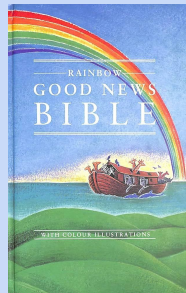
Year Group: 6



Key Text

The Holy Bible: Luke 2:41-52: This passage recounts Jesus' visit to the Temple in Jerusalem as a boy, an early example of pilgrimage within the Christian tradition. **Matthew 2:1-12:** The story of the Magi, who traveled from afar to visit the newborn Jesus, is seen as a pilgrimage to a sacred site. **Psalms 84:5-7:** This Psalm reflects the joy and spiritual growth that come from pilgrimage, "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."

"The Miracle of Saint Nicholas" by Gloria Whelan. Highlights pilgrimage as an inward journey and that spiritual connections can happen anywhere.



Key Vocabulary

Pilgrimage: A journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion.

Sacred: Something that is considered holy and worthy of spiritual respect.

Faith: Complete trust or confidence in a religion or religious beliefs.

Devotion: Love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause, particularly in a religious context.

Spiritual: Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material things.

Key Concepts and Questions

The Purpose of Pilgrimage: A pilgrimage is more than just a physical journey; it is a spiritual journey that reflects a person's devotion and desire to grow closer to God.

- **How does going on a pilgrimage help a Christian feel closer to God?**

Sacred vs. Special Places: Not all special places are sacred, but all sacred places hold spiritual significance. Pilgrimage sites are considered sacred because they are believed to have a divine presence.

- **What makes a place sacred rather than just special?**

The Journey and the Destination: For many Christians, the journey of a pilgrimage is just as important as the destination. The challenges and experiences along the way contribute to spiritual growth.

- **Is the journey of a pilgrimage more important than the destination? Why or why not?**



The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk is a national centre of Christian pilgrimage and spiritual renewal.

Pilgrim: A person who undertakes a pilgrimage.

Worship: The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.

Holy Land: A region considered sacred by Christians, which includes places such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Rosary Beads: A string of beads used in prayer by Christians, especially in Catholic traditions.

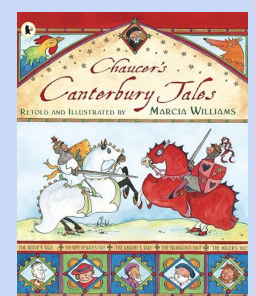
Lourdes: A town in France where a Christian pilgrimage site is located, known for its healing waters

Canterbury: A historic English cathedral city that is a famous Christian pilgrimage site..

Religious Literacy

"The Miracle of Saint Nicholas" by Gloria Whelan.

"The Canterbury Tales" (Retold for Children) by Marcia Williams.



School Vision Links

This topic on pilgrimage encourages children to reflect on their own journeys, both physical and spiritual. As they learn about the significance of pilgrimage in Christianity, they are invited to consider how their own experiences and challenges can lead to personal growth. By studying the practices of pilgrimage, children can develop a deeper understanding of commitment, patience, and the importance of setting spiritual goals.

Furthermore, this topic supports the development of spiritual awareness. It encourages children to think about what they consider sacred in their own lives and how they can honour those things. Learning about pilgrimages provides an opportunity for children to explore the ways in which they can connect more deeply with their beliefs and the world around them, fostering a sense of purpose and spiritual well-being.

School Values Links

Hope

Dignity

Wisdom

Community

Hope: Pilgrimages often represent a journey of hope, where pilgrims seek healing, spiritual renewal, or answers to prayers. Christian theology teaches that hope is a vital part of faith, as seen in Romans 12:12, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Dignity: Pilgrimage allows Christians to express their faith with dignity, respecting sacred traditions and sites. This aligns with the belief that all individuals are made in the image of God, deserving respect and honour.

Wisdom: Through the challenges of pilgrimage, Christians seek wisdom, learning more about themselves and their relationship with God. Proverbs 3:13-14 values wisdom highly, "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding."

Community: Pilgrimage often involves travelling with others, fostering a sense of community. Shared experiences and faith journeys help build a supportive community, as reflected in Acts 2:42, where early Christians devoted themselves to fellowship and prayer.

Cross Curricular Links

Literacy: To analyse texts through the VIPERS literacy skills.

Geography: Children can explore the locations of famous Christian pilgrimage sites around the world, learning about their geographical and cultural contexts.

History: Study the historical significance of pilgrimage sites and how they have shaped Christian traditions over time.

Art and Design: Children can create artwork representing the journey of a pilgrim or the sacred sites they have learned about.

English: Writing reflective diary entries from the perspective of a pilgrim, describing their journey and spiritual experiences.

Key Information and Dates

Key Beliefs and Practices: Pilgrimage is an act of devotion and spiritual discipline in Christianity. It is not mandatory but is seen as a way to deepen one's faith. Christian pilgrimages often involve visiting sacred sites, praying, and reflecting on one's faith journey. The concept of pilgrimage is tied to the broader Christian belief in life as a spiritual journey towards God.

Timeline and Historical Context: Abrahamic Faith: Christianity, like Judaism and Islam, is an Abrahamic faith. Pilgrimage traditions in Christianity can be traced back to early Christian practices and are connected to the idea of journeying towards God, which is also seen in other Abrahamic religions.

4th Century: Christian pilgrimages began to gain popularity, with sites such as Jerusalem becoming key destinations after Constantine's conversion to Christianity.

Middle Ages: Pilgrimages to sites like Canterbury and Santiago de Compostela became central to Christian practice.

Modern Era: Today, Christians continue to undertake pilgrimages, reflecting both historical traditions and contemporary spiritual needs.