



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

| LESSON TITLE | LEARNING STAGE | WST TEACHER/DATE |
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| Jesus in art-Light | UKS2 | Mrs Tricia Bastable |
| AIM: To explore the theme of Jesus in art, making links to Christian belief about Jesus. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To make links between symbols of light and the person of Jesus. | MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Prayer, worship and reflection Sources of wisdom Beliefs and practices Other AOL covered: Identity and belonging Ultimate questions | LESSON RESOURCES WST will bring: PPT worksheet School to provide: Copies of the worksheet |

Introduction:

Today we are going to be thinking particularly about this word: 'Light', and why artists use light as a symbol when they make art work about Jesus. And so, by the end of this lesson you'll be able to make links between the symbol of light and the person of Jesus. Now here's one very obvious reason why light is a very common symbol in art work about Jesus. This is what Jesus said about himself: "I am the light of the world." So Jesus talked about himself as 'the light.' Now does that mean that Jesus was a bit like a light bulb, if he walked into a room you had to put your sunglasses on.

To help us, we're going to think about the purpose of light, what we use light for. Have a look at these pictures of lights, and write down or discuss the purpose of each one 1) A torch 2) A lighthouse 3) The sun 4) A candle

In the Bible Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) Jesus describes himself as light. In TP discuss which of these pictures best represents Jesus as light? Be prepared to explain why you have chosen that picture.

Main content

Show 'Jesus, Light of the World' Painting by William Holman Hunt. Holman Hunt finished painting this picture in 1853; it had taken him 8 years to paint. He wanted to get the dawn just right so he travelled the world with the half finished painting to complete the work. He found the perfect dawn just outside Bethlehem, in Israel

- What do you think is going on?
- What words would you use to describe this painting? Dark, scary, hopeful?
- How does this painting make you feel?

Holman Hunt said he was inspired by this verse in the bible: "**Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path,**" (Psalm 119:105)

If Holman Hunt was to pick one of our pictures I think he would choose the lighthouse. The purpose of a lighthouse is to guide ships to safety as they travel in the dark. A lighthouse is a warning and a guide. So in the picture Jesus is shown in the darkness and the lamp is showing the way. Christians believe that Jesus is a guide. In a world of darkness, he tells us how to live and guides us along the right path in life. Christians follow

Jesus by listening to, and following what he says in the Bible. So Jesus is like a **lighthouse**, but the Bible also teaches that Jesus is a bit like a **torch**. Like this one, being used to read a story at night time. The torch reveals things. And the Bible teaches that Jesus reveals things that we can't see. Christians believe that Jesus reveals what God is like and what we're like, and how we can know God. He reveals things that are in the dark. And finally Jesus is like the **sun**, because he gives life. Without the light of the sun, we wouldn't last very long would we. Jesus describes himself as the 'light of life'. The Bible teaches that through him all things were made, and amazingly, even when we die, if we follow Jesus, we will continue living with him forever. And that is why Christians believe Jesus is an amazing source of hope-**candles** often a sign of hope.

Give chn a few minutes to look at their copies of the LOTW painting? What do they notice?

Holman Hunt was a Christian and he packed the painting full of symbolism:

- Two lights in the painting- the lantern speaking of conscience and the halo/moon around the head speaking of a connection to God.
- The door representing the human life/soul-cannot be opened from the outside as there is no handle on the door
- Two crowns-gold to represent Christian belief in Jesus as their king, and thorns to represent his suffering at the crucifixion.
- The weeds and the rusty nails and hinges overgrown with ivy suggest that the door has not been opened before. The weeds, fallen leaves, rotting fruit and the bat (top left of the painting) also speak of the badness/darkness of life.
- Jesus is pictured outside the door waiting for a response. **(Revelation chapter 3 verse 20) "Jesus said: I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and have tea with him"**

Would it surprise you to learn that when the painting was unveiled people were amazed. Word spread and thousands of people queued to see the picture. It was taken on a world tour and millions of people saw it. And so there we have different ways that light teaches us something important about Jesus. And that's why lots of artists use light as a symbol to show Jesus.

Activity

Complete the LOTW worksheet, explaining what is happening in the picture, what words they would use to describe it and how it makes them feel.

Extension/enrichment activities

Create your own piece of art work on this theme using the symbol of light. You can use any medium, it doesn't have to be a detailed picture, you could think about using colours and shapes or even words in a wordcloud.

Plenary

Light is often used as a symbol of hope.

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Class teacher's notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit www.watfordschoolstrust.org or email info@watfordschoolstrust.org

