



Year 3

(Unit 3/d)

13 hours

Events in the life of Jesus

- *What was Jesus' life like?*
- *What stories did Jesus tell?*
- *What did Jesus do?*
- *How did Jesus overcome temptation?*
- *How do Christians celebrate Lent and Easter?*

All local schools were given a copy of 'The Miracle Maker' video in 2000.

We have copies of Margaret Cooling's teacher's resource book which divides the films into lesson units.

'The Jesus Journey Picture Pack' is an excellent resource on the life of Jesus - available from Stapleford or RMEP. Loan copies are available from us.

We also have copies of 'The Stories Jesus Told' and various other books and poems about the life of Jesus available on request.

Suggested series of lessons for the first half term

Lesson 1

Brainstorm what we know about the life of Jesus.

Download a worksheet [here](#), which asks the children to write what they know about Jesus.

This could be used now or later in the series, see below.) Look at Jesus' place in history.

Children are often amazed to discover that Jesus was a historical character. For a timeline, showing Jesus and the Roman emperors of the period, click [here](#). Note: you may wish to go back 5 years to include Julius Caesar's exploratory visits to Britain in 55 and 54BC. Or create your own timeline as follows:

Timeline notes for teachers.

Draw a line across the white-board.

Invite a pupil to mark on the current year at the right hand end.

Mark in 2000BC on the left hand end and draw a symbol for Stonehenge.

Explain AD and BC, CE and BCE.

Ask how many years are represented on the timeline in total (4,000).

Ask a pupil to draw in Year 1 and draw a symbol for the birth of Christ. Explain there was no year 0. Explain how in the 4th century, the Romans decided to rework the calendar around the birth of Jesus. The monk who was given the job of calculating the number of years since Jesus was born did so by counting backwards, adding up all the years of all the reigns of the Roman Emperors. Unfortunately he left a few years out. Most historical scholars agree that Jesus was probably born in 4 or 5 BC. Ask pupils to mark in other notable dates for example:

- Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55BC
- First Olympic games 777BC
- Tutankhamen dies (pyramids) 1358BC
- Penny Black stamp first used 1840AD
- Football league began 1888AD
- Vikings invade Britain 800AD
- Great Fire of London 1666AD

(The dinosaurs date from around 150 million years ago - you would need an extremely long line to add them!)

Lesson 2

Watch the BBC video 'Pathways of Belief - Jesus'. Create a passport for Jesus.

Lesson 3 - Jesus' baptism

Use the clip from 'The Miracle Maker' video. There is lesson material in 'Jesus Through Art' on the painting of the Baptism of Christ by Piero della Francesca (click [here](#) to view courtesy of the National Gallery).

NB The temptation of Jesus, although occurring chronologically after his baptism, will be covered after half term.

Lessons 4 and 5 - Parables

Stories can be taken from 'The Miracle Maker' video, with accompanying lesson ideas, or from 'The Jesus Journey Picture Pack' which also contains lesson material (available on loan from us). There is more than enough material on parables to cover two lessons.

Lesson 6 - Miracles

Material from 'The Miracle Maker' or 'The Jesus Journey Picture Pack' as above.

Lesson 7 - Zacchaeus

Tell the story and think of words to describe Zacchaeus before and after he met with Jesus. We have worksheets available for sequencing the story. Look at the painting '[The Two Tax Gatherers](#)' by van Reymerswaele and lesson material in Jesus Through Art (click [here](#) to view courtesy of the National Gallery).

Suggested lesson activities for the second half term

The Scheme of Work is rather confusing for this half term. For example, you will probably want to cover pancakes immediately after half term but Jesus' temptation in the wilderness should really be covered before this, to give the background to Lent. While the church year puts Lent just before Easter, in Jesus' life there was a three year interval between the start of his ministry when the temptation in the wilderness took place and the events of Holy Week. As a result, we are offering a selection of lessons for you to choose from as you feel would be appropriate

Look at the [Why Easter](#) website for information on various aspects of Easter.

Lesson 1- The Temptation

Explain to the children that we are now going back to what happened at the start of Jesus' special work.

Watch the clip from the Miracle Maker. Look at the painting [Christ in the Wilderness](#) by Kramskoy. Talk about what Jesus might be thinking and feeling. There is related lesson material in Jesus Through Art.

If possible, look at a picture of Napoleon Abueva's sculpture of the Temptation (*unfortunately this does not seem to be available on the Internet; we have a copy in Cracking RE*). Jesus is depicted with his hand outstretched and his mouth open. What might he be saying? (NO!). Ask the children to draw round their hand and then inside write the things that that they might be tempted by.

Lesson 2 - Pancakes

For [Lent](#) and Easter food, including information on pancakes, see Year 4. A recipe and other information is available from the [All About Eggs](#) website.

Explain that some Christians use Lent as a time to fast or to give up certain foods. They remember the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness. The money that they save may be given to a charity.

Lesson 3 - Parable of the Paralysed Man

Watch the clip of the man let down through the roof from the Miracle Maker (or read the story). Think about someone in the story. Write a version of a Japanese 'Haiku', a three line poem, using the following simplified structure (*and not adhering to the 17 syllable form of a true haiku*):

- who and where the person is
- describe the person
- a surprising simile ('As if..')

for example, think about one of four friends:

Our friend lay on the mat

He looked pale and sick

As if he was a wounded puppy

Lesson 4 - Mary and Martha

Read the story of Mary and Martha from The Storyteller Bible or watch the clip from the Miracle Maker (or read from a modern version of the Bible, Luke 10: 38-42). Look at the painting of [Mary and Martha by Velazquez](#) from Jesus Through Art (there are related lesson activities).

Discussion starters might include:

What can we see in the painting? Are we looking at Mary and Martha through a window, in a mirror or is there a picture hanging on the wall?

What is the girl in the foreground doing? Who might be the older woman be? What might she be saying to the girl?

What is the main message or moral of this painting?

Brainstorm -what things are important to us? Explain that Christians believe it is important to spend time learning about what Jesus said and did.

Lesson 5 - Easter

Leading up to Easter, why not spend some time watching the Miracle Maker video all the way through (perhaps over 2 or 3 weeks) to give the children an idea of the sequence of events in the life of Jesus. There are more Easter paintings in Jesus Through Art with lesson ideas.