

CHRISTIANITY Y6: What do Christians believe about the *Messiah* – and why is it good news?



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<p>What's the purpose of this unit? It is the intention of this unit to explore the connections, as most Christians see them, between prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah, and events from the life of Jesus. These ideas will also be explored using the story of Simeon from Luke chapter 2 and what Jesus said about himself in John's Gospel, much of which resonates with images from Old Testament prophecies. It is again recommended that you invite some members of your local Church community to talk to children about the meaning and significance for them of prophecies about Jesus. You can find some extra resources for this unit in a PowerPoint resource.</p>	
<p>Links across learning</p> <p><i>In order to access the learning in this unit, pupils should have learnt about....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Jesus is God incarnate & is called 'Saviour' by Christians • The 'big story' of salvation, from Creation to the end of time, in the Y3 salvation unit & the messages of 'salvation' in Old Testament stories in the Y5 unit 'Why is the idea of rescue so important to Christians?' • The unit of work for Y4: 'For Christians, is communion a celebration, or an act of remembrance?' is also important prior learning for this unit, esp. in session 2 	<p>'Sticky knowledge' By the end of this unit, pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a prophecy is a message from God <p>that most Christians believe that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient prophecies in the Old Testament foretell the birth, life and death of Jesus • Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies, and because of this, Jesus is the 'Messiah' • Jesus himself prophesied his death and resurrection
<p><i>Where will pupils' learning go from here?....</i></p> <p>This unit will introduce key ideas about the Messiah, which will be further developed in KS3, as part of the Christianity & Judaism units of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the words of Simeon relate to prophecies about the Messiah • what Jesus said about himself & how these relate to many Christians' beliefs about Jesus as the Messiah
<p>Key questions to shape the learning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can we predict the future? Are some events easier to predict than others? What is a 'prophet'? What is a 'prophecy'? 2. How is the Last Supper a prophetic event? Which things that Jesus says hadn't happened yet? 3. How do prophecies in the Old Testament relate to the person of Jesus? What impact might Christians' beliefs about Jesus being the Messiah have on the Christian community? What do local Christians say? 4. How does Simeon's story help us to understand some ideas about the Messiah? 5. What did Jesus say about himself? How might this link to some prophecies? How do these images help us to understand more about what Christians believe? 6. Why might Jesus being the fulfilment of all these prophecies be good news for Christians? What impact might it have on the Christian community if these prophecies were not true? What do you think followers of Jesus thought as he talked to them on the Road to Emmaus? (v27) 	<p>Expected outcomes for this phase: <i>i.e. what will pupils do to show this knowledge?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ② use key texts to draw conclusions about links between prophecies in the Old Testament and Christians' beliefs about Jesus ② express their thinking using theological terms e.g. incarnation / salvation / Messiah etc. ② explain links between the words of prophets / Simeon / Jesus and events within the life of Jesus ⦿ consider the impact of prophecies about the Messiah on the beliefs and worship of the Christian community e.g. in answer to questions such as 'For Christians, if these prophecies are not true, then what...?' or as an explanation for why Jesus is at the centre of Christian worship ⦿ develop insights of their own in understanding the importance for Christians of Jesus being the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies ⦿ reflect on their own personal worldview in relation to their learning ② reflect on and creatively respond (using a choice of media) to the idea of Jesus being the fulfilment of prophecy for Christians, explaining what has influenced their ideas

Background knowledge for the teacher






This is a unit that focuses on the Christian theology of prophecy and Messiah, and revisits **incarnation** and **salvation** through key prophecies relating to these events, which are fundamental to understanding the Christian faith. In order for pupils to not miss key elements, we recommend that throughout, you use ‘proper’ Bibles in a child-friendly version (the International Children’s Bible is good, and linked here to this version on Bible Gateway, or use the Barnabas in Schools Bible)


- As some of this unit uses the Old Testament as source material for study, there are therefore links with teachings in Judaism and Islam, but the distinctly Christian aspect is the concept that the New Testament shows how much of the Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Jesus, whom they call ‘Messiah’. Jews are still waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Muslims see Jesus as a Prophet within Islam. This challenging idea will be picked up again in KS3. This context is important for teacher knowledge and may also be relevant for more able pupils.
- Prophecies:** It’s important for pupils to realise that prophecy is not the same thing as fortune-telling! Prophecies are simply messages from God to his people, sometimes about things that had not yet happened. Isaiah was a prophet sent by God to the people to tell them important messages from God. Sometimes these messages were reminders about the consequences of choosing to disobey God and sometimes they were reminders that despite their sinful behaviour God still loved his people. The prophecies in Isaiah, esp. ch 9 gave the people great hope in the birth / coming of the Messiah, and Isaiah 53 talks about the ‘suffering servant’ (links to Jesus’ death)
- Matthew and Luke** are the only Gospels to have a record of the birth of Jesus. **Matthew** wrote his Gospel for a mainly Jewish audience, and wanted to show Jesus as King and the fulfilment of Jewish prophecies: his account links with the visit of the Magi (whose gifts of **gold** [for a King], **frankincense** [for a priest, a go-between between God and people] and **myrrh** [spices for anointing dead bodies] might be considered somewhat prophetic!) There are over 130 Old Testament references in the book of Matthew. **Luke** was mainly concerned with helping Gentiles (non-Jews) to understand about Jesus as the Messiah (Saviour) of all people and not just the Jews. This included the poor and outcasts, hence the significance of the shepherds as the first visitors. The shepherds themselves witnessed a prophetic event as the angel told them that the baby would be wrapped in **strips of cloth** and **lying in a manger**. These shepherds were most likely given the job of looking after the perfect lambs for the Passover festival: in order to keep them free from blemish (as Jewish Law required), they were **swaddled** and **put in mangers!!**
- Jesus’ ‘I AM’ statements*:** These 7 ideas are all words that Jesus spoke himself, as recorded in the Gospel of John. Many were images that God’s people understood, because they were everyday objects that God had used to speak about himself in the Old Testament e.g. the vine, the shepherd. Jesus using the words ‘I AM’ are a direct reference to the name that God gave himself when he spoke to Moses, and for Jesus to use it about himself was considered blasphemy by the Jewish authorities, which is another reason he got into such trouble! Perhaps the trickiest statement to understand is the image of the ‘**Gate / Door for the sheep**’: in Bible days, when sheep were herded into the sheep pen at night [[link to pictures here](#), esp. no.15] the shepherd would literally become the ‘door’ of the sheepfold and lie in the doorway to protect them from being attacked (or escaping!) *Some images come as part of events that happened to Jesus e.g. the statement ‘I AM the resurrection’ comes after the death of Lazarus, before Jesus raises him from the dead, so it is well worth reading around the statements for extra clues about the meanings!

Golden thread	Further questions to support learning	Vocabulary / glossary for this unit:
<p>God</p> 	<p>What is a ‘prophet’? What is a ‘prophecy’? How is the Last Supper a prophetic event? Which things that Jesus says hadn’t happened yet? How do prophecies in the Old Testament relate to the person of Jesus? Which prophecy do you think is the most important for Christians – and why? How does Simeon’s story help us to understand some ideas about the Messiah? What did Jesus say about himself? How might this link to some prophecies? How might these images (‘I AM’ statements) help us to understand more about what Christians believe? Do any ideas that Jesus spoke about link with prophecies we’ve been investigating? Why might Jesus being the fulfilment of all these prophecies be good news for Christians? What do you think followers of Jesus thought as he talked to them on the Road to Emmaus? (v27)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophet – a messenger from God who speaks God’s words to the people. Prophecy – a message from God. Sometimes these are about events that have not happened yet. Christians believe that in the Bible, many prophecies in the Old Testament are about Jesus. Messiah – one of the names that Christians have for Jesus (<i>‘Anointed One’ or rescuer</i>). There is a different understanding of this concept for Jewish people, who are still waiting for the Messiah to come. Fulfilment – the moment when a prophecy is finally complete; Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfilment of many OT prophecies Passover – the event from the book of Exodus, where God saved the Israelites from the final plague (of death) through the blood of a lamb which marked the doorposts of their houses when the plague passed over them. These events are remembered by Jewish people at Passover (Pesach) every year. Unleavened bread (with no yeast) and wine are key components of the Passover.

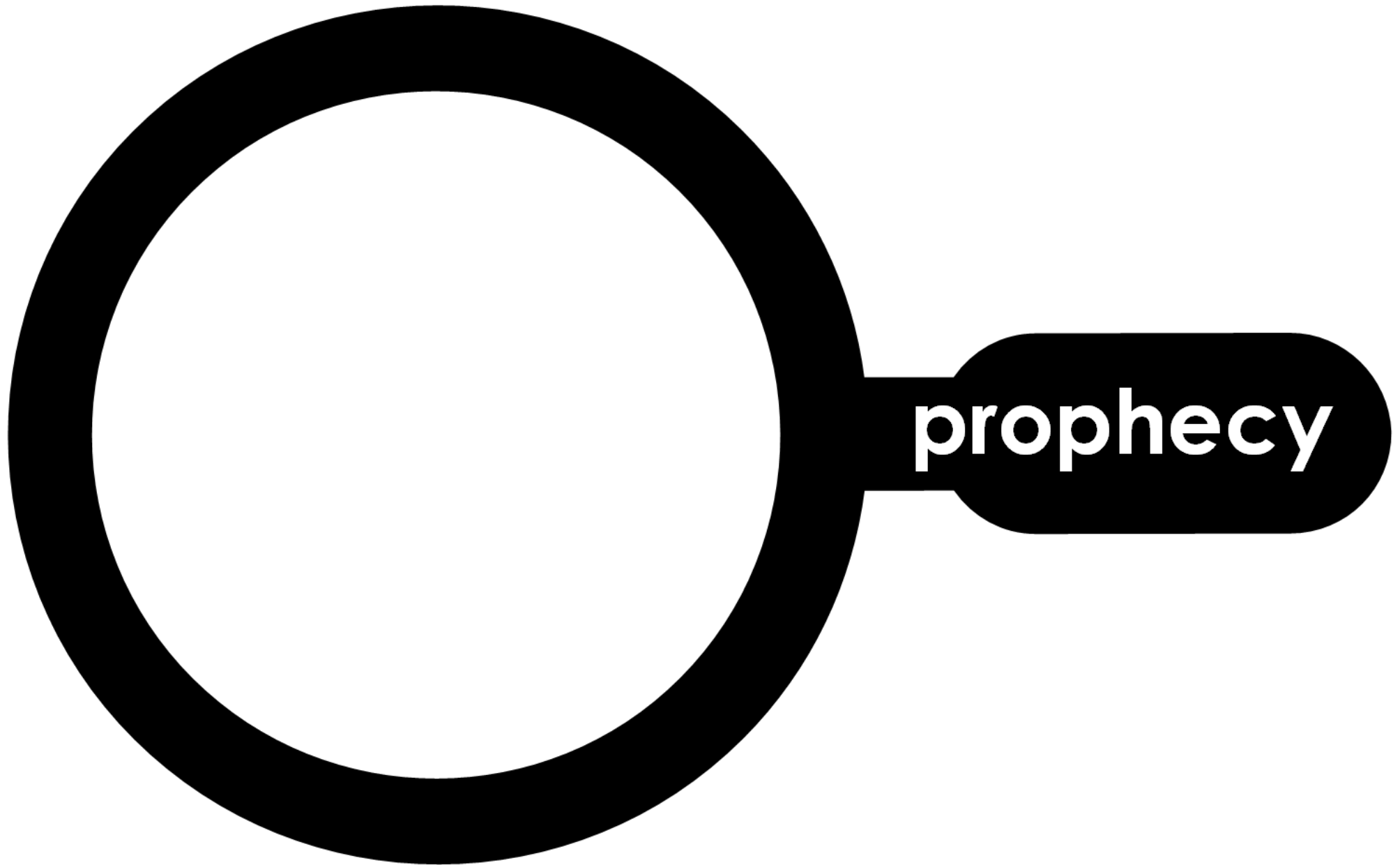
 <p>Community</p>	<p>I wonder what impact you think these prophecies might have on the Christian community?</p> <p>What impact might Christians' beliefs about Jesus being the Messiah have on the Christian community?</p> <p>What do local Christians say?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manna – bread (<i>lit. 'What is it?'</i>) that God provided for his people in the desert [Exodus 16:11-15] • Sacrifice – surrendering a life as an offering to pay for sin; the act of giving up something valuable for the sake of something of even greater value • Resurrection – God bringing Jesus back from death to life. This means that Christians can have hope for the future and be with God after they die. • Sin – choosing to go against the will and laws of God. Christians believe sin has consequences that must be paid for and that Jesus did this once and for all through his death on the cross. • Salvation – the Christian belief that Jesus' death and resurrection have rescued Christians from the effects of 'the Fall' and mended the broken relationship between God and humankind. • 'I AM' – the name that God gave to himself when talking to Moses in the Burning Bush
 <p>Identity</p>	<p>Can we predict the future?</p> <p>Are some events easier to predict than others?</p> <p>What impact might it have on the Christian community if these prophecies were not true?</p> <p>If Jesus is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, then Christians.....</p> <p>If these prophecies are not true, then Christians....</p> <p>What do I think about the ideas in this unit? Have my ideas changed?</p>	

<p>What might this look like in the classroom? This sequence of activities should help you plan pupils' learning....</p> <p><i>**If you can, it would be really helpful to invite some Christians from your local church in for the end of session 3, to talk (in simple terms!) about their understanding of Jesus being the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies and what difference it makes to them.</i></p>		<p>Resources: incl. Bible refs</p>
<p>Engage (10%)</p> 	<p>Session 1: Can we predict the future? Are some events easier to predict than others?</p> <p>Have a go at predicting some future events, maybe something that you think might happen before the end of the week, or the end of the unit.</p> <p>What is a 'prophet'? What is a 'prophecy'?</p> <p>Look at the glossary for the definitions of these two words. Do we know anything about prophets or prophecy already?</p> <p>Tell or watch the short film 'Messiah' from the Bible Project. How does this help us to answer these questions – and what will we need for our investigations?</p> <p> Create an Evidence Log-Book (and if you want to, make your Prophecy Magnifying Glass!) for use throughout this unit.</p>	 <p>We cannot recommend this book highly enough as a resource for this unit! It is brilliant for both teacher subject knowledge, and for pupils</p> <p>Prophecy magnifier resource for this unit on p. 5</p> <p>'Messiah' from the Bible Project: Messiah Biblical Theme Video</p>
<p>Enquire & Explore (60%)</p> 	<p>Session 2: How is the Last Supper a prophetic event? Which things that Jesus says hadn't happened yet?</p> <p>Read Matthew 26:17-35 together, or use stories 302-304 from the Barnabas in Schools Bible.</p> <p>How is the Last Supper a prophetic event? In celebrating Passover and using bread and wine (which were a part of the Passover meal), Jesus was deliberately making the point that he would be the once-for-all-time Passover Lamb and be the salvation of the whole world, not just the people of Israel.</p> <p>*How many connections can pupils remember between Passover and the Last Supper*?</p> <p>Which things that Jesus says hadn't happened yet? In the accounts of the Last Supper, Jesus prophesies his death and some other events that hadn't yet happened. From your prior learning about the Easter narrative, highlight what Jesus says and link his words to events you know did happen.</p> <p><i>[Optional:] Jesus also spoke on several other occasions about his death, and his resurrection, but the few people understood what he meant! Read some of his words together. Why do you think people didn't understand him?</i></p> <p> Add to your Evidence Log-Book</p> <p>Session 3: How do prophecies in the Old Testament relate to the person of Jesus? What do local Christians say?*</p> <p>Are some prophecies more important than others, do you think?</p> <p>Now be a prophecy detective! Print out the Prophecy Cards*.</p> <p>Can you find which ones match which?</p> <p><i>Now talk about the cards in pairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think the prophecy tells us? • Where's the evidence from what you know about the life of Jesus? • Ranking activity with the cards: Which prophecy do you think is the most important for Christians – and why? • **What do local Christians say? Do they all say the same thing? Talk together about your findings • I wonder what impact you think these prophecies might have on the Christian community? 	<p>*The unit of work for Y4: 'For Christians, is communion a celebration, or an act of remembrance?' is important prior learning for this unit* If you want to go back to the text of the Passover, you will need to look in Exodus chapter 12: 1-28</p> <p>Use Matthew 26:17-35 as the key text for this session. There is a good PowerPoint & script you could also use of the Last Supper events, combining texts from all 4 gospels: Jesus at the last supper with His disciples (Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12-31, Luke 22:7-38, John 13:18-38)</p> <p>Optional: Jesus speaks about his death and resurrection – Mark 8:30-32 & Mark 10:33-34</p> <p>You will need the prophecy cards from p.9-12. Each blue card (Prophecy) will match with a red card (Fulfilment). *You will need to decide on the size of your groups across your class, and the number of cards you give to the groups, but don't leave any out!</p> <p>It may also help to have access to Bibles to look up longer passages</p>

	 Add to your Evidence Log-Book	<p>** If you can't access visitors to interview, use quotes from p.13-19, which feature different Christians' ideas</p>
<p>Enquire & Explore (60%)</p> 	<p>Session 4: How does Simeon's story help us to understand some ideas about the Messiah? Watch the short video of Simeon in the Temple, then read Luke 2: 25-35 together Annotate the text, highlighting and writing notes to make links to what you know already & ask questions about the things that puzzle you. Where could we look to find the answers? Are there any links between what Simeon says about Jesus being a light with other parts of Jesus' life? Or other ideas that you've explored in prior learning? What do you think Simeon meant in his words to Mary? Would these words come true? A Christian artist, Madeleine Pires, has captured her ideas about this event in a watercolour that you can find in the PowerPoint to go with this unit. What do you think she is trying to say about this event in her work? What do you think the writing in the swirls is saying? [You can read her words too, on the next slide!] I wonder what impact you think these prophecies might have on the Christian community? What does it mean for Christians to believe that Jesus is light to the world? NB The visit of the Holy Family to the Temple (40 days after Jesus' birth) is often celebrated in the worldwide Church on February 2nd-3rd with a Candlemas service (some worldwide photos here)</p> <p> Add to your Evidence Log-book again</p> <p>Session 5: What did Jesus say about himself? How might this link to some prophecies? Explore some of Jesus' 'I AM' statements from the Gospel of John (linked to Bible Gateway, right) You might want to do this in groups and then compare findings. Do any ideas that Jesus spoke about link with prophecies we've been investigating? How? How might these images help us to understand more about what Christians believe?</p> <p> Add to your Evidence Log-book again: Choose one 'I AM' statement that you think is the most important idea and create a word picture, where the words <i>become</i> the picture. Add some references around the edges to show links that you have made with other ideas about Jesus. There are some ideas as a starting point here, but do create your own, rather than use this tool!</p>	<p>Video: Simeon & Anna You will find Simeon's story in Luke 2: 25-35. It will be helpful to have the words printed out for children to highlight. 'The Christ' is another way of saying 'Messiah' This is another account from the Bible with multiple layers, as Simeon pronounces Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy (v.30-32) and prophesies himself about events that haven't yet happened (v.34-35)</p> <p>You can find the PowerPoint in the 'RE Downloads' area: https://gdbe-elevate.org/help#re There are some more questions to explore under the slides</p> <p>Jesus' 'I AM' statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bread of Life – John 6:35 • Light of the World – John 8:12 • Good Shepherd – John 10:14 • Gate for the Sheep – John 10:7 • The Resurrection – John 11:25 • The way, the truth & the life – John 14:6-7 • The true vine – John 15:1-5 <p>You could look at the work of Hannah Dunnett for some ideas. Light of the world & Good Shepherd are good starting points</p>
<p>Evaluate (10%)</p> 	<p>Session 6: Why might Jesus being the fulfilment of all these prophecies be good news for Christians? What impact might it have on the Christian community if these prophecies were not true? What do I think about these ideas? Have my ideas changed? COMPLETE THE SENTENCES with the most logical conclusions from your learning & evidence log-book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Jesus is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, then Christians..... • If these prophecies are not true, then Christians.... 	<p>You may decide to select questions that you use here</p>

<p>Express (20%)</p>  <p><i>(Could be more if you are cross-curricular)</i></p>	<p>Session 6: What do you think followers of Jesus thought as he talked to them on the Road to Emmaus? (v27)</p> <p>After his resurrection, Jesus met two friends walking on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem. Madeleine Pires has allowed us to use her painting of this story, which you can read about in Luke's Gospel: Luke 24:13-27</p> <p>Madeleine's painting focuses on verse 27: <i>'Then Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. He started with Moses, and then he talked about what all the prophets had said about him.'</i></p> <p>How has Madeleine chosen to interpret this story – and what links can you see with her other watercolour?</p> <p>Respond to your learning in this unit in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write what you think Jesus said on the Road to Emmaus, based on investigations from your log-book. • Create your own 'scroll' showing connections between prophecies you've investigated & what Christians believe about Jesus being the Messiah • Create your own piece of art using a large magnifying glass as your frame, containing images inspired by prophetic words from this unit 	<p>Watch a short video of the story here if you want to: The Road to Emmaus - YouTube</p> <p>Madeleine's painting is in the PPT</p> <p>If you want to look at a range of Emmaus Road art, there are more artists' versions of this story here for inspiration: Road to Emmaus He Qi; The supper at Emmaus - methodist.org.uk; The Road to Emmaus Painting by Daniel Bonnell; Road to Emmaus Painting by Gloria Ssali;</p>
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There is a PowerPoint containing 2 images for use with this unit. Our thanks go to the artist, [Madeleine Pires](#), for allowing us to use these wonderful images in this unit.



Genesis 3:15

Exodus 16:11-15

**God provides
'manna' in the
desert**

Exodus 12:1-28

The Passover

All four Gospels

**Jesus is crucified
and then raised to
life again**

John 6:35

**'I AM the bread of
life'**

John 1:29

**John said, 'Behold,
the Lamb of God,
who takes away
the sins of the
world.'**

Isaiah 35:5-6

**The blind will see,
the deaf will hear &
the lame will walk**

Ezekiel 34:11

**God will search
for his lost sheep**

Micah 5:2

**The Messiah will
be born in
Bethlehem**

**Mark 7:35, 8:22-25,
& 2:11-12**

Jesus heals people

John 10:14

**'I AM the Good
Shepherd'**

Matthew 2:1

**Jesus is born in
Bethlehem**

Isaiah 53:4&12

**The Messiah
would suffer & die
for the sins of the
people**

Zechariah 9:9

**The Messiah will
ride into
Jerusalem on a
donkey**

Isaiah 9:2

**'The people
walking in
darkness have
seen a great light'**

All four Gospels

Jesus is crucified

John 12:12-16

Palm Sunday

Luke 2:32

**Simeon says that
Jesus is a light for
the non-Jewish
people**

Psalm 22:18

**'They divided my
clothes and
gambled for
them'**

Mark 8:31

**Jesus prophesies
his death and
resurrection**

Mark 15:24

**Soldiers gamble
to win Jesus'
clothing**

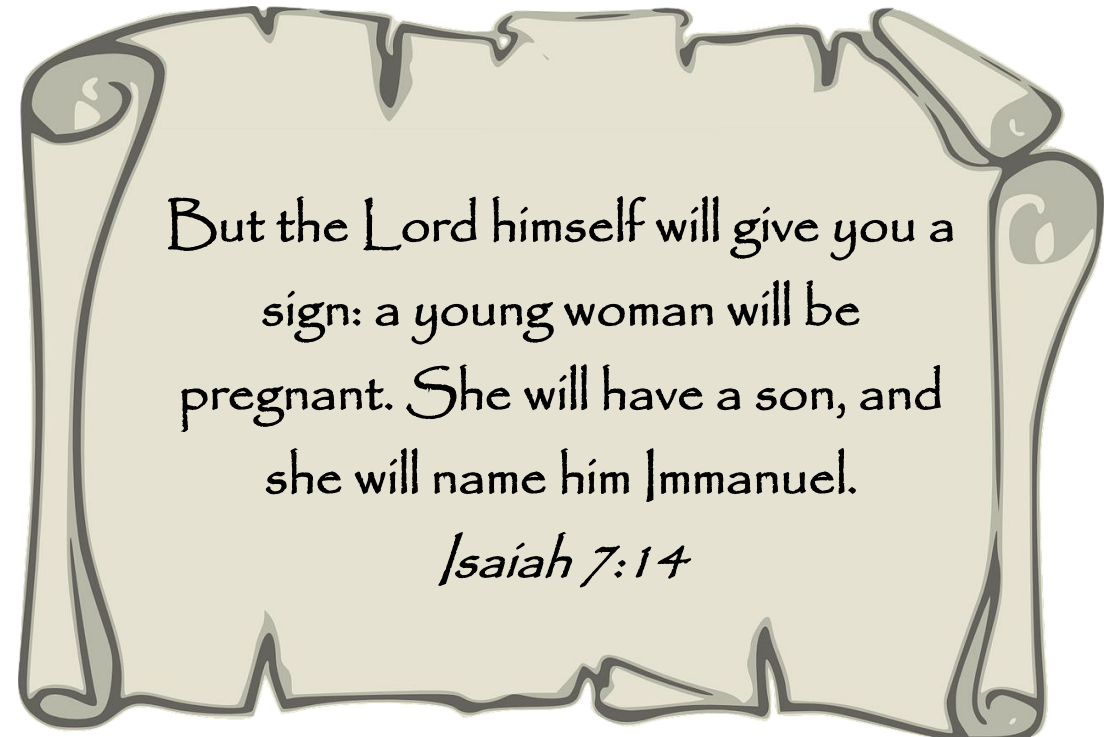
All Gospels

**Jesus dies and is
resurrected**

Hello! My name is Hannah



The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:



It's the most important prophecy to me because....

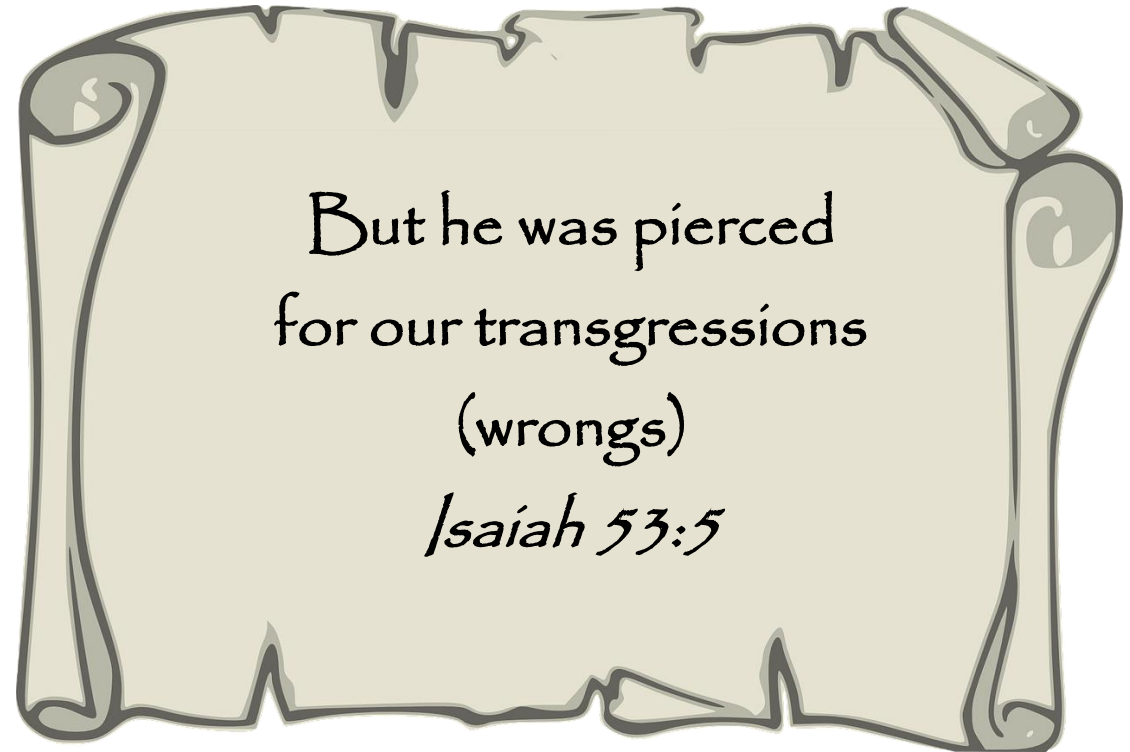
...it is the first prophecy I remember learning about as a child and it predicts Christ's coming to earth as a baby – one of the most exciting and special stories of Jesus to hear about when you are a child.

I remember being both mystified and captivated at the idea that a human being, a young woman, would give birth to God's Son on Earth. The prophecy tells us what we go on to find out in the New Testament, that Jesus will have two natures, **divine** and **human**, and introduces us to the Holy Spirit at work.

“The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.” *[Luke 1:35]*

Hello! My name is Reverend James

The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:



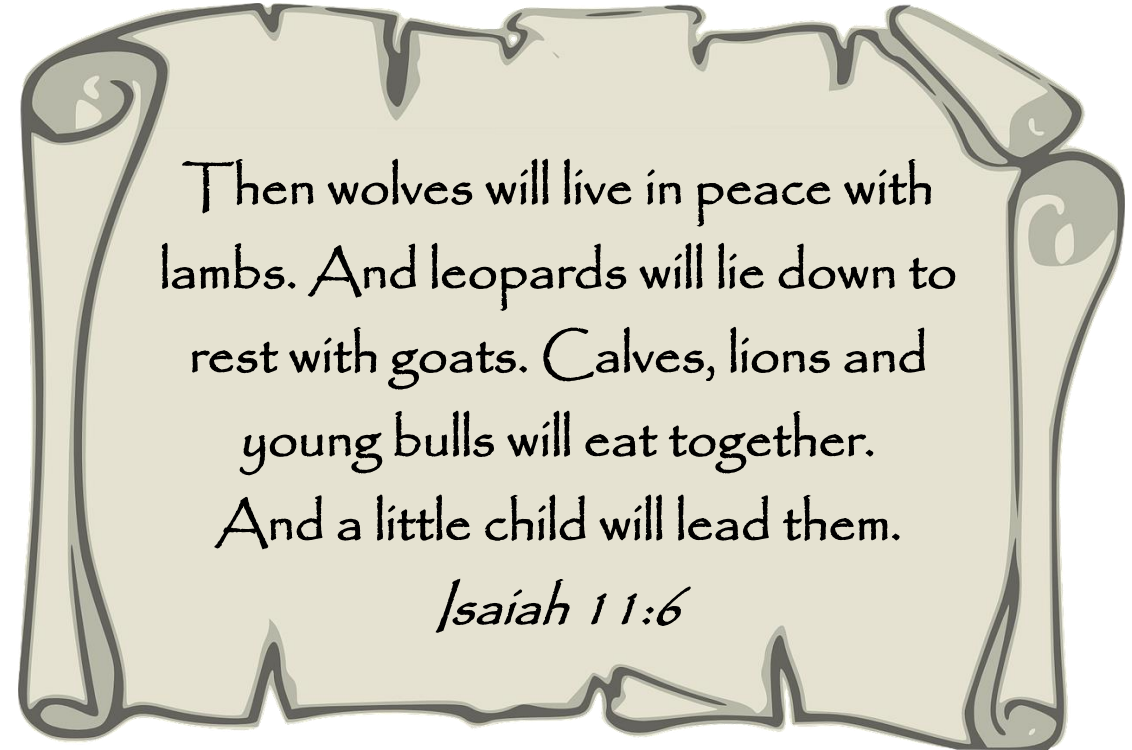
It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it is our wrongdoings that put Jesus on the cross, but it is even more exciting because he took on the cross on our behalf so that we might be forgiven. Isaiah foretold that Jesus would be pierced on the cross – which he was. *[Read John 19:34]*

Hello! My name is Ann



The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:



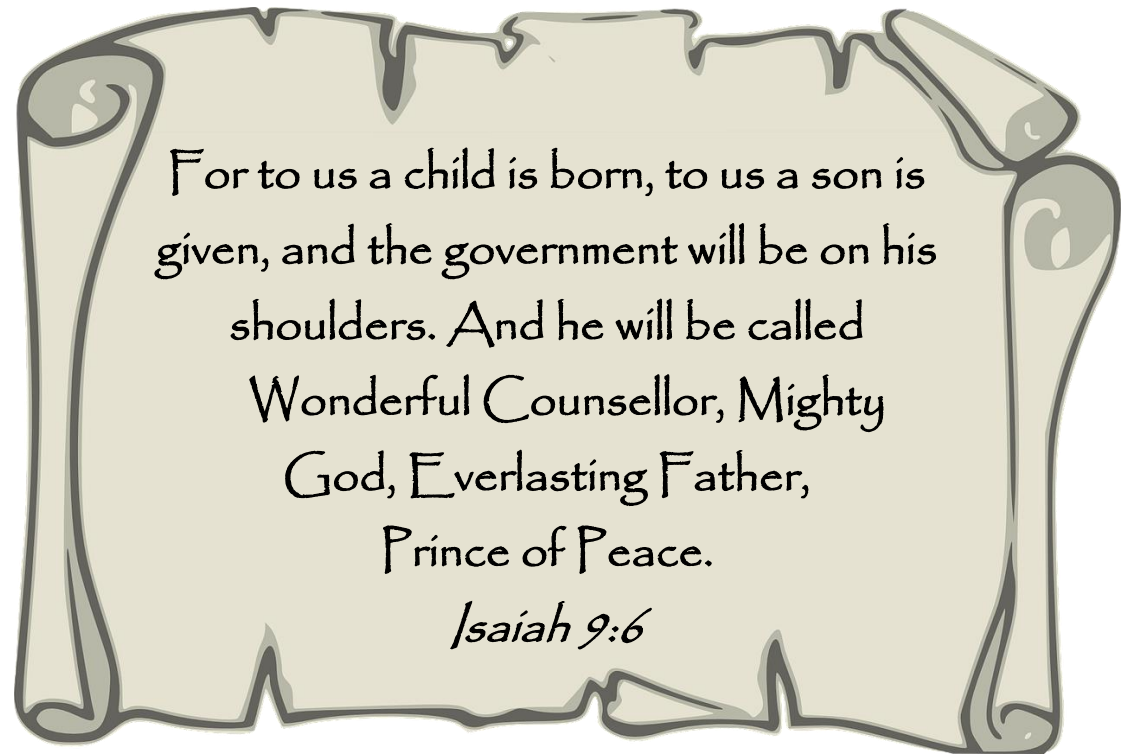
It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it's a picture of peace on earth, which Jesus came to earth as a child to bring to all people. This is a description of a world where all people live in harmony.

Hello! My name is Sarah



The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:



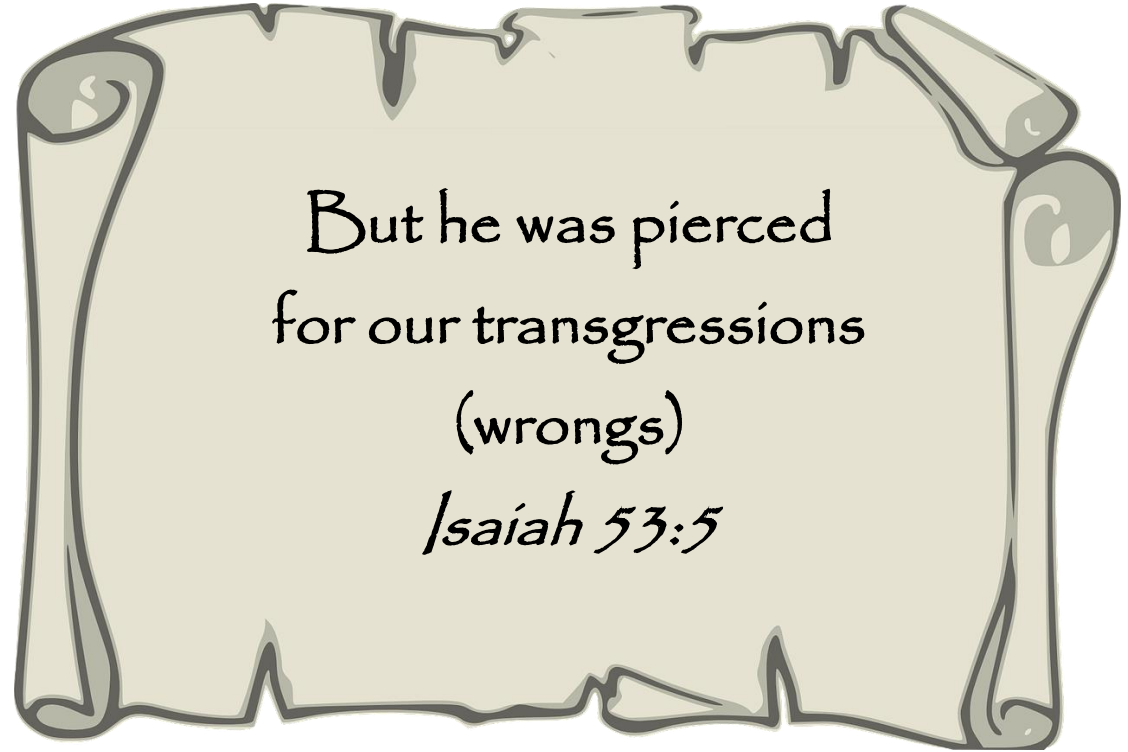
It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it is there FOREVER!

It's also part of a wonderful piece of music, Handel's 'Messiah'. It's so important that children have a chance to hear such a great work!

Hello! My name is Jowan

The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:

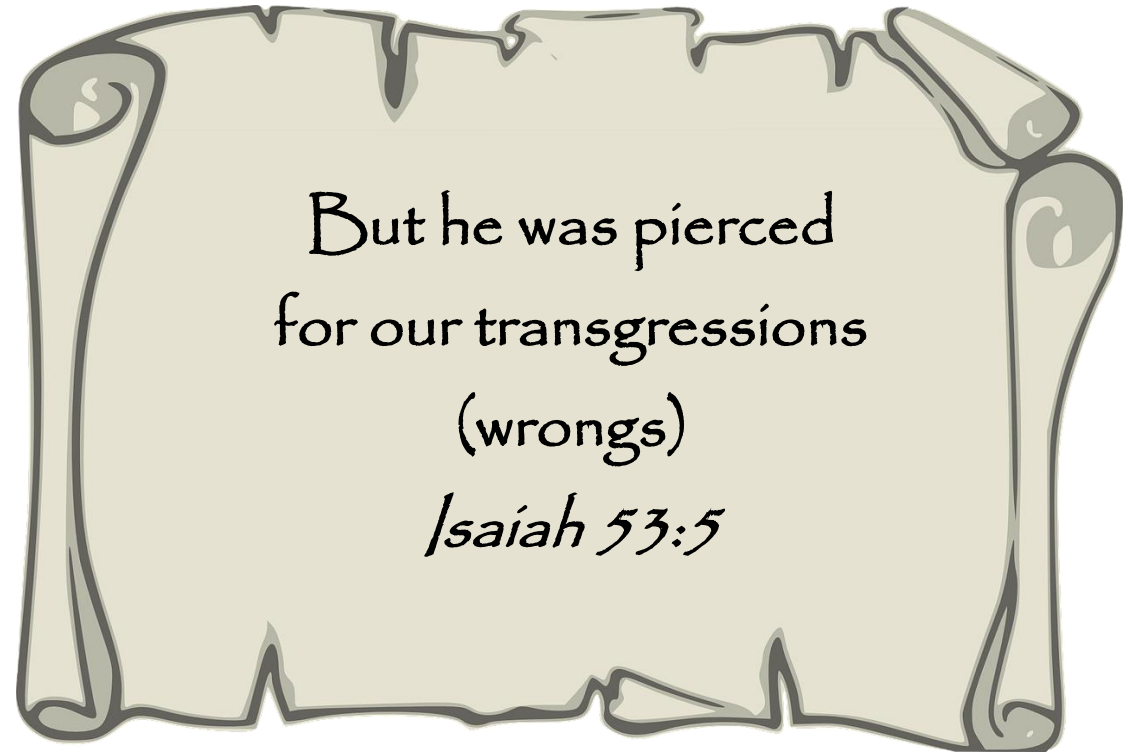


It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it is

Hello! My name is Rosie

The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:

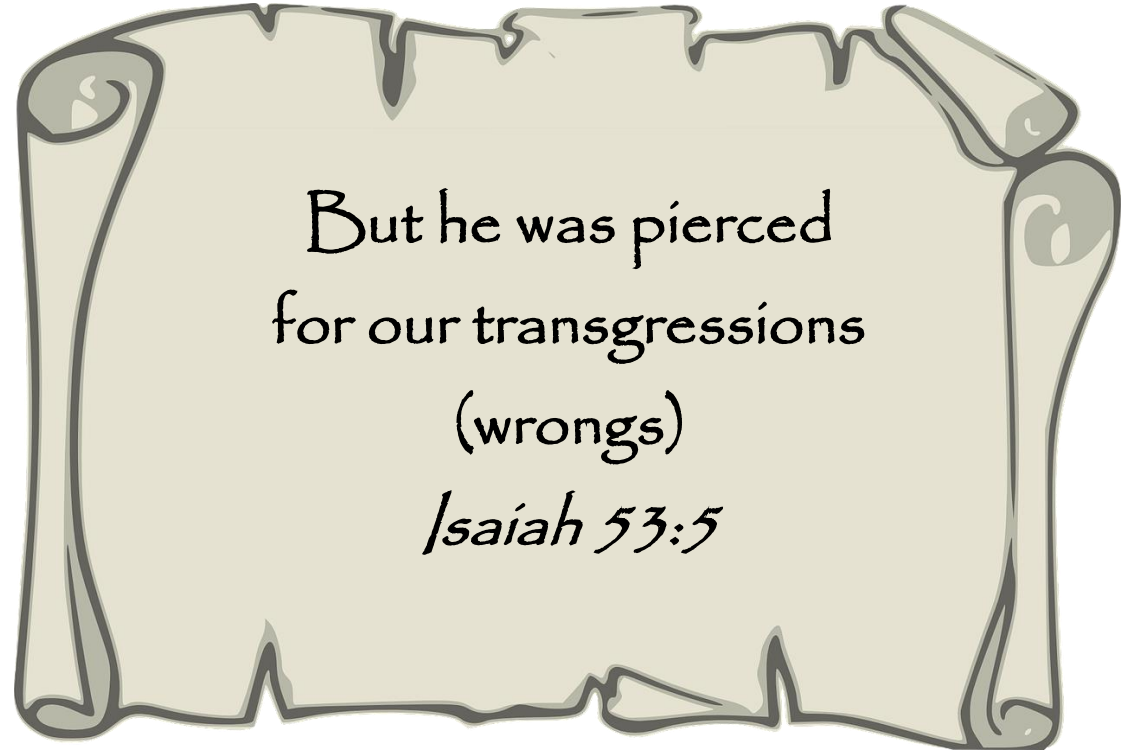


It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it is

Hello! My name is Jens (*pronounced 'Yens'*)

The prophecy about Jesus that is the most important to me is:



It's the most important prophecy to me because....

...it is