

# UNIT H – YEAR 6

## HOLY WEEK

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about the passion of Jesus from the events that took place in the Garden of Gethsemane through to the death of Jesus on the cross. They will find out some reasons why Christians have described the death of Jesus as a sacrifice.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on the Holy Week work from Year 5 when the children learnt about some of the reasons why Jesus was put to death.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the different events that took place in the last week of Jesus' life.

### SKILLS

Discussion, reference and research skills, speaking and listening, writing skills.

### VOCABULARY

Gethsemane, suffering, death, servant, sacrifice, cross, Isaiah.

### ASSESSMENT

**At the end of this unit:**

**Most children will** know the story of the passion of Jesus in some detail. They will be able to imagine some of the thoughts and feelings of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and think of some reasons why Peter denied Jesus. They will know some words of Jesus from the cross and understand why the death of Jesus has been described as a sacrifice.

**Less able children will** know and be able to recall parts of the passion story of Jesus. They will be able to think about the suffering Jesus experienced throughout his passion and death on the cross.

**More able children will** know that Jesus was a suffering servant and that his death on the cross was in obedience to the will of his Father which he prayed to follow in the Garden of Gethsemane. They will understand the meaning of some of the words of Jesus from the cross and identify the difference between the sacrifice of Jesus and the sacrifices that people in the Old Testament offered to God.

**A.T.1**      **A.T.2**

**4a**      **4a**

**4b**      **4b**

**3a**      **3b**

**3c**      **3c**

**5a**      **5a**

**5c**



PROGRAMME OF STUDY	TEACHING STRATEGIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
	<p>different events and some symbols which explain each episode. This might include a cup for the Garden of Gethsemane, a fire for the denial of Jesus, clothes, nails and the cross for his stripping and crucifixion, stones and oil for his burial. Ask the children to think of their own symbols and explain why they have chosen them to illustrate each part of the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read with the children some passages from the Prophet Isaiah about the “suffering servant”. (<i>Isaiah 52: 13-53: 6</i>)</li> <li>• Explain to the children that these passages have been used by the Church to think about the death of Christ.</li> <li>• Highlight words from the text, which indicate the type of suffering that the servant endured.</li> <li>• What was the point of the suffering?</li> <li>• Can you see any similarities between this suffering and the suffering of Jesus</li> </ul> <p>• Explain to the children that the death of Jesus on the cross is often described as a “sacrifice”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find definitions for “sacrifice” in dictionaries and explain why this might be a suitable term to describe the death of Jesus.</li> <li>• In the Old Testament there are lots of stories of people offering sacrifices to God.</li> <li>• Recall the story of the sacrifice of Isaac studied in Year Four. What can the children remember about this story?</li> <li>• Read the story. How does God sort out the dilemma that Abraham faces? What does Abraham offer to God instead of his son?</li> <li>• Explain to the children that from this time on the Jewish people offered sacrifices to God. Recall work from Year Five about the temple and the high priests offering sacrifices there.</li> <li>• Read what the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says in <i>Hebrews 10: 11-15</i>. In what ways is Christ's sacrifice different from all the sacrifices that the Old Testament priests offered to God?</li> <li>• Ask the children to brainstorm different words to describe this sacrifice of Jesus.</li> <li>• Read what St. Paul has to say about the sacrifice of Jesus in <i>Ephesians 5: 2</i>.</li> </ul> <p>• Children to write a reflection on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus that can be used as part of a Holy Week liturgy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with the children some of the sacrifices that people have to make today, especially because of their beliefs.</li> <li>• Find out about prisoners of conscience and places in the world today where people are victimised because of their beliefs or their race.</li> <li>• Use newspapers and other news reports to find out about people who suffer today.</li> <li>• Write prayers for those who suffer today.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know that the death of Jesus is often described as a sacrifice.</li> <li>• Understand reasons for this.</li> <li>• Be able to identify passages in the Scriptures that talk about sacrifice.</li> </ul>	<p>Ask the children to think about</p>

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			some of the sacrifices that they are called to make in their lives. What about the sacrifices that others make for them?

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Lk. 22: 39-46* – The Garden of Gethsemane

*Lk. 22: 47-53* – The Betrayal of Jesus

*Lk. 23: 39-43* – The Words of Jesus to the Thief

*Mt. 26:36-27: 66* – The Passion of Jesus in the Four Gospels

*Mk. 14: 43-15: 47*

*Lk. 22:47-23: 56*

*Jn. 18:1-19: 42*

*Ephesians 5: 2* – The Sacrifice of Jesus

*Hebrews 10: 11-15* – The Sacrifice of Jesus Compared to Other Sacrifices

*Isaiah 52: 13-53: 6* – The Suffering Servant

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Provide children with an opportunity to imagine some different scenes from the death of Jesus.
- Consider using some slides or a video presentation of the story of Jesus' death to help children think about what took place at Calvary.
- Hold a special Holy Week Liturgy focused on prayer round the cross. Have a big cross on the floor and use some of the words of Jesus from the cross, passages about the suffering servant and the children's own reflections on the death of Jesus.

## OTHER LINKS

ICT link: [Holy Week Web Page](#).

Art link: Look at how the death of Jesus has been captured in different styles of religious art.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**