



## Christianity:

What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?

### Topic Overview

- In the Christmas story, there are lots of important symbols which show the birth of Jesus was a special event:
  - The **angels** symbolise that Jesus wasn't an ordinary man. Angels aren't everyday occurrences and were there to show people that Jesus was a special gift from God.
  - The **star** guided the Wise Men just as Jesus is the light that guides people to God.
  - The **Wise Men** and the **Shepherds** show the difference between rich and poor, symbolising that Jesus is a gift to everyone.
  - The **gifts** from the Wise Men: **gold** is a precious metal symbolising how precious Jesus is and represents his Kingship. **Frankincense** is used in perfume and incense and represents Jesus' priestly role, **Myrrh** is also used in perfumes and incense and in Jesus' day was an embalming oil which symbolises his death.
  - The **manger** and the **stable** were humble beginnings for a 'King.'
- These symbols are used in artwork to show the Christmas story.
- There are lots of pieces of art which show the Christmas story, however, they are all slightly different because each artist has interpreted the Bible story differently.
- If you listen carefully to Christmas Carols, you can also hear these symbols mentioned in the lyrics. Christmas Carols describe the events around Jesus' birth.
- A Christingle is another important symbol for Christians.
- It is a symbol of the Christian faith and reminds Christians of 'Christ's light.'
  - The **orange** represents the world.
  - The **candle** reminds us of Jesus as Christians believe Jesus is the light of the world
  - The **red ribbon** goes all around the 'world' and reminds Christians that Jesus died - it symbolises His blood.
  - The **four cocktail sticks** have two meanings: the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
  - The **sweets** or **dried fruit** symbolise God's gifts to the world, including kindness and love.

