

Learning about Jesus through Art

Nowadays, most people in this country are taught how to read, but learning to read was not nearly as common in the past. Art was a good way to tell people stories when lots of people couldn't read. Stained glass windows were, and still are, put in churches to tell stories, show important beliefs and to inspire people. Sometimes the pictures in the windows are good to help people understand difficult ideas too.

Look at the stained glass window below.

See if you can finish off the sentence starters showing what you can tell from the picture. Can you work out which story from the bible it is telling?



I see...

Another thing I notice is...

I know...

I think...

I think this story is important to Christians because...

Name that church

Look at the pictures on the last two pages of this work. You will see 5 stained glass windows. Each of them belongs to a different church. Each of the churches has a name that is inspired by its window.

Can you suggest the name for each church? Which stories does this link with? Put your ideas below.

I think the church should be called...	I think this is a good name because...

Matching and ordering the stories

I wonder how easy you found the task above? See if your ideas match with the ideas below.

Some good names for the churches could be:

Church of the Nativity	Holy Trinity	Church of the Good Shepherd	Church of St John the Baptist	Church of the Ascension
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Match each of these church names to one of the windows. Explain to a grown up your reason for matching them.

Four of the windows show events in the life of Jesus. Can you order the windows to show the order these events happened according to the bible?

Exploring a story

The middle window in the picture shows the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Read the story below, or if you have a bible in your house read the story out of the bible.

At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Immediately, as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven open. The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven:

"You are my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with you."

Mark 1:9–11 (NCV)

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Evaluating the art

Now you have read the story think about how well the artist has represented it on the window. Use the sentence starters to help.



The artist has told the story well by ...

The artist has shown an important part of the story where ... by ...

The message of this story is/is not shown well because ...

I like/don't like ... because ...

I think Christians will/won't like this because ...

I think this image should/shouldn't be used to illustrate this story because ...

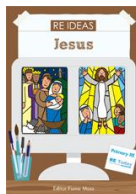
A stained-glass window for a new church

Imagine a new church is being built in your town. It is going to be called the Church of Jesus. You have been put in charge of creating a stained glass window. Choose a story that is important to Christians from the life of Jesus to illustrate on the stained glass window template on the next page.

Write an explanation of why your window should be chosen for the new church.

My window should be chosen because...

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