RE

Was Jesus the Messiah?

We are going to begin looking at the start of the New Testament in RE over the next few weeks, but to do this we must first think about the time at the end of the Old Testament.

The people of God were taken into exile in Babylon in 586BCE and they return about 50 years later, but their Promised Land is still occupied by foreign forces. They begin to hope – God will rescue them! He will send a rescuer, a saviour – a Chosen One or Messiah.

Task One

Write a definition for the two words in red above (exile and occupied).

Task Two

Write a sentence or two explaining what you think a Messiah is.

This is the situation when the Old Testament ends.

Our Key Questions for the next few weeks in RE are: Was Jesus the hoped-for Saviour? Was Jesus the Messiah?

Task Three

Think of FIVE characteristics this 'hoped-for saviour' and 'Messiah' would need to have and write them down. Explain why this characteristic would be needed.

Think: this will need to be a person who could rescue the People of God in their current situation at the end of the Old Testament.

The picture that represents this start of the New Testament, where people were waiting for the Messiah, from Understanding Christianity is below.

Task Four

Look closely at the picture. Write down what you can see and what you think this means. You may need to continue in your book too as there may not be enough room here.