

## UNIT 1, PART A BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS

### JESUS AS GOD INCARNATE

#### “Jesus was just an ordinary man”

#### DIAMOND 9 STATEMENTS

Arrange each statement in a diamond, through group discussion, placing the most convincing at the top and the less convincing towards the bottom

✂ Jesus was just a preacher from Galilee. There were many Jewish ‘miracle men’ around this area at this time, who, just like Jesus, claimed to be divine.	Roman (non-Christian) historians such as Tacitus and Pliny the Younger wrote about Christ and his crucifixion – these accounts support what the gospels say about the death of Jesus.	Josephus, a Roman non-Christian historian wrote: “About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he ... wrought surprising feats.... He was the Christ. When Pilate ...condemned him to be crucified, those who had . . . come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared... restored to life.”
There are contradictory accounts of both Jesus’s birth and his resurrection in the gospels.	Jesus is still worshipped today, over 2000 years after his death. Christianity is the biggest world religion, with around a third of the world’s population following Christianity – this is no ordinary man!	Jesus was a strong, charismatic leader, who liked to stir things up!
Jesus performed extraordinary miracles. He even raised his friend Lazarus from the dead after he’d been dead in his tomb for three whole days! In some other miracles, he healed the sick, made a blind man see, calmed a storm and walked on water!	The first gospel was written long after Jesus’s lifetime. The gospels can’t be seen as factually correct, they are just stories or legends.	Whether or not you believe that Jesus was really the Son of God is a matter of faith – just like whether or not you believe in God!