# Title: Christian Pilgrimage – Lourdes

**Key Questions:** What events in history have shaped how the world is today? What can followers of T\*learn from events in the history of their tradition? Can we always be proud of the past? Why is it good when people work together well? Why is it good when people have similar beliefs? How do followers of T\* create a sense of unity? Why is it good for me to create unity? How should I respond when T\* appear to create discord?

When do we need to show self-discipline? Is it always easy? How do followers of T\* develop self-discipline and contentment? What strategies can I learn from T\* that will help me to be more self-disciplined and content? Should I always be content in my situation-are there times when I have to fight for change? Where are we temperate (avoiding excess) in our own lives? How do followers of T\* show temperance? When do I need to shoe temperance in my own life? Should I always be temperate – are there times when I should not show self –restraint?

**Key Concepts:** The role of pilgrimage; associated purposes, practices and sacred sites.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To examine the story of Bernadette Soubirous.  To understand why Lourdes is considered to be a place of pilgrimage and healing.  To reflect on the impact of visiting Lourdes has on a person. | Starter – discussion  1. Define the term Miracle.  2. What do you think a miracle is?  Watch the short clip and answer the following questions.  1. Why is Lourdes regarded as a sacred/precious/holy site?  2. What is Lourdes associated with?  3. What impact has visiting Lourdes had on believers?  4. What is a miracle and how are miracles linked with Lourdes?  5. How are miracles verified?  6. How was Bernadette Soubirous?  **OR**  Research what Roman Catholics feel/do at Lourdes and focus on the following questions.  1. Why do people visit Lourdes?  2. How do pilgrims describe their feelings during their time at Lourdes?  3. What happened in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous?  4. How many times did ‘the lady’ appear to Bernadette?  5. What is a pilgrimage and how might visiting Lourdes affect the life of a believer?  6. When can people visit Lourdes?  7. What words would you use to describe Lourdes?  8. What happened on 15th March 1858?  9. What do the ‘helpers’ do at Lourdes?  10. What is the greatest gift Lourdes can give pilgrims?  Leaflet on Lourdes  Read through some information on Lourdes and create an information leaflet on Lourdes.   1. Facts about Lourdes, France 2. History of Lourdes 3. Purposes of Lourdes 4. Theories   Research pilgrimage sites such as Walsingham, Taize and Iona. Is it only ancient places people go on pilgrimage?  Plenary –  Do you think that the idea of pilgrimage is still relevant today? Explain your answer  How does pilgrimage help a Christian’s spiritual growth?  3. How is faith expressed through pilgrimage?  ‘There is no real evidence to suggest miracles have happened at Lourdes, therefore there is no point in going on a pilgrimage there!’  Explain how a Christian might respond to this statement.  Why do you think a Christian might go on pilgrimage even though it is not compulsory? | Welcome to Lourdes. City of Miracles.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LPgXO7PXM>  Information on Lourdes can be obtained from:  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z84dtfr/revision/5>  https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znqck2p/revision/5  Pilgrimages and Miracles information on Lourdes can be obtained from:  <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/>  Information to produce leaflet on Lourdes can be obtained from:  Lourdes – Place of Peace and Power  https://sacredsites.com/europe/france/lourdes\_facts.html |