

Contents Page

Autumn 1 September - October Pages 2	Prejudice and Discrimination Students study what prejudice and discrimination are and Islamic and Christian reactions.
Autumn 2 and Spring 1 October - February Page 3-6	Judaism Students study the religion of Judaism and core concepts such as covenant.
Spring 2 February - March Page 7	Early Christianity Students study how Christianity came out of the Jewish faith.
Summer 1&2 March - July	Buddhism; Ecology and Animal Rights Students study the religion of Buddhism and core concepts such as Dukkha and Karma. This is then applied to two topical issues of animal rights and the treatment of the environment.

Key words

Prejudice → Judging someone before you know anything about them.

Discrimination → Treating someone differently because of a prejudice.

Equality → Giving people the same rights and opportunities.

Agape → Selfless love. Loving someone unconditionally.

Racism → Treating someone differently because of his or her ethnicity or skin colour.

Sexism → Treating someone differently because of their biological sex or gender.

Homophobia → Treating some differently because of their sexual orientation.



Examples of prejudice and discrimination in society:

- Giving bands to refugees to identify them for food and shelter.
- Hurting someone, bullying or making comments about someone because they are different to yourself.
- (1950s-1960s America) not allowing black people into the same areas as white people.
- Not allowing same sex marriage in certain parts of the world.
- Holocaust or other genocides such as the Rwandan genocide.

Christian attitude to prejudice and discrimination in society:

- "We are all created in God's image" is a quotation which are interpreted to mean that all children of God which has been interpreted as being equal under his eyes.
- Jesus taught the **sheep and goats parable** explaining that those who supported those who were discriminated against would be rewarded in heaven.
- Jesus taught that "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another," which has been interpreted to mean that we should treat others with equality.
- Jesus taught the **Good Samaritan story**, which supported the concept of agape towards others regardless of their background.
- Christians such as Archbishop Tutu spend their lives ensuring prejudice and discrimination does not occur e.g. Truth and Reconciliation committee.

Muslim attitude to prejudice and discrimination in society:

- The Prophet Muhammad taught that equality was best for people - "You have rights over women but so do they over you."
- There is a quote "You are all equal as the teeth of a comb" which also preaches about love, respect and equality towards others.
- "And mankind is nothing but a single nation" teaches Christians that there are no differences between the different races. They are all exactly the same.
- "And verily this Brotherhood of yours is a single Brotherhood, and I am your Lord and Cherisher" also establishes the idea that there are no differences between different nations of people.

Concept of covenant for Jews:

- Jews believe that God has made covenants with the Jewish people.
- The first being with **Adam and Eve** not to eat the fruit of the tree in exchange for being allowed freedom in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions and were banished from the Garden of Eden. This is seen as a covenant because there was a two way promise made between Adam and Eve and God. Adam and Eve would obey God's instructions and God would provide the beautiful garden. This covenant teaches Jews that it is important to follow covenants because they can be punished for disobeying.
- The second covenant was with Noah. God promised never to flood the Earth again in exchange for following God's laws.
- The third covenant is with Abraham to **circumcise** males in exchange for the land of Canaan, children and protection. This is a particularly important covenant because as a result of this covenant, Jews continue to circumcise their male descendants in accordance with the laws set forth by God.
- The fourth with Moses in exchange for continued protection, the Jews must follow the Ten Commandments.
- The concept of covenant is still important to Jews today. Many Jewish people take the concept of covenant very seriously and many will follow the covenants to the exact wording to ensure they are fulfilling God's promises. E.g. not cutting the hair from their heads and following kosher laws exactly.

Key words

Adam and Eve → In Jewish and Christian faiths, said to be the first two humans on Earth.

Noah → In Jewish and Christian faiths, saved by God for following God's laws absolutely.

Covenant → A two way legally binding agreement or promise. In Judaism, the binding agreement between God and the Jewish people.

Circumcision/circumcise → To remove the foreskin of baby boys before they are 8 days old.

Torah → The Jewish holy text.

Israelites/Hebrews → Early names given to the Jewish people.

Passover/Pesach → The Jewish festival celebrating the pass over of the Angel of Death and the passing over of Jews from Egypt back to their homeland.

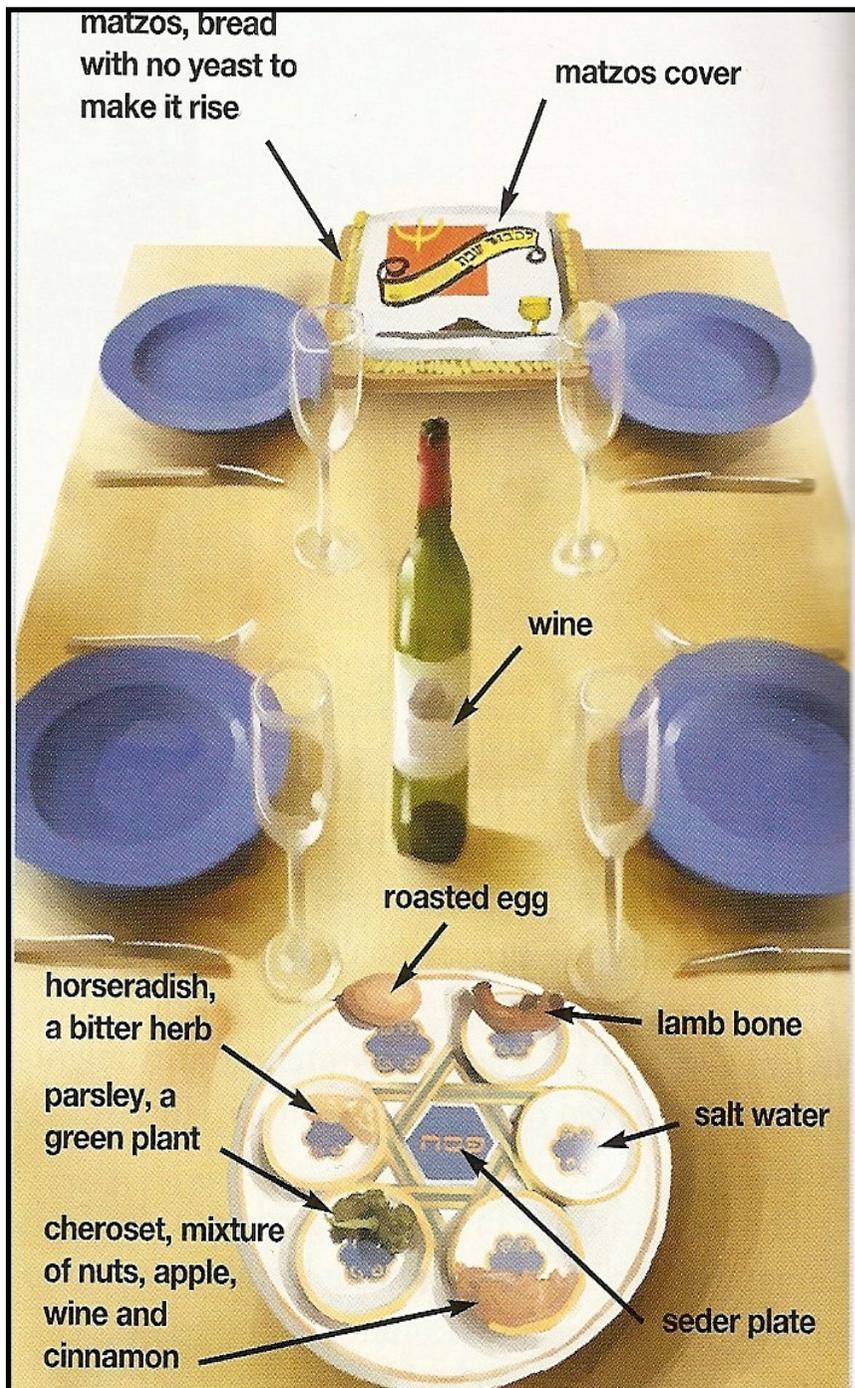
Kosher Laws → Food laws that many Jews choose to abide by. Examples include not eating dairy and meat together, not eating pork and not eating shellfish.

Shabbat → Friday night celebration of the coming of the Sabbath day. Jewish people will spend time at the synagogue and with their family and have a special meal.

Rosh Hashanah → The Jewish new year.

Yom Kippur → The Jewish festival of atonement celebrated after Rosh Hashanah. Jews will make up for the things they have done wrong across the year.

Synagogue → A Jewish holy place for prayer, services, marriages and funerals.



The Passover Meal

The Passover festival commemorates the 'passing over' of the Angel of Death in Egypt. The Israelites were saved whereas the Egyptian firstborn sons were slaughtered because the Pharaoh would not let the Israelites out of their slavery. It also commemorates the 'passing over' of the Israelites across the Red Sea from Egypt to their homeland of Israel. Passover takes place once a year usually around March/April time. A **seder plate** is a symbolic representation of the story of Moses and the Israelites.

Lamb Bone → Remembering the lamb's blood that was put on the doorways of the Israelite homes to protect them from the angel of death.

Salt water and parsley → The parsley is dipped into the salt water to remember the tears of the Israelite slaves and their awful lives.

Horseradish → Another bitter herb to remember the atrocious lives the slaves endured in Egypt.

Roasted Egg → A symbol of the offerings made to God in the hope they would live Egypt. It also represents the new lives they were hoping to experience in Israel.

Cheroset → A sticky, sweet mixture representing the cement used to stick the stones of the pyramids together.

Wine → To remember the blood and tears shed by the Israelite slaves.

Matzah → Flat bread remembering how quickly the Jewish people had to leave Egypt after the Angel of Death.

Readings are made from the Haggadah (the story of the escape of Egypt) together around the table. This is usually done with families and friends.

What is Shabbat?

Shabbat takes place every Friday night at sundown and lasts until Saturday sundown. On Friday night, the Shabbat meal takes place.

Saturday is the Sabbath day (the day of rest) and family and friends often spend it together.

On Shabbat Jews Can:

- Rest.
- Relaxation.
- Celebration.
- Read the Torah.
- Consume three special meals during the Shabbat.



On Shabbat Jews Can't:

- No cooking.
- No household chores.
- No working.
- No lighting a fire.
- No electricity.



The Kiddush Cup

During the Shabbat Jews drink from the Kiddush cup. Kiddush means 'making holy'. A prayer is said over the wine. The cup is usually made of good quality silver, wood or pottery. The Father of the family sings the first part of the prayer.



The Challah Loaves

Two loaves represents the two portions Jews received in the desert. The Father takes the bread and blesses it. The bread is dipped in salt and eaten; it reminds Jews that the Ten Commandments are eternal. The loaves are always covered with a cloth to remind Jews of the dew that covered the bread in the desert.



Candles

Candles are lit during the Shabbat to show that the meal is special. There are always 2 white candles. One to remember the Shabbat and one to keep the Shabbat.



The mother and fathers roles

The mother and father are the most important people in the Shabbat ceremony! The mother blesses the candles. The father blesses the loaves and wine!

What is Rosh Hashanah?

The first day of the Jewish year is called Rosh Hashanah, which means 'head of the year.' On Rosh Hashanah God writes down a person's actions, good and bad and makes decisions about the sort of year he or she will have. God finalises this judgement on **Yom Kippur**, which comes 10 days later. This means that between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Jews spend time thinking about their behaviour reflecting on their actions of the past year and making peace with others.

After visiting the synagogue, Jews wish one another a good year before returning home to celebrate with a special meal. This includes extra fruit to symbolise renewal and the hope of a 'sweet' new year. Many Jews dip apple in honey that symbolises people's good deeds.

Many Jews return to the synagogue the next morning, where a **shofar** is blown 100 times. The horn is meant to remind Jews of the ram that Abraham sacrificed instead of Isaac and that God will judge them for their actions.

A ceremony called **Tashlich** usually takes place in the afternoon near a stream or river. Jews empty their pockets to symbolise getting rid of sin.



What is Yom Kippur?

The holiest day of the year for Jews is Yom Kippur. It is a serious but joyful day because it offers Jewish people the chance to seek forgiveness from God and repair their relationship with him. Confessing wrongdoing is important, because Yom Kippur is the day on which God makes his final decision about what sort of year people have ahead of them. Many Jews fast for 25 hours. This is a mitzvah and many Jews participate in order to build self-control or focus their mind. A large part of the day is spent praying in the synagogue. White clothes are often worn as a sign of purity. At the evening service, the Kol Nidre prayer is said, in which Jews cancel any promises made to God that they cannot keep.

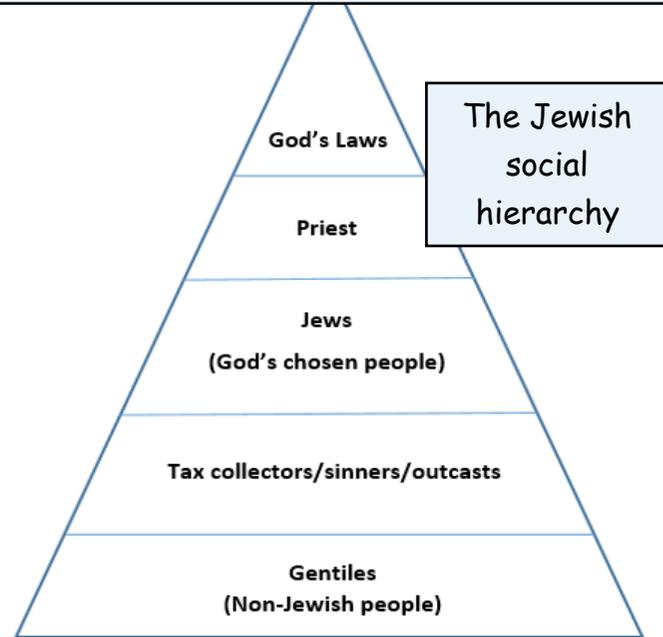


Was Jesus the Messiah?

- There were different promises about what the Messiah would be like.
- The Jews did not think Jesus was the Messiah because they thought he was just an ordinary man, not the leader or king they were promised.

How did Jesus offend the Jews?

- Jesus broke the Sabbath laws by healing a man's hand on the day of rest.
- Jesus ignored the Jewish social hierarchy. He made friends with Gentiles, outcasts, sinners and tax collectors. For example, he asked to stay at the house of a tax collector.



What did Jesus change?

- The Jews believed that only those who were part of the covenant and followed God's laws could get to heaven. Those who were uncircumcised were "without hope and without God".
- After Jesus, the Christians believed that all people - Jews, Gentiles, outcasts and sinners - can enter heaven, as long as they believed in Jesus.

Key words

Messiah → The promised saviour/deliverer of the Jewish people, promised in the Torah. Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah.

Covenant → A two way agreement between the Jews and God, containing laws the Jews had to follow and promises from God.

Sabbath/Shabbat → Day of Rest

Social hierarchy → Systems in society where people are ranked, e.g. according to power.

Gentiles → Non-Jews, excluded from the covenant

Disciples → The closest followers of Jesus

Evangelism → Spreading Christianity

Evangelist → Someone who spreads Christianity and encourages people to become followers of Jesus.

Personal conviction → A strongly held belief which leads someone to take action.

Key words:

Doctrine of animal rights → A list of ideas which animals should be given to ensure equality among the species.

Buddha → The enlightened man who founded the religion of Buddhism.

Buddhist → A follower of the religion of Buddhism.

Dukkha → The Buddhist principle that all life is suffering and letting go of these upsets will ensure happiness.

Reincarnation → The concept that when people die they come back in a new physical form e.g. plant, animal, human.

Karma → The principle that your new physical form will depend on how you have behaved in a previous life.

Samsara → The principle that we continue to reincarnate until we have lived our lives 100% perfectly in accordance to Buddhist laws.

Nirvana → The concept that we once samsara finishes people's souls will become a part of the universe.

Tripitaka → The Buddhist holy text.

The Eightfold Path → The eight laws which Buddhists must abide by as shown in the image.

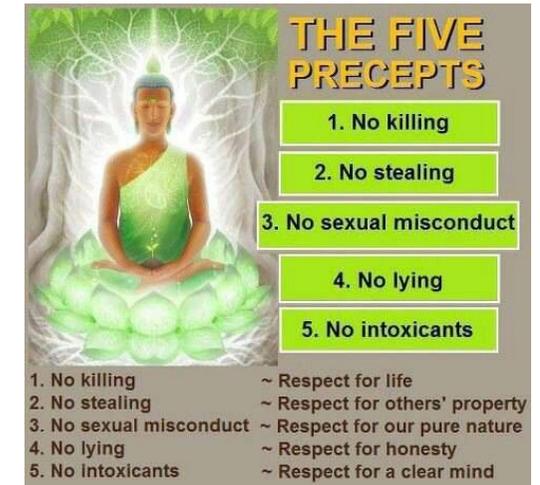
Sila → The three most important laws of the eight (Right Thought, Right Action, Right Livelihood). In performing these three correctly, Buddhists are said to be able to follow the whole of the eightfold path.

The Five Precepts → Five laws that help Buddhists to follow the eightfold path, (harm no living thing, do not steal, do not take mind altering substances, do not lie, no sexual misconduct).

Animal rights in the UK

- There is a doctrine of animal rights but it is questionable whether it is followed e.g. animal testing continues in big companies and we regularly eat meat.
- It is estimated that between 7-11% of the UK population is vegetarian or vegan.
- Vegetarianism and veganism can help with a number of world issues. Having a more vegetarian lifestyle reduces the need to cut down trees for livestock which contributes to climate change, it can reduce the risk of certain cancers and heart issues.
- There has been a substantial increase in vegetarianism and veganism in the last 10 years which has been primarily caused by an attitude of empathy towards animals.

Wisdom	Right Understanding
	Right Aspiration
Morality	Right Speech
	Right Action
	Right Livelihood
Concentration	Right Effort
	Right Mindfulness
	Right Concentration



Buddhist attitudes towards the environment

- Similarly to the principles of animal rights, Buddhists believe that harming any living thing is wrong. Therefore, they will not accept the destruction of animal habitats for human homes or the poisoning of lakes and rivers.
- Some Buddhists are so strict with these laws that they will sweep in front of them to avoid killing an ant or a worm that passes their way.
- Buddhists will try their utmost to protect the land to ensure the survival of all plants and trees.

Buddhist attitudes the afterlife

- Buddhists believe in the concept of **reincarnation**. This is the idea that their souls will travel into new bodies. The new bodies will depend on what their **karma** has been like in the previous life. If they have bad karma then they will be reincarnated into animals. If they have good karma they will be reincarnated into human bodies.
- Buddhists believe they will continue this cycle of reincarnation known as **samsara** until they have lived 100% perfect lives in accordance with Buddhist laws.
- When this occurs - they believe that they will achieve Nirvana and that their soul will become a part of the universe.

How do we treat the Earth? What is the solution?

- Generally speaking, we see the Earth as ours to dominate and control. As a result, we believe that it is acceptable to eat animals, use animals for testing and for fun. We also believe in using the land to continue our lifestyles.
- This can cause problems, for example, the Exxon Mobil oil spill and can have serious consequences for the wildlife and the habitats surrounding it.
- One solution is the Zero Waste project which is actively trying to reduce waste and think more smartly about how we use transport. Lauren Singer is one such example who makes all her own products and buys food that is not in plastic.

Buddhist attitudes to animal rights

- Buddhists, in the majority, do not eat meat because the Five Precepts state not to harm living things, which includes harming animals for food or for fun.
- Buddhists would be against careers that go against the precepts or eightfold path - so jobs such as being a butcher, or testing on animals, or working in a zoo would be unacceptable professions because they harm others.
- Buddhists believe they will be reincarnated - this could be as a human or an animal so many Buddhists may empathy for animals and will choose not to eat meat because they fear being in the same position.
- Buddhists believe if they have bad karma they could be reincarnated as an animal. Because the precepts state that you should not harm a living create, this also encourages Buddhists to be vegetarian.
- Buddhists do not want to continually reincarnate and want Nirvana - they will do their utmost to avoid samsara by living in accordance to the Buddhist laws including not harming others.