



Judaism:

Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?

Topic Overview

- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival.
- On Rosh Hashanah, Jewish families have a meal at home. They will eat:
 - round Challah bread: as a symbol of the circle of life and the cycle of the year
 - pomegranates: 613 seeds represent the 613 commandments Jewish people try to live by
 - apple slices dipped in honey: to represent the sweetness of the new year ahead.
- At Rosh Hashanah, Jews make plans for things they want to achieve in the coming year: how they want to be and how to be better people and ask G_d to help them.
- Before Jews can start the new year and these new plans, they spend 10 days thinking about the last year and what they may still need to ask forgiveness for, as well as the people they may still need to forgive.
- Yom Kippur is a time of reflection, thinking about who and what is most important to you as well as a time to say sorry and plan for the next year.
- On Yom Kippur, Jewish people will:
 - wear white
 - not eat food or drink for 25 hours if they are over the age of 13
 - attend 5 services in a synagogue
 - pray to G_d for forgiveness
 - say sorry to people
- The shofar is blown to mark the end of Yom Kippur.
- Jewish people believe they can change and make themselves better with G_d's help.

Links with other religions

- **Jesus** (Christianity). Jesus was Jewish.
- **Creation** (Christianity). Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the universe's creation. Both Jews and Christians believe God created the world.
- **Easter** (Christianity). Yom Kippur is the day of atonement (saying sorry) and fasting (giving up things). Christians give up things during Lent and say sorry for their sins. Christians believe Jesus died so their sins could be forgiven.
- **Ramadan** (Islam). Muslims fast for Ramadan as it allows them to feel closer to Allah (God). Fasting is also one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Forgive	To give up or let go of anger against.
Forgiveness	The act of forgiving.
Rabbi	A teacher of the Jewish religion who is usually the leader of a Jewish synagogue.
Repentance	Saying sorry.
Shofar	A large ram's horn which makes a long, loud sound.
Commandments	Rules given by G_d.

