



Judaism:

How important is it for Jewish people to do what G_d asks them to?

Topic Overview

- Jews have a special relationship with God. They believe that God will take special care of them if they do the things He asks them to do.
They try to respect this relationship and show this respect in their lives by doing as God asks.
- Every year, Jewish families celebrate Passover and have a special meal called the Seder meal.
- More than 3000 years ago, the Jews were slaves in Egypt. God helped Moses to free them from slavery.
- After they escaped, God asked them to remember this night forever and gave them certain instructions (commandments).
- Passover and the Seder meal are one way Jews remember their special relationship (covenant) with God.
- The Seder plate is divided up into sections. Each section has a different item to remind Jews of the Passover story.
- **Chazeret:** bitter herbs represent the bitterness of slavery.
- **Beitzah:** a hard boiled egg. Eggs become harder when they are cooked - a symbol of the Jews' determination to keep their faith.
- **Charoset:** a sweet brown paste made of fruit and nuts, representing the mortar that the Israelites used for building bricks when they were slaves.
- **Maror:** bitter herbs symbolising the bitter suffering of the Israelites when they were slaves.
- **Karpas:** celery or parsley dipped into a bowl of salty water, representing the salty tears the Israelites cried when they were slaves.
- **Z'roa:** a lamb bone which represents the lamb that was sacrificed and brought to the temple the night before the Israelites left Egypt.
- There are also four small glasses of wine to remind Jews of the four times G_d promised freedom to the Israelites.
- **Matzah:** unleavened (flat) bread. The Pharaoh told Moses and the Israelites to go at once - they left in such a rush that their bread didn't have time to rise.

Links with other religions

- **Jesus (Christianity).** Jesus was Jewish.
- **Shabbat, Chanukah, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Judaism).** These are all ways Jews remember and celebrate the special relationship they have with God.
- **The 10 Commandments (Christianity).** Both Jews and Christians believe God gave Moses 10 rules that they should follow.
- **The Easter Story (Christianity).** Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples at The Last Supper.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Respect	A positive feeling or action shown towards someone or something important.
Covenant	A special relationship based on shared promises.
Seder Meal	A meal remembering the events of the Exodus.
Exodus	The movement of a lot of people from a place.
Torah	The Jewish holy book.
Commandments	An order.
Mortar	A mixture of sand, water, and cement that is used when building.
Bitter Bitterness	An unpleasant taste. A feeling of anger and unhappiness:
Passover	A festival to remember the Israelites freedom from slavery.

