



Judaism:

What is the best way for a Jew to show their identity?

Topic Overview

- Jews show their commitment to God in lots of different ways.
- They show their commitment because of the covenant they have made with God.
- **The Synagogue**
The main place for community worship is the synagogue. It is a place to meet, worship and pray. Jews listen to and think about readings from the Torah.
- **Tu B'Shevat**
Jews believe that God created the world and everything in it. Because of this, Jews believe the environment is something they should look after. One festival which remembers this is Tu B'Shevat. Jews show respect by planting new trees.
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**
These coming of age ceremonies are times where a child becomes an adult in the Jewish community. After these ceremonies, Jewish boys or girls become responsible for living according to Jewish Law. This means that the child is responsible for their own spiritual actions and for following the commandments. The children will prepare for the ceremony by studying the Torah and they will read from it during the ceremony.
- **Mitzvah Day**
This day is dedicated to doing good things for other people. Jews do good things on this day because they believe it's what God would want them to do - to be kind and loving. These good things usually focus on helping people or the local environment, for example litter picking, beach cleaning and volunteering to help different charities.

Links with other religions

- **Jesus** (Christianity). Jesus was Jewish.
- **Shabbat, Chanukah, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover** (Judaism). These are all ways Jews show commitment to God.
- **The Covenant** (Judaism). After the coming of age ceremonies, Jewish children are expected to follow the commandments set out in the Covenant.
- **The 5Ks and the Amrit Ceremony** (Sikhism). Sikhs often display their commitment to the religion by joining the Khalsa and wearing the 5Ks.
- **Places of Worship** (different religions). Lots of different religions will visit their place of worship to show their commitment to God/their beliefs, for example: the Church (Christianity), the Gurdwara (Sikhism), the Temple (Hinduism and Buddhism) and the Mosque (Islam).
- **Ceremonies** (different religions). Lots of religions have coming of age ceremonies to show a believer committing themselves to God/their beliefs, for example: First Holy Communion and Confirmation (Christianity) and the Sacred Thread ceremony/(Upanayana (Hinduism).

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Identity	Who a person is, or the qualities of a person or group that make them different from others.
Commitment	The willingness to give your time and energy to a job, activity, or something that you believe in.
Bar Mitzvah	'Son of the Commandment.' The coming of age ceremony (child to adult) for a boy.
Bat Mitzvah	'Daughter of the Commandment/' The coming of age ceremony (child to adult) for a girl.
Mitzvoth	Doing good deeds and helping others.
Mitzvah Day	A day when Jewish people give their time to help others.
Tu B'Shevat	Tree planting ceremony.
Synagogue	Jewish place of worship.
Torah	The Torah is the first part of the Jewish bible.
Covenant	A promise between G_d and Jewish people. If Jewish people follow the rules G_d has given them, He will look after them.

