



# Sikhism:

## Do Sikhs think it is important to share?

### Topic Overview

- Sharing is an important part of the Sikh faith.
- The *Guru Granth Sahib* gives three rules to live by.
- One of these is share with the needy whatever you can spare.
- These rules are important, as God gave them the rules and they will be pleasing/respecting God by doing these things.
  - **Vaisakhi Festival**  
This festival remembers the beginning of the Khalsa. Sikh communities celebrate festivals by holding public processions and sharing their joy with other communities. The Nishan Sahib is taken down and replaced with a new flag, the flagpole is taken down and washed in milk and yoghurt, and then water to symbolise cleanliness and purity. They share in community activities such as processing through their local town, singing hymns and serving langar.
  - **Diwali**  
This is a festival remembering the story of Guru Hargobind. Sikhs believe Guru Hargobind was imprisoned with 52 princes. When Guru Hargobind was released he asked that the princes be released also. Guru Hargobind shared his freedom with the princes. Sikhs decorates houses, shops and public places with small oil lamps called Divas. Diwali is a time for giving and receiving gifts - traditionally, sweets and dried fruit are exchanged.
- The example set by the Gurus in the two festivals inspires Sikhs to take part in SEWA - selfless service.
- Sikhs believe they have a responsibility to live a good life and challenge injustice like the Gurus did.
  - **The Langar**  
The Langar is a shared meal offered free to anyone after each service of worship at the Gurdwara. It is provided for by the community who take it in turns to prepare and serve people. Everyone is seen as equal through the sharing of Karah Parshad and the Langar.

### Links with other religions

- **Jesus' Teachings** (Christianity). Jesus taught that Christians should be kind to others and help those in need.
- **Holy Communion** (Christianity). In communion, many Christians eat bread and drink wine together in memory of how Jesus died on the cross. They remember Jesus' last meal which he shared with his disciples before he died.
- Lots of religions celebrate festivals by the giving and receiving of gifts, for example: Christmas (Christianity), Chanukah (Judaism), Diwali and Pancha Ganapati (Hinduism), and Eid (Islam).
- **Zakat** (Islam). Zakat is the third Pillar of Islam. Muslims share their money with others by donating 2.5% of their earnings to charity.
- **SEWA** (Sikhism). Sikhs share their earnings and give to Charity as part of SEWA. Many Sikhs donate one-tenth of their income to charity (daswandh).
- **Dana** (Hinduism). Dana (giving) in Hinduism is about giving generously to those in need.
- **Tzedakah** (Judaism). Tzedakah means 'charity.' Giving Tzedakah is one of the most important commandments for Jews. Many Jews keep a tzedakah box in their homes where they collect money for a charity.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Share	To divide food, money, goods, etc. and give part of it to someone else
Guru Granth Sahib	The Sikh Holy book.
Gurdwara	Sikh place of worship.
Injustice	Lack of fairness.
Karah Prashad	A kind of special pudding served to the congregation at the end of any worship service.
Guru Hargobind	The sixth Guru.
Nishan Sahib	The orange flag outside every Gurdwara.

