



Christianity:

Why do Christians remember the events of Holy Week every year?

Topic Overview

- Christians see Holy Week as the end of Jesus' earthly life, leading to his death and resurrection.
- The events of Holy Week were important in showing the disciples what Jesus came to do.
- Christians today trust that Jesus really did rise from the dead and so is still alive today.
- Christians remember and celebrate Jesus' last week, death and resurrection.
- Remembering the events of the Last Supper is so important for most Christians that they take Communion regularly.

• **The Last Supper**

Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples. It was called The Last Supper because it was the last meal Jesus would eat before he died. Jesus and the disciples ate bread and wine. Jesus said the bread was his body and the wine was his blood.

- While they were eating, Jesus said that one of his disciples (Judas) would betray him.
- During the meal, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. The disciples didn't want Jesus to wash their feet because it was a lowly task that would normally have been performed by a servant. Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show them the importance of selfless service. It showed how he was going to be a servant for all when he was crucified.

Links with other religions

- **Passover** (Judaism). Jesus was celebrating Passover with his disciples at the Last Supper.
- **Yearly Celebrations** (different religions). Most religions celebrate the same festivals every year to remember significant events in their religion, for example: Channukah, Tu B'Shevat, Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Judaism), Advent and Christmas (Christianity), Vaisakhi and Divali (Sikhism), Holi and Diwali (Hinduism) and Ramadan and Eid (Islam).
- **Shabbat** (Judaism). Jewish people celebrate Shabbat weekly to remember God resting on the seventh day after he created the world and the 10 Commandments given to Moses by God. Jews also share meals together during Shabbat.
- **Jumu'ah** (Islam). Many Muslims (especially Muslim men) attend Friday prayer every week at the mosque to remember Allah (God).

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Symbol	Something that represents or stands for something else
Passover	A festival every year during which Jewish people remember the terrible things that happened to them when they were captive in Egypt and how they were set free by God and led out of Egypt by Moses
Betray	To be false or disloyal to.
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.
Servant	Someone that serves (helps) others.
Salvation	The saving of human beings from sin and its consequences (which include death and separation from God) by Christ's death and resurrection.
Communion	Christians have bread and wine at church to remember Jesus and his death on the cross.
Paten	A plate, typically made of gold or silver, used for holding the bread during Communion.
Chalice	A large cup or goblet containing the wine during Communion.

