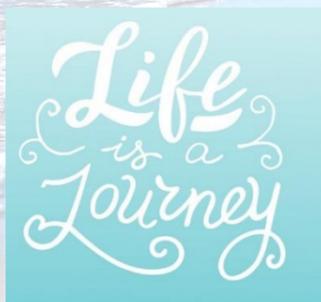


How and why do believers show their commitments during the journey of life?

What you have already learnt:

- Identify the core concepts and beliefs studied and give a simple description of what you mean
- Give examples of how people use stories, texts and teachings to guide your beliefs and actions, individually and as communities
- Think, talk and ask questions about whether there are any lessons for them to learn from the ideas you have been studying, exploring different ideas
- Give examples of how stories show what people believe (e.g. the meaning behind a festival)
- Give examples of ways in which believers put your beliefs into action
- Give a good reason for the views you have and the connections you make
- Give clear, simple accounts of what stories and other texts mean to believers
- Talk about what you have learned

Key Knowledge:



Coming of age- Becoming an adult.

When a boy reaches a stage where he is considered to be mature enough to mark his becoming an adult, the Sacred Thread Ceremony is performed.

Traditionally, this used to be celebrated when a boy left home to go and live with his Guru or spiritual advisor. Nowadays it happens when the boy reaches puberty.

This is now less of a serious ceremony and more an opportunity for celebrations. A booth is often built in front of the house and its posts decorated with trees and flowers. Invitations are sent to friends and relatives and feasts are held on the days leading up to the thread day.



THE BLESSINGS OF
BAPTISM

REBIRTH
"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."
John 3:5

CLOTHED WITH CHRIST
"All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."
Galatians 3:27

WASHED CLEAN
"Christ loved the church, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word."
Ephesians 5:25-26
"Be baptized and wash your sins away."
Acts 22:16

RAISED WITH CHRIST
"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."
Romans 6:4

A Christian wedding ceremony is an important occasion that reflects their beliefs about the nature of marriage; as a result, it has many symbolic elements.

The ceremony will usually start when the bride enters the church. She will wear a white dress, which symbolises purity.

The priest or minister will then welcome the congregation. The wedding ceremony will vary in different denominations. However, Christian weddings will always contain prayers and readings from the Bible. These passages will be carefully chosen so that they discuss the importance marriage and offer guidance to the couple.

For most Christians, the most important part of a wedding ceremony is the vows and exchange of rings. The vows are the promises the couple make to each other during their marriage. Couples may write their own vows, but many will choose to use traditional vows such as these suggested by the Church of England: After making their vows, the couple exchange rings. These circular rings, which have no beginning or end, symbolise that marriage should last forever. The wedding ceremony will usually be followed by a meal and party. These celebrate the marriage which should, of course, be a joyful occasion.

Key Skills

- Apply
- Analyse
- Describe
- Connect ideas
- Consider
- Question
- Discuss
- Respond thoughtfully
- Evaluate
- Create
- Outline
- Link
- Explain
- Recognise impact
- Express
- Apply
- Investigate

By the end of the Key Stage, you will be able to:

- Identify and describe the core beliefs and concepts studied
- Make clear links between texts/sources of authority and the key concepts studied
- Offer informed suggestions about what texts/sources of authority might mean and give examples of what these sources mean to believers
- Make simple links between stories, teachings and concepts studied and how people live, individually and in communities
- Describe how people show their beliefs in how they worship and in the way they live
- Identify some differences in how people put their beliefs into practice
- Raise important questions and suggest answers about how far the beliefs and practices studied might make a difference to how pupils think and live
- Make links between some of the beliefs and practices studied and life in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly
- Give good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make
- Talk about what they have learned and if they have changed their thinking

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

Making sense of belief:

- Identify some beliefs about love, commitment and promises in two religious traditions and describe what they mean
- Offer informed suggestions about the meaning and importance of ceremonies of commitment for religious and non-religious people today.

Understanding the impact:

- Describe what happens in ceremonies of commitment (e.g. baptism, sacred thread, marriage) and say what these rituals mean
- Make simple links between beliefs about love and commitment and how people in at least two religious traditions live (e.g. through celebrating forgiveness, salvation and freedom at festivals)
- Identify some differences in how people celebrate commitment (e.g. different practices of marriage, or Christian baptism).

Making connections:

- Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good for everyone to see life as journey, and to mark the milestones
- Make links between ideas of love, commitment and promises in religious and non-religious ceremonies
- Give good reasons why they think ceremonies of commitment are or are not valuable today.

A Rite of Passage

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a 'rite of passage' in the life of a Jewish child. It is a part of growing up within the Jewish faith. Young people must spend many months preparing for this by learning about the Jewish faith and reading the Torah in Hebrew.

Did you know?
Jewish people read the Torah, which is the law and teachings of God written in Hebrew.



The Ceremony

Nowadays, there is often a party to celebrate this event, but the Bar Mitzvah ceremony is still the most important part of the whole day.

The Bar Mitzvah will be called up to read from the Torah. The part that he reads depends on where he was born and he has to sing it in a special way.

He has to give a speech to explain the parts of the Torah that he has learned about and how they apply to his life and future. He also thanks his parents.

He will also say the *alukah* over the Torah, which is one of the special blessings.



Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

In an Orthodox synagogue, a Bat Mitzvah girl will not sing - she will speak.

She will normally speak about something important to her that she has learned about.

Unlike the boys, she doesn't read from the Torah. Instead, she chooses some prayers or a poem that is special to her.

It is common for girls to read a prayer that men say to their wives every Friday night, which is called 'Eishet Chayil' meaning 'Woman of Worth'. It speaks about the importance of a woman and how they are worth more than rubies or diamonds.

In a Reform synagogue, the Bat Mitzvah ceremony can be very similar to the Bar Mitzvah ceremony.



Key Concepts:

- God
- Destiny
- Purposes
- Experience
- Quest
- Searching
- Ceremony
- Commitment
- Symbolism
- Belonging

Opportunities for teaching diversity, equality and expanding cultural capital

- Learning about other religions and their core beliefs, expanding cultural awareness.
- Learning about how to show respect to different people who hold different faiths and beliefs.
- Investigating how different people celebrate milestones in life, including those who do not have a religious belief- promoting respect and tolerance.

Key Vocabulary

- Baptism- A Christian ceremony in which someone entering the church is sprinkled or dipped in water.
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah- A Jewish ceremony which celebrates the beginning of adult religious duties at 13 years old.
- Belief- An opinion or trust in a person, thing or idea.
- Belonging- To be a member of or to be part of a group.
- Ceremony- A formal act or series of actions done in a particular way to honour a special occasion.
- Commitment- A pledge or obligation to fulfil an act.
- Community- A group of people who are all linked in some way.
- Confirmation- A ceremony that makes a person a member of a church or religious organisation.
- Journey- A long trip from one place to another.
- Metaphor- A phrase that describes an object as something else.
- Milestone- An important event or turning point in someone's life.
- Responsibility- Something that a person has a duty to complete.
- Ritual- A set form for going through the steps of a religious ceremony
- Symbol- An object, picture or action that represents something else.

Skills and knowledge which I may use from other subjects:

Art

- To use a range of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture.

Computing

- Use a variety of software to design and create presentations.
- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Geography

- Investigate where major world religions are practised, locating them on a world map.

Recall and Remember

1. What does it mean when someone says "life is a journey?"

2. Can you name three different religious rites of passage?

3. Draw a map of your life journey, add on any important milestones, events, traffic jams (problems) that you think you may encounter on the way.