

# Worship and Celebration

## The Shema



This is the basic prayer of Judaism and is said every morning and evening  
It states some of the basic Jewish beliefs such as:

- There is one God (monotheism)
- God is the creator and designer of the universe
- God is omnipresent (everywhere)
- God is omnipotent (all powerful)
- God is omniscient (all knowing)
- God is holy – which means special, sacred and to be respected.
- God's rules are to be followed and obeyed



**The Shema:** Hear, O Israel: Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is the One and Only. You shall love Hashem, your G-d, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your resources. And these matters that I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children and you shall speak of them while you sit in your home, while you walk on the way, when you retire and when you arise. Bind them as a sign upon your arm and let them be ornaments between your eyes. And write them on the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

***Deuteronomy 6:4-9***



## The Synagogue

- The centre of the community as they are used for festivals, weddings and religious study
- They are used every Saturday for worship during Shabbat
- They are also used for youth groups or for visiting lecturers or speakers
- They hold the Torah scrolls in the ark at the front
- They have the ner tamid (light that is always on) which is always on and a symbol of the 7 wick candle (the menorah) in the old Temple which always kept at least 1 light burning
- synagogues serve the community by aiding **worship, social events** and **education**
- There are prayers at the synagogue 3 times each day, at morning afternoon and evening, and during Shabbat or festivals, the Torah is also read out
- The shema is said in the morning and evening services and also when at home at night

<b>Differences between Orthodox and Reform synagogues</b>	
<b>Orthodox</b>	<b>Reform</b>
men and women sit separately	men and women sit together
always a male rabbi	could be a male or female rabbi
services are normally in Hebrew	services may be in Hebrew or could well be in English instead
must have a minyan – this is a 10 man prayer group	the minyan can be made up of either men or women
women do not touch the Torah, read it or lead any prayers	women have an equal role to men
<b>The reasons they have to do all these different things at the synagogue is often because there are mitzvot which tell them they have to do this. As well as being in the Torah, it may also be because it remembers an important part of Jewish history.</b>	

## The Tefillin

Tefillin are worn by Jewish men for morning prayer at home or in the synagogue.

The Shema can be found inside the Tefillin.

The Tefillin are two small leather boxes containing the scripture. They are strapped to the left arm and the forehead.

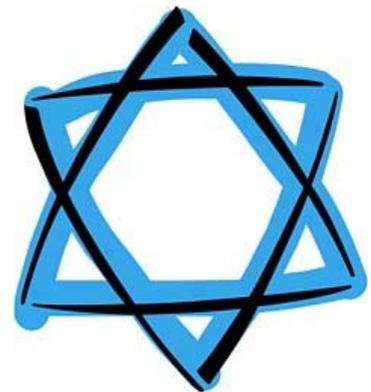


Wearing a tefillin is important to Jewish men because:

- The Torah instructs them to tie God's words to their hands and foreheads.
- Placing God's words on the forehead reminds Jews to think about God at all times.
- Placing God's words on the forearm next to the heart reminds Jews to keep God in their hearts.
- By wearing the tefillin Jews are showing that they are following God's rules.

## Shabbat

- This is every Saturday and remembers the 7<sup>th</sup> day God made the world and then rested, so Jews will do no work on this day.
- Orthodox Jews think it starts at sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
- Orthodox Jews will not even switch lights on and off or drive a car or even to write, as these are work.
- The mother welcomes Shabbat into the home with 2 candles and the family will eat a meal with special challot bread which remembers God's gift to the Jewish people of food when they were hungry in the desert.
- It ends with the family lighting the Havdalah candle and giving thanks to God for His creation of the world and everything He has given us, and the smelling of sweet spices such as cinnamon



## Rosh Hashanah

- **Rosh Hashanah** is the Jewish New Year and is celebrated for over 2 days, and is followed by Yom Kippur after 10 days
- it is a time to think about what you have done right and wrong over the past year
- the festival starts in the evening and God is talked about as if there in the synagogue as He is in judgement of everyone there
- apples dipped in honey are eaten as people wish to each other that God has written a good new year ahead for them
- people may put a fish's head on the table at home to hope for good deeds to multiply as much as fish in sea



- in the morning of the second day, 100 notes of the shofar horn are blown
- there is a ceremony in the afternoon when people ask God to remove their sins and go to a riverbank so they can symbolise casting their sins into the depths of the sea

## Yom Kippur

This is the Day of Atonement and is when Jews ask for forgiveness

White clothes may be worn to show how people's sins are to be cleaned.

People often give to charity some money or some food

Adults normally fast for the day (don't eat food) and take the day as a chance to reflect on what they have done wrong and how they can be better.

This is the holiest day of the year and even secular Jews will attend synagogue.

During prayers in the synagogue, people quietly ask God for forgiveness.

### Yom Kippur is important to Jewish people because:

- It gives them the chance to show God they are sorry for their sins.
- It gives them the chance to reflect upon their lives and think of ways to become better people in the future.
- They receive forgiveness from God so they can make a fresh start.

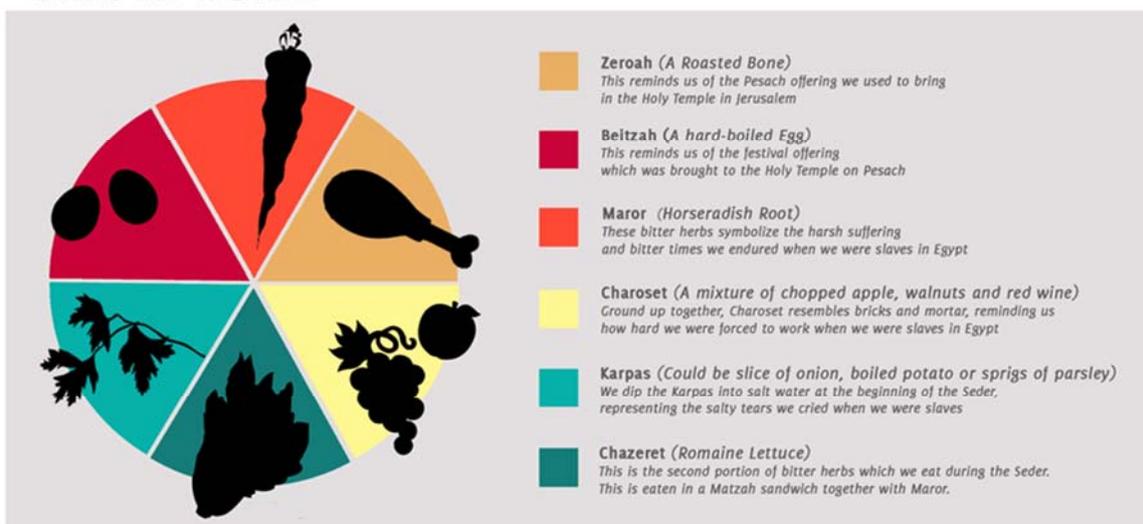
## Pesach – the festival of Passover

- This remembers the time the Jewish people were saved by Moses from Egypt.
- In the synagogue there we be worship and reading which remember this story.
- Homes will have all yeast foods thrown out and will be cleaned in preparation.
- At home there is the Passover plate which has food like matzo crackers to remember how there was no time for the bread to rise, and bitter herbs like horseradish to remember the bitterness of slavery, salt water to remember the tears of the slaves
- The final plague was when the angle of death killed all the first born boys in Egypt, but passed over the Jewish houses as they put lamb's blood over their doorways
- **It reminds Jewish people that they are God's chosen people, and that he saved them.**



### PASSOVER SEDER PLATE SIMPLE GUIDE

**PASSOVER (PESACH)** is known as the "holiday of freedom," commemorating the Jewish Exodus from Egypt following 210 years of slavery. Passover is regarded as the "birth" of the Jewish nation, and its lessons of struggle and identity continue to form the basis of Jewish consciousness 3,300 years after the event.



The name of **Passover** derives from the fact that during the final plague «the slaying of the first born» God "passed over" the Jewish homes.

**Matza** is an unleavened bread, eaten by Jews during Passover. The most common reason for eating matzah is that on the morning of the Exodus, the Jews were so rushed in getting out of Egypt that the bread didn't have time to rise.

**Seder** means "order" because there are so many details to remember.



## Sukkot

- Sukkot is the festival of tabernacles, meaning booths
- people build tents and huts and celebrate various parts of this over a week, **remembering with the huts when the Israelites (the Jews) left Egypt and roamed the desert as nomads for 40 years**

- the booths can be very large, enough for many people, and people are often invited into a family's sukkah (plural is sukkot)
  - leaves and greenery will be placed around the hut in the roof and is a reminder of the type of leafy roofs which their ancestors would have had
  - this festival follows Yom Kippur, and straight after it is Simchat Torah





