

## Wonderful words

**Science:** the study of the structure and behaviour of the natural and physical world

**Genesis:** the first book of the Bible and Torah which includes God creating the world

**Big Bang Theory:** the belief that the universe began with a large explosion of matter

**Complementary:** when a number of things work well together and help explain each other

**Creation:** the act of creating the world by God or everything that God created

**Literal:** taking words and stories as they are without any interpretation

**Creator:** the being who created everything in the universe

**Conflicting:** no agreement or support for different ideas or views

**Interpretation:** an explanation of the meaning of something

**Theory:** a set of ideas to attempt to explain something

## So how does it all work?

How the universe began



Science

Religion



Conflicting or Complementary?

## Important information

There have been many different ideas about how the universe began from religion and from science.

**Genesis** chapter 1 in the Bible explains about a **Creator** God who made the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day. Some Christians have a **literal** understanding of the Bible and believe this happened as exactly as it says. Their **interpretation** of the **Creation** is that God made everything in six periods of twenty-four hours.

Some people have the **theory** that universe began with an explosion and they call this the **Big Bang Theory**.

Some people only believe one of these stories and say that they are **conflicting** accounts of the creation of the universe. Other people, such as religious scientists, believe that the stories about how the universe began are **complementary** and talk about the same thing but in different ways.

## Wonderful words

**People of God:** the Israelites who were chosen by God

**Children of Israel:** the Israelites who were the descendants of Jacob

**Freedom:** not being in prison or in slavery, being able to do what you want

**Justice:** to treat people equally according to God's law

**Moses:** a Hebrew prophet who was given the Torah by God

**Exodus:** a book in the Torah and the story of the People of God leaving Egypt

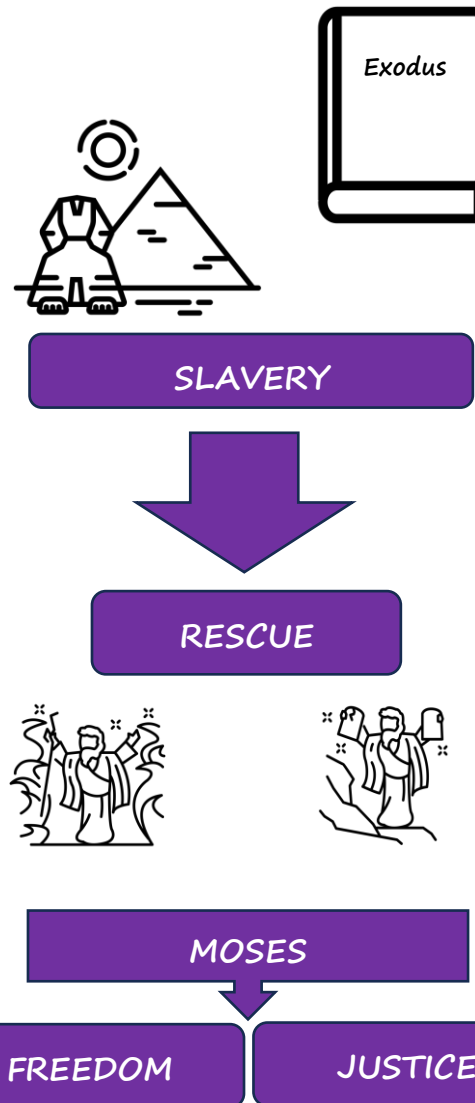
**Slavery:** owning people who are forced to work for you

**Egypt:** the country in North Africa where the Children of Israel were slaves

**Pharaoh:** the leader of the ancient country of Egypt

**Rescue:** to save someone from a difficult or dangerous situation

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

The story of the **Exodus** is a very important story in the Bible and the Torah. Jacob had taken his family to live in Egypt and after a while the **Children of God** were put into **slavery** in Egypt as **Pharaoh** needed them to work for him.

The slaves were waiting for someone to **rescue** them and to lead them into **freedom** and bring them **justice**. God chose **Moses** to lead His people out of slavery and into a land He had promised them.

Moses led **The People of God** out of slavery and was given the Ten Commandment by God at Mount Sinai. This is an important story for Christians as it helps them to understand how important freedom and justice are in the world today.

## Wonderful words

**Significant:** having a special meaning, something that is very important

**Journey:** a person's experience of changing or travelling from one point to another point

**Baptism:** a ceremony that welcomes someone into the Christian church

**Commitment:** a strong belief in something and a promise to do something

**Marriage:** a legal union between two people

**Bar Mitzvah:** a joining ceremony when a Jewish boy takes on the responsibilities of his religion.

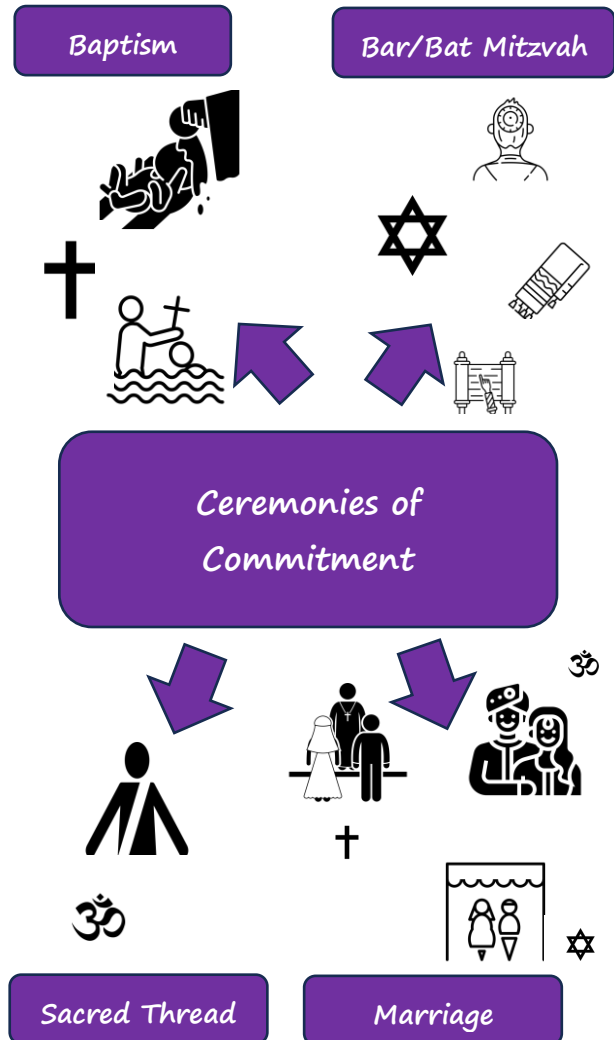
**Bat Mitzvah:** a joining ceremony when a Jewish girl takes on the responsibilities of her religion.

**Ceremony:** a formal event linked to something special

**Wedding:** a ceremony when a couple make promises to be married and promises to God

**Sacred Thread:** a ceremony when a Hindu is ready to take responsibility for their religious life.

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

Many religious worldviews will hold a **ceremony** to celebrate **significant** points in the religious **journey** a person is taking. These take place at various points in a person's life and help to show their **commitment** to their religion.

**Baptism** is an important ceremony in Christianity as it celebrates someone becoming a member of the Christian community. This can happen for babies or for older people when they wish to join the Church.

At the age of thirteen many Jewish boys will have a **Bar Mitzvah** and many girls at the age of twelve will have a **Bat Mitzvah**. This ceremony shows they have reached the part of their journey to take responsibility for their religious life.

Many Hindu boys and some Hindu girls will have a **Sacred Thread** ceremony which means they are taking responsibility for their religious life as well.

Many religious people will choose to mark their **marriage** with a religious **wedding** ceremony to represent the next stage in their lives and to show commitment to their married partner.

## Wonderful words

**Muslim:** a follower of the religion of Islam, someone who submits to the will of Allah

**Ibadah:** the word for worship in Arabic

**Submission:** accepting a superior force and doing what they want

**Ramadan:** the month in the Muslim calendar when those who can fast do so

**Shahadah:** the basic statement of belief for Muslims, the first of the Five Pillars

**Salah:** compulsory daily prayer for Muslims, the second of the Five Pillars

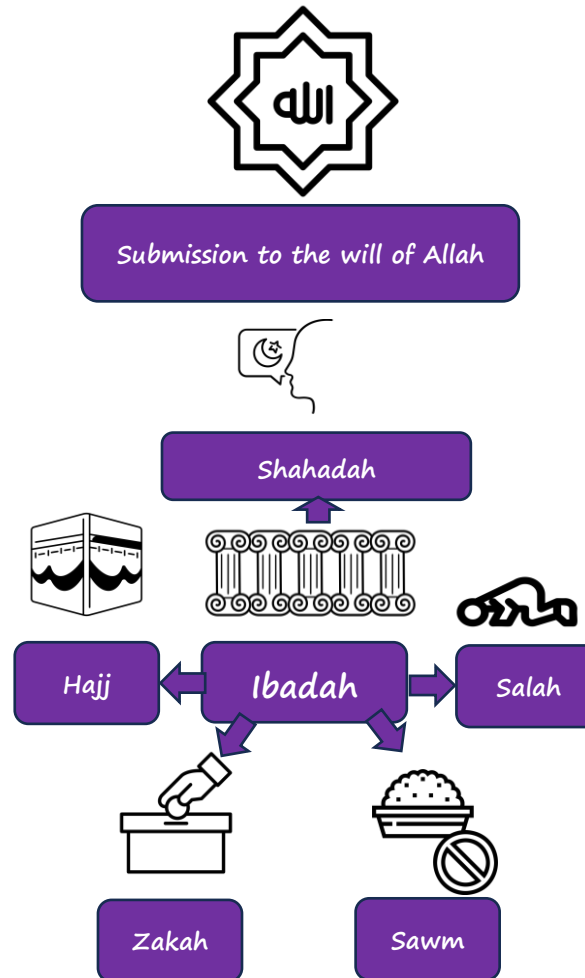
**Sawm:** fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, the third of the Five Pillars

**Zakah:** compulsory giving of charity every year, the fourth of the Five Pillars

**Hajj:** the pilgrimage to Makkah during the month of Dhul Hijjah that all Muslims should make during their lives if they can, the final of the Five Pillars

**Pilgrimage:** a journey taken for religious reasons

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

Approximately 24% of the world's population would call themselves a **Muslim** and approximately 7% of the population of England and Wales would do so as well. The word Islam means **submission** to the will of Allah and the word Muslim is not only the name of someone who follows Islam but also someone who submits to the will of Allah. Many Muslims will perform five activities that show they worship Allah, this is known as **ibadah** or worship. These five activities are known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The **shahadah** is a statement of belief that Muslims say and believe, showing there is only one god and that Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets of Allah.

Muslims must pray everyday and this compulsory prayer is known as **Salah**. For 28 days every year those Muslims who are able to will fast during the month of **Ramadan** and this fasting is known as **Sawm**. Every year many Muslims will give charity to people who are less fortunate than themselves and this is known as **Zakah**. The final pillar which some Muslims will do but which is not compulsory but is expected if they can is the **pilgrimage** to Makkah. This is known as the **Hajj**.

## Wonderful words

**Hindu:** a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal teaching.

**Puja:** ceremonial worship at home or in the Mandir

**Ramayana:** one of the great stories of the Hindu Dharma

**Shrine:** a place of worship for a Hindu either in the home or the mandir

**Rama:** a very important deity and the hero of the Ramayana

**Dharma:** Duty. By fulfilling their duty Hindus believe they will attain Moksha

**Deity:** Brahman channeled into different forms

**Mandir:** a place where Hindus go to worship.

**Diwali:** Hindu festival of lights and a festival of good overcoming evil

**Sita:** the wife of Rama

## So how does it all work?



Puja in the Mandir or the Home



Rama

Sita



Diwali celebrating good overcoming evil in the Ramayana



## Important information

The **Hindu Dharma** has its origins in India and is the most ancient of the larger religious worldviews in the world today.

For many Hindus it is important that they connect with Brahman, the ultimate reality and they will perform **puja** in their home or in the **mandir**. The puja will take place at the **shrine** which is often dedicated to a **deity** within the Hindu Dharma. The shrine will often contain a **murti** which is a statue of the deity.

The puja focuses the Hindu on Brahman and helps them fulfil their **dharma** or purpose. Many stories in the Hindu Dharma try to explain what the dharma is for humans and they will help Hindus to fulfil their duty.

One of the great epic poems of the Hindu Dharma is the **Ramayana** which is connected to the festival of **Diwali**. The main characters of the Ramayana, **Rama** and his wife **Sita** are good examples to Hindus as to how they can fulfil their dharma. The story of the Ramayana is one of good overcoming evil and the festival of Diwali is celebrated all over the world to remember this.

## Wonderful words

**Jesus:** the second person of the Trinity or the Son, God in the flesh

**Disciples:** the followers of Jesus

**Follower:** a person who supports and admires a particular person

**Clergy:** all of the people who are ordained for Christian ministry

**Galilee:** a lake in Judea around which Jesus did much of his teaching

**Vicar:** a person in charge of a church

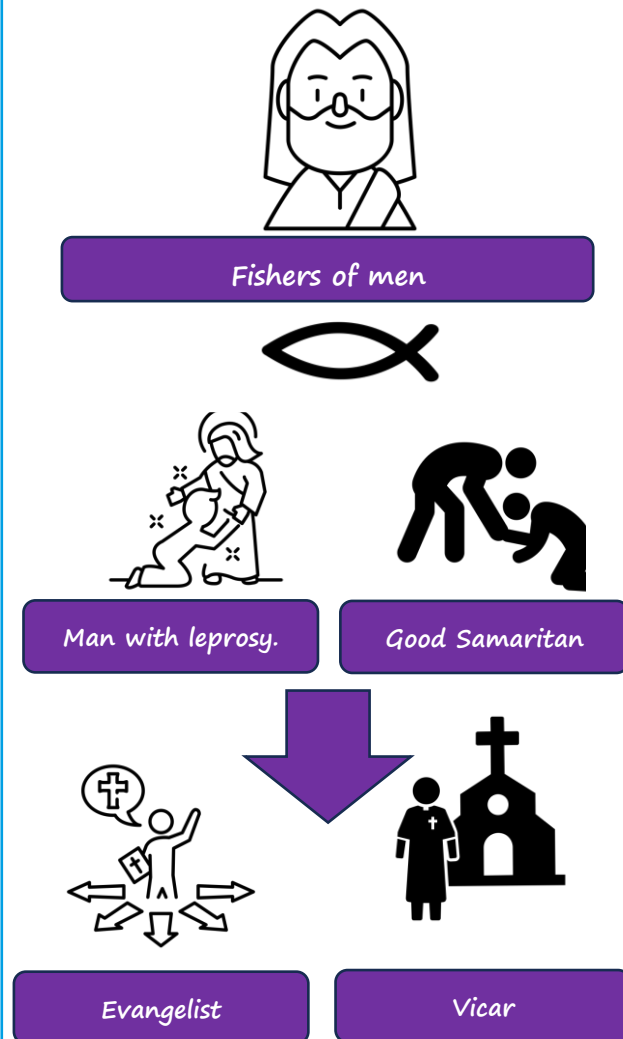
**Parable:** a story with a meaning

**Samaritan:** a person from the land of Samaria, a group of people whom the Jewish people disliked.

**Gospel:** the good news about Jesus, a book of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life

**Evangelist:** someone who shares the good news about Jesus through preaching and teaching

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

The first four people Jesus called to follow him were fishermen who were working on the Sea of Galilee. Each one of these decided to give up their work and become a **follower** of Jesus. Jesus asked them to become fishers of men.

To help people understand how they should live, and the kind of world Jesus wanted, he told them stories with meanings. One of these was the **parable** of the Good Samaritan. Each of the four books in the Bible which contain these parables and stories about the life of Jesus is known as a **gospel**.

**Disciples** is a name for those who follow Jesus and believe that he is the Son of God. The **clergy** are carrying on the role that Jesus gave his disciples to become fishers of men.

**Evangelists** will go out into the world and tell people all about Jesus and his message so they can follow his example and teaching. A Christian may decide to become a **vicar** and they work in their local community to tell people about Jesus and to help them as Jesus helped people, such as when he healed the man with leprosy.