

What do Christians believe God is like?

Wonderful words

Holy: something that is considered to be good because it relates to religion

Forgiving: stopping blaming or punishing someone for that they have done

Prodigal: spending lots of money in a way that is not very good

Worship: to praise and follow God

Nineveh: an ancient city where people went against what God wanted.

Loving: the act of taking care of something or someone because of a strong attachment

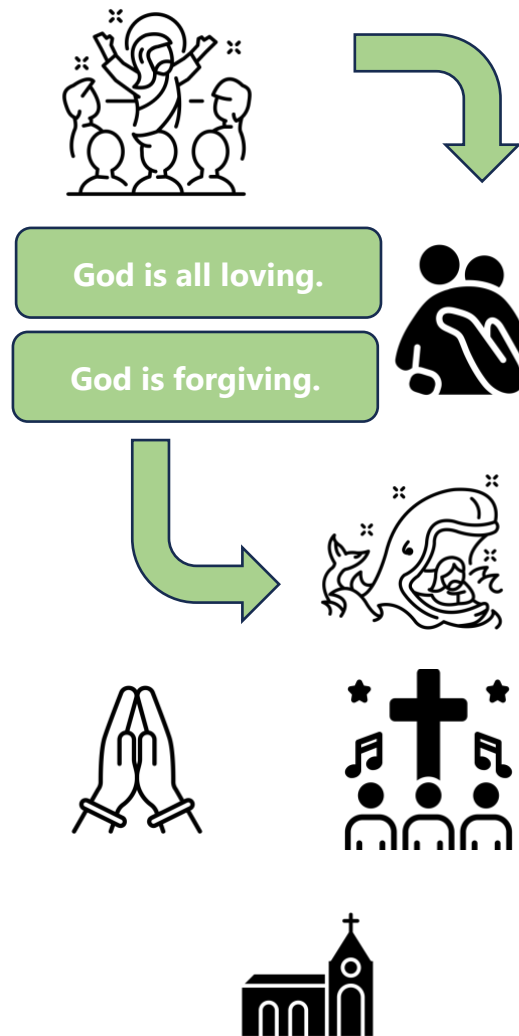
Father: the first person of the Trinity, who created everything

Parable: a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

Jonah: a messenger sent from God to the people of Nineveh.

God: the all loving and all powerful being that Christians believe created the world and everything in it

So how does it all work?



Important information

Jesus told his followers many stories that helped them understand **God**. A story such as this is known as a **parable**.

An important story Jesus told was the Parable of the Lost Son, in this story a man has a son who leaves home and spends all of his money, he is often known as the **prodigal** son. When he goes home his father welcomes him home and is **loving** and **forgiving** to him.

This shows that **God** will forgive people who come back to him because he is loving and caring as he is The **Father** who created the world and everyone in it. Anyone can ask God for forgiveness, and they will be welcomed back into God's family.

The story of **Jonah** tells Christians that God sent him to **Nineveh** to help the people understand what was **holy** so that they could **worship** God and he would forgive them for what they had done wrong.

These stories tell Christians that if they ask God to forgive them when they worship.

him through prayer and when they go to church he will. They can ask him for help when they are sad or worried or they can tell him when they are happy.

Who is Jewish and how do they live?

Wonderful words

Synagogue: the Jewish place of worship, sometimes called a shul

Torah: the Jewish holy book made up of the five books of Law.

Jewish: relating to the religion of Judaism.

Mezuzah: a small scroll with words from the Torah written on it and contained in a small rectangular mezuzah box

Shabbat: a day of rest for Jewish people, the seventh day of the week

Shema: A Jewish prayer

God: all powerful being who Jewish people believe created the world

Chanukah: a Jewish festival that remembers the winning back of the Second Temple and the miracle of the tiny amount of oil.

Dreidel: a four-sided spinning top played during the festival of Chanukah

Star of David: the recognized symbol of Judaism

So how does it all work?



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Important information

Jewish people have many items in their homes which help them show that they follow the Jewish faith.

This may include a **mezuzah** box which contains the **Shema**, a very important prayer from the **Torah** which tells Jews about their relationship with **God**. The mezuzah box can be seen on doorposts in Jewish homes and Jewish people will touch it as a reminder of their faith.

Sometimes there will be a **Star of David** on a mezuzah box or somewhere else in a Jewish home to show people that the home is a Jewish home. You can also find a Star of David in a **synagogue** to show it is a Jewish place of worship.

Some Jewish people will also keep **Shabbat** when they will not work or travel and will have a special meal to remember the day God rested when he had created the world. Many Jewish people will also go to the synagogue to show what an incredibly important day it is.

Jewish people will also have celebrations and festivals throughout the year to remember specific events and important times. One of those is the festival of **Chanukah** which helps Jewish people remember when there was only enough oil to keep the temple menorah lit for one day but it stayed alight for eight days. Some of these stories are in the **Torah** such as the story of David and Goliath.

What does it mean to belong to a faith community?

Wonderful words

Community: a group of people who have something in common

Muhammad: Messenger or the Prophet of Allah

Allah: God

Shabbat: a day of rest for Jewish people, the seventh day of the week

Ichthus: a Greek symbol of a fish used by Christians to show their faith

Faith: a belief in God or the teachings of a belief system

Wedding: a marriage ceremony as a legal union of two people

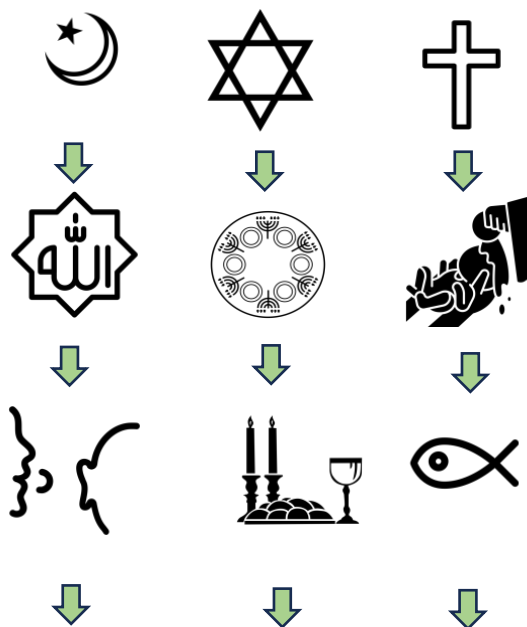
Baptism: a ceremony that welcomes someone into the Christian Church

Aqiqah: a ceremony to welcome a baby into the world in Islam

Parable: a story Jesus told that has a special meaning

So how does it all work?

Belonging



Faith Community

Important information

Many people in the world belong to a **faith community**. A faith community is a group of people who believe the same things as each other about God or the religion they follow.

People within the faith community will often have special events to welcome people such as an **aqiqah** in Islam or a **baptism** in Christianity.

Faith communities will also have many symbols and items which show they belong to that religion, for example in Christianity you may often see the **ichthus**, this is a symbol known around the world to represent Christianity. Christians will also use a **parable** from the Bible to show how important people are.

In Judaism you will often see a mezuzah or a seder plate to recognize that a person belongs to a Jewish faith community and there are special rules about what can cannot be done on **Shabbat**.

In Islam the faith community will show what they believe about **Allah** and about **Muhammad** by what they wear and what they do, for example many Muslims will have calligraphy pictures at home to show they are Muslims.

People will often show they belong to each other to having a wedding ceremony which each faith community will celebrate in a different way.