

Spring Term

Loving Kindness, Tzedakah
and Chesed

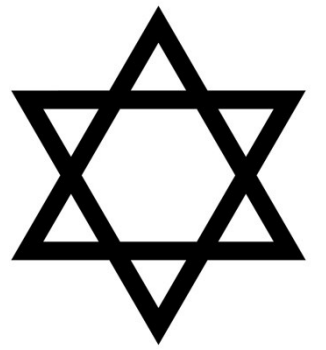
Name of religion: Judaism

Holy book: Tanakh

Name of people who study religion: Jewish

Founder of religion: Abraham

Place of worship:



Singers Hill Synagogue,
Birmingham



Jewish
festivals

Passover



Hannukah — Jewish
Festival of Light



Prior key knowledge needed for this unit

- ☆ identify Judaism as a religion and Jews as believers in Judaism.
- ☆ identify a synagogue as a Jewish place of worship, the Hebrew Bible, including the Torah as the Jewish holy book and the Star of David as a symbol of Judaism.
- ☆ identify that many Jews regard Abraham as the first Jew and that Abraham was the first of many prophets of Judaism.
- ☆ identify that many Jews believe a prophet is a person who God has contacted and instructed to pass on messages or teachings God has given to them.
- ☆ identify that many Jews believe that Abraham taught that there was one God and that people should not make or worship idols or images of God.
- ☆ identify that many Jews believe God made a promise to Abraham of a special relationship between God and the Jewish people
- ☆ identify that many Jews believe Moses lived approximately 3,400 years ago who was a prophet of God
- ☆ identify that Moses is deeply admired and held in high esteem in Judaism and in other religions particularly Christianity and Islam
- ☆ identify and name the Passover ("Pesach") as a festival celebrated by Jews.
- ☆ know that Passover celebrates the story of the slaves in Egypt gaining their freedom.
- ☆ know and recall some of the main events associated with the story of the slaves gaining their freedom including: (1) Moses requests Pharaoh to free the slaves; (2) God sends ten plagues; (3) Pharaoh frees the slaves; (4) the slaves cross the Red Sea and (5) the Hebrew slaves gain their freedom.

Key knowledge needed for this unit

- ☆ Judaism teaches that the Torah contains 613 laws (613 mitzvot), some of these laws are about how Jews should treat people
- ☆ Three of those laws are:
 - Do not mistreat a stranger (Exodus 22:21)
 - Leave a corner of a field uncut for the poor (Leviticus 19:10)
 - Give tzedakah (Exodus 15:11)
- ☆ Tzedakah is a mitzvah and it is an obligatory act performed by most Jewish people, who give a portion of what they earn to charity or give money to a person who is in need
- ☆ Chesed is not a mitzvah but is a spontaneous voluntary act of loving kindness given to any person. Jewish people do this, expecting nothing in return

- ☆ The I. L. Peretz's (1851-1915) story "If Not Higher" has the following main events:
- In a small town the people of a small town claimed on Friday morning that their Rabbi was taken up to heaven
 - A young man, who was a visitor to the town spied on the Rabbi to find out the truth
 - Early one Friday morning the young man followed the Rabbi into a wood and saw him cut down a small dead tree into logs for firewood
 - The Rabbi carried the logs to the home of an old woman who was sick and gave her firewood so she could stay warm
 - When the people of the small town said, "Our Rabbi goes up to heaven," the young man would quietly say, 'if not higher."

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
chesed	Act of giving loving kindness expecting nothing in return
mitzvot	Jewish laws
torah	A holy text
tzedakah	Act of helping others that is obligatory for Jews

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

What do Jewish laws teach about how other people should be treated?

What is tzedakah?
What is chesed?

Describe the difference between tzedakah and chesed

What is the key message of the story "If not higher" for Jewish people?