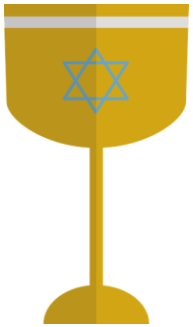
How Does Faith Make a Difference to Rites of Passage?

KEY FACTS

- A rite of passage is a special ceremony that marks an important stage in life.
- Religions use rites of passage to show belonging, commitment and responsibility.
- Christians often celebrate baptism.
- Jewish people celebrate Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah.
- These ceremonies help people feel part of a faith community.





JEWISH BELIEFS

- Bar Mitzvah means “Son of the Commandment”.
- Bat Mitzvah means “Daughter of the Commandment”.
- At age 13 (boys) and 12 (girls), young people take greater responsibility for following Jewish teachings.
- Reading from the Torah is an important part of the ceremony.
- Family and community celebrate this important step.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

- Baptism welcomes a person into God's family.
- Water symbolises cleansing and a new start.
- Christians believe God loves and cares for every person.
- Godparents and family promise to support the child.
- Baptism can happen when someone is a baby or an adult.

BIG QUESTIONS

- Why do people celebrate important stages of life?
- Does a ceremony change who someone is?
- Why is belonging important?
- Are rites of passage mainly about belief or community?
- Could people celebrate these events without religion?

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Rite of Passage	A ceremony marking a new stage in life
Baptism	Christian ceremony welcoming someone into God's family
Christianity	Religion based on the teachings of Jesus
Judaism	Religion of the Jewish people
Bar Mitzvah	Ceremony for Jewish boys becoming responsible for their faith
Bat Mitzvah	Ceremony for Jewish girls becoming responsible for their faith
Torah	Jewish holy book
Community	A group of people who belong together
Belonging	Feeling accepted and included
Responsibility	A duty or job that someone is expected to do

IMPORTANT TEACHINGS

Christianity

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them...”
Matthew 28:19

Judaism

“Teach them diligently to your children...”
Deuteronomy 6:7