

What is holiness for Jewish people: a place, a time, an object or something else?

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Jewish Concept HOLINESS </div> 	<p>It's a bit like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being totally separate from the ordinary / different • Set apart for a specific role e.g. for God's use, or in his service • Being clean and pure, without sin / shortcomings • Close to, or precious, to God • Awe-inspiring, full of wonder • Being righteous in all you do • Bringing honour to someone, not shame
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Holy; Holiness or Kedushah	Holiness means 'sacred' or 'set apart'. It is about being different, separate from the ordinary and connected to God. The Hebrew (an ancient language used in the Torah) word for holiness is Kedushah. In Judaism, Holiness is a synonym for God who is called 'The Holy One, blessed be He'.
God	In Judaism, God's name is treated with enormous respect. There are special rules when writing God's name, such as leaving letters out (G-d), and Jewish people must not destroy things with God's name on.
Judaism	Judaism is the name of the religion of Jewish people. In the Old Testament, Jewish people were chosen by God as a holy (set apart) nation by being given the Torah.
Synagogue	The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship.
Rabbi	The rabbi is the teacher and leader in the synagogue.
Torah	The Torah is the Jewish holy text and is written on a scroll. The Torah contains the Five Books of Moses which are the first five books of the Old Testament of the Bible. The Torah contains God's laws and tells Jewish people how God wants them to live. It was given to Jewish people by God and was written by Moses, their leader and teacher.
Sefer Torah	This is the Torah scroll.
Ten Commandments	The holy God gave commandments (laws) to the Jewish people to create a holy nation; they were set apart from everyone else by being given these laws. Jewish people live holy lives by obeying the commandments in the Torah.
Luchot	These are Moses' 'tablets of the law'. In the Old Testament God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone.
Ark	The Ark is where the Torah scrolls are kept inside the synagogue. The Ark is usually on the wall of the synagogue that faces Jerusalem. This means that when Jewish people face the Ark, they are also facing their holy city, Jerusalem.
Ner Tamid	This is the eternal flame that burns in front of the Holy Ark in a synagogue as a reminder of God's presence.

Shabbat	Shabbat means 'Sabbath' and is the Jewish day of rest; it is a holy time because it is set apart from the rest of the week. Shabbat is celebrated every week; it begins on a Friday night and ends on a Saturday night. The seventh day of creation is the day God rested and Jewish people are commanded to keep the Sabbath holy.
Havdalah	Shabbat is ended with the Havdalah ceremony which separates the holy day from the new week.
BarMitzvah	This is when a boy of 13 is called up to read from the weekly section of the Torah for the first time in the synagogue. Being Barmitzvah makes a Jewish person responsible to God for living a holy life. In some synagogues, girls are called to read at 12; this is called a Bat Mitzvah.

Holiness in the Torah

The Burning Bush – In the book of Exodus, in the Torah, God appears to Moses in a flame out of a bush. God tells Moses to not come any closer and to remove his shoes because he is standing on holy ground. God tells Moses that he has seen how much the Jewish people are suffering as slaves in Egypt and that he will save them.



Holiness in the Torah

The Golden Calf – After the Exodus from Egypt, God summoned Moses to Mount Sinai. The Jewish people are not allowed near Mount Sinai because the whole mountain is holy ground. God gives Moses the Ten Commandments to his chosen people to create a holy, set apart nation. The people ruin this by creating a golden calf to replace God which brings shame to them and to God's holy name.



What should we be able to do?

- Talk about some examples of things which are holy for different religious people, including Jewish people.

Torah Sefer

- Talk about some things in the story of a rescued Torah scroll that made my class ask questions.
- Talk, with respect, about what my friends and I think it would be important to rescue in a catastrophe.

The Burning Bush

- Tell the story of the Burning Bush and say some things Jewish people believe about what is holy.
- Say what the Burning Bush stands for and talk about a picture of the story.
- Ask, with respect for their feelings, about why people in my class think of certain places as 'holy ground'.
- Express the idea of a holy ground in art work reflecting the story of Moses and the Burning Bush.

The Golden Calf

- Describe what a believer might learn from the story of the Golden Calf.
- Compare some things that influence me with what may have influenced people to make the Golden Calf.

BarMitzvah/Bat Mitzvah

- Describe how both boys and girls may prepare to read the Torah in the synagogue for the first time.

Shabbat

- Use religious words to describe how Jewish people use candles to show that Shabbat is a holy day (for example; marking the beginning of the holy day, going from the ordinary weekday into the holiness of Shabbat).
- Make links between the teachings of the Torah and how they are connected to observing Shabbat.
- Use the right religious words to describe and compare practices and experiences which make Shabbat holy for a Jewish person.

What can we learn from religion? Expressing our own responses

- Ask important questions about what a holy life means and compare my ideas with others.
- Link things that are important to me, and others, with how committed I am to act on my beliefs.

- Ask questions about who we choose to listen to, especially those with popular influence, and what it feels like to be let down.
- Ask questions about whether it is right to stand up for what you believe in and suggest why some people do and some don't.
- Ask about how I make choices and suggest what might happen as a result of different decisions.

Digging deeper

- Suggest reasons for Jewish people holding both similar and different beliefs as a result of studying the Torah as their guide for life and their morality.
- Describe how and why young Jews take on religious responsibility publicly but in different ways and how this changes their lives.
- Use wide religious vocabulary to suggest reasons for different artistic interpretations of key stories about holiness in the Torah.
- Give my own views and others' views on the challenges of observing Shabbat for Jews and why people accept religious challenges.
- Ask if the purpose of life is to make the world holier and suggest my own, and others', answers to what this might mean.
- Ask questions about things in my life what I would call 'holy', explain why I hold these ideas and compare my ideas with those of Jewish people.