

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO A FAITH COMMUNITY?

Curriculum Subject - RE

Summary

You will be thinking about belonging. You will learn about how religious people show they belong to their faith community.

You will learn about how babies are welcomed in religions and the promises made at weddings.

You will think about your own network of belonging and how we all belong to someone.



Facts

1. People of faith often display or wear symbols of their faith, that show a belonging to that faith.
2. Symbols of Christianity might be: a cross or crucifix, an ichthus (fish), a rosary, a bible, an image or statue of Jesus and Mary.
3. Symbols that might show a Muslim's belonging might be: a prayer mat, calligraphy decorations, the Qu'ran, taking part in a pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca.
4. For Jewish people, belonging might be shown with: a Star of David, wearing of a kippah, joining in the Shabbat meal
5. Christians welcome babies in the church with a ceremony known as a Christening or Baptism. Part of the ceremony involves Holy water being poured over the baby's head three times, for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The baby is given a candle, symbolising the way a baby is like a shining light.
6. When a baby is born to a Muslim family, a prayer is whispered in its ear. The most important part of the prayer is 'Allahu Akbar - God is great. To symbolise that they baby should always be generous and share what they have, the baby's hair is gently shaved and weighed. Whatever the weight of the hair, that amount of gold is given to the poor.
7. People of faith show belonging to each other by getting married. In both Christian and Jewish weddings, the couple make vows to each other and give each other rings. The rings symbolise an unbroken chain between the two people and God.

Questions We Will Ask

1. Do we all belong to something?
2. How do Christians show they belong?
3. How do Muslims know that they belong?
4. How do Jewish people show they belong together as a community?
5. How do Christians welcome a new baby? How do Muslims welcome a new baby?
6. How do some people show they belong to one another?

Key Vocabulary

Crucifix, Ichthus, Rosary

Calligraphy, Qu'ran, Pilgrimage

Kippah, Shabbat, Challah bread,
Kiddush cup

Marriage, Wedding, Vows