



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Judaism. Here they will explore their relationship with God. The children will make links between Abraham and Moses and the Jewish beliefs. They will be able to articulate ways Jewish people express their special relationship with God.

What? (Knowledge)

Abraham and Moses

Jews believe that there is only one God. They believe they have a special agreement with God called a covenant. Jews promise to obey God's laws to say thank you to him for looking after them.

Abraham — Jews believe a man called Abraham was the first person to make a covenant with God. Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish people and the Israelites are his descendants.

Moses — Later, a man named Moses saved the Jewish people from persecution in Egypt when he led them to safety across the Red Sea. After this, the Jews lived in the desert where God gave Moses a set of rules which they should live by, including the Ten Commandments. Moses is the most important Jewish prophet.

The Ten Commandments

The Ark of the Covenant is first described in the book of Exodus, which is the second book of the Torah. The Ten Commandments were a covenant or agreement between God and the Jews. If they followed the rules and laws He laid down, then God would be good to them. To remind the Israelites that He was always with them, God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle, which was a large tent. Inside this, was placed a wooden chest called the Ark. It was here that God told Moses to store the Ten Commandments so that wherever they travelled, the law would be with them. The tabernacle was a holy place but the Ark was the most sacred of all.

1	Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2	Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images
3	Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain
4	Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy
5	Honour thy Father and thy Mother
6	Thou shalt not kill
7	Thou shalt not commit adultery
8	Thou shalt not steal
9	Thou shalt not bear false witness
10	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, wife or possessions

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Abraham	Man who made a special agreement with God
Moses	Man who saved the Jews from persecution
Protection	Act of looking after someone or something
Covenant	An agreement
Commandments	Laws given by God to Moses
Tabernacle	A meeting place for worship
Torah	Holy book of the Jewish people
Promise	Assurance that they will definitely do something
Responsibility	The act of being accountable for carrying something out
Belief	Acceptance that something is true, without proof

Key Question

What are the key messages drawn out of the 10 Commandments?
 How do the 10 Commandments fit in to day to day life in a Jewish household?
 Explain the concept of Heaven and Hell in the Jewish religion?

Diagrams, Images and Symbols

