

Judaism-What does it mean to be part of a synagogue community?

Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Covenant	Agreement or promise
Torah	The Jewish holy book.
Mezuzah	The Hebrew word mezuzah means "doorpost."
Rabbi	A Jewish religious leader.
Isaac	The son of Abraham
Synagogue	Jewish place of worship.
Pesach /Passover	The angel of death passed over the houses to save the first born.

The Synagogue

A synagogue is a place of worship for people of the Jewish religion. Jews also use synagogues as places to meet and study. Synagogues have played an important role in preserving the Jewish religion and culture throughout history. A synagogue is sometimes called a temple or a shul, which is a Yiddish word. The most important thing inside a synagogue is the ark, or cabinet, that holds the Torah scrolls.



Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur means Day of Atonement. It is the most sacred and solemn day in the Jewish calendar.

Atonement means to put things right. That day is about people putting things right with God through prayers and sacrifice.

Yom Kippur is a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. Instead of work or school, many Jews attend the synagogue where they pray throughout the day. They break their fast in the evenings.