

Judaism Vocabulary

anti-Semitism: Hostility against people who follow the Jewish faith

bar/bat Mitzvah: The coming-of-age ceremony of a Jewish boy when he turns 13**

Conservative Judaism: People who think that Jewish laws come from the people, not God

Covenant: An agreement, usually with God

Diaspora: The spreading of Judaism and Jewish people outside of Israel

Exodus: The mass migration of the Israelites from Egypt under the guidance of Moses and God

Kaddish: A prayer sequence recited in the synagogue

Kosher: Food that conforms with Jewish law

Messiah: Someone who will deliver the Jewish nation

Mezuzah: A doorpost which has Hebrew verses in it

Mitzvoh: A commandment

Orthodox Judaism: The opposite of Conservative Judaism; basically what Judaism should be

Passover: A major Jewish holiday celebrating the Jew's liberation from slavery in Egypt

Rabbi: A Jewish scholar

Reform Judaism: Judaism that acknowledges that the faith is constantly evolving with the times

Shabbat: The day of rest; the Sabbath in Christianity

Shema: A Jewish prayer

Synagogue: The building where a Jewish assembly meets

Talmud: The book of Jewish laws

Tanakh: The Jewish Bible

Torah: First five books of the Hebrew Bible

Tefillin: A set of small leather boxes containing Hebrew scriptures worn by adults practicing Judaism during prayer

Yarmulke: A skullcap worn in public by Jewish men

Yetzer ha-ra: The temptation to do evil

Yetzer ha-tov: The temptation to do good

YHWH: The name of God

Zionism: The movement for the re-establishment of a Jewish nation