

**Vocabulary**: rite of passage, commitment, identity, Bar Mitzvah, Hebrew, Brit Milah, Amrit, baptism, Khalsa, Kaur, Singh, kirpan, kesh, kangha, kachera, kara, faith, believer, choice



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# **Knowledge Organiser: How do we join a religious community?**

### What are Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

**Bar Mitzvah** is the celebration of a Jewish boy

becoming a man, or son of the Jewish commandments.

This takes place when the boy turns 13. At this age, he is able to take on new religious responsibilities, like reading from the Torah. Equally, girls celebrate a similar rite of passage at 12 years old called **Bat** Mitzvah, meaning 'daughter of the commandment'. In both cases, this is when Jewish children will start to decide how they wish to embrace or practise Judaism into adulthood.

## What is infant baptism?

The majority of Catholic Christians and many others besides choose to have their children baptised as babies or infants. This relates to the belief in **original sin**, as committed by Adam and Eve, and all humans being born with this temptation to do wrong.

During baptism, the blessed water is used to represent the cleansing of these sins, with some churches sprinkling water on the child's head, while others lightly bathe them. There will usually be Godparents chosen to help support the child's family in raising them in the Christian faith.

### What is Brit Millah?

Remembering back to the covenants, Brit Millah is the circumcision ceremony that was part of Abraham's covenant with God. Usually in the first days of life, Jewish boys will have their foreskin (a fold of skin at the tip of the penis) removed. This tradition is a symbol of the promise made with Abraham and a permanent mark in the flesh, which signifies their religion.

#### What is Amrit?

Amrit is a sugared water used during the ceremony that welcomes a Sikh to the Khalsa community; the name of this ceremony is also 'Amrit'. It is sometimes referred to as a Sikh baptism, as Sikhs make the commitment to their faith, with promises, and will adopt symbols of their faith.

### What is believer's baptism?

For other Christians, they prefer to get baptised as an adult. They believe that you should make the conscious choice to join the Church, the community of Christians, and knowingly commit to living a Christian life. Here too, water is used as a symbol to wash away sins. Often, the whole body is dunked in water, as Jesus would have done when he asked John the Baptist to baptise him.

### What are the 5Ks?

They are key symbols of a Sikh's commitment to the **Khalsa** (Sikh community). Kesh = uncut hair, as it is a gift from God.

- Kara = steel bangle, representing God as eternal.
- Kangha = a wooden comb to keep hair tidy and clean.

Kachera = loose cotton underwear, as to always be ready for action.

Kirpan = knife, kept sharp, as a reminder to be brave and defend the Sikh faith.







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