

JUDAISM DEATH

In Judaism a funeral takes place as soon as possible after death. Jewish people believe that in death all are equal so the preparations and ceremony are always simple. They are always buried rather than cremated. Strict Orthodox Jews feel it is wrong to destroy anything God has made.

To find out about dying and mourning in Judaism:

READ Religions pages 28 -29 and Skills 3 page 34 (sheet)

WRITE out the Shema (from memory if possible)

Traditionally these are the last words Jews hope to say before they die.

DRAW a time chart covering the period from the dying day of a close relative until the end of the first year after death. Show the customs Jews observe at each stage and as mourning decreases.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Life after death is a belief that is accepted but little is said or written about it. Jews believe it is more important to concentrate on life now to make this world a better place rather than to speculate about what might happen beyond it.

Orthodox Jews recite the Kaddish daily during the first twelve months after a death and from then on it is said on the anniversary. Notice how it does not mention death.

THE KADDISH

May GOD'S great name be made great and holy throughout the world, which he created according to his will, and may he rule in his kingdom in our lives, in our days, and in the life of all Israel, speedily and soon.

And let us say: Amen

May his great name be blessed forever and always.

May his holy name be blessed and exalted, and honoured, and glorified, and extolled, and magnified and lauded. Blessed be he, through he is above all blessings and hymns, praises and consolations which can be said in the world.

And let us say: Amen

May lots of peace descend from heaven above with life for all of us, and all Israel. And let us say Amen.

May he who makes peace in the heavens above, make peace for all of us, and all Israel.

And let us say: Amen

WRITE about how this prayer can help bereaved people and whether or not the Jewish pattern of mourning where the Jewish people are gently eased back into normal life during the twelve months following the bereavement is a good idea.

3. EUTHANASIA

In Judaism the killing of people to put them out of their misery, is murder.

READ Moral Issues p165

And then...

LOOK at the 'Thinking Point' and answer the question.

4. SUICIDE

READ Moral Issues p161

And then...

EXPLAIN the Jewish view of suicide