



Religion	Judaism
Denomination	Reform
Question answered:	What stories are important to you? (KS1 Q2)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Story, Truth, Festival, God Why do symbols and stories play an important role in religions? Why do some people follow religious leaders and teachings? Retell a range of religious stories and explain how they link to the core beliefs and practices.
Key teaching points:	Stories from the book of Exodus and other books from the Bible are used by Jewish people as the basis of many festivals. They teach certain values and are read frequently in the synagogue
Prior knowledge:	Pupils need to know that many of the stories in the Christian Old Testament and the Jewish Torah and other writings are the same. Some Jewish people will refer to Jewish writings as the Bible.

Core Vocabulary:			
Exodus	The second book of the Torah and the Old Testament. It tells the story of the people of Israel escaping Egyptian slavery	Passover	The festival that commemorates the night that the people of Israel escaped from Egypt
10 commandments	The rules that God gave to Moses to help the people of Israel live good lives	Synagogue	The Jewish place of worship
Torah	The Jewish name for the first 5 books of the Bible	Ruth	A book in the Old Testament and the Tanakh that is read at the festival of Shavuot
Midrash	The commentary made by rabbis on the text of the Torah or Tanakh	Rabbi	Teacher or leader in Jewish tradition

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker refers to the whole book of Exodus, which tells the story of the People of Israel leaving Egypt where they have been slaves for many years. Exodus is foundational in Jewish scripture as it also contains the giving of the ten commandments, the building of the ark of the covenant, the golden calf, and the journey to the promised land where Moses died, and Joshua took over. The book of Exodus is read weekly in synagogues and is the basis of the festival of Passover.</p> <p>The story of Ruth, read at the festival of Shavuot, one of the harvest festivals tells the story of a young woman from Moab, who returns with her mother-in-law to Israel following the death of their husbands. It is a story of loyalty set against the backdrop of the barley harvest. It also shows how foreigners, widows, orphans, and the poor are to be treated under Jewish teaching.</p> <p>The second interviewee talks about the whole Bible as being important as it tells the story of what it means to be human. She talks about the way it has been read and interpreted over the centuries and how that makes her feel about being able to ask questions about it.</p>



Next Steps:

Explore the festival of Passover and some of the other stories from the book of Exodus in a child friendly version of the Bible. For older KS1 the film, the Prince of Egypt, may be an interesting way into this story.

Find out about the life of Moses and why his story is so important to Jews.

Read the story of Ruth and explore the festival of Shavuot.

Look at pictures that relate to these tales and sort to annotate them to show how they are used in Jewish tradition.

Older KS1 could attempt their own version of a Midrash on a short text.