



A series of worksheets for

Years 9 and 10

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Yours in Teaching

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### Death, mourning and the Jewish funeral service

Complete the following:

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	n the Jewish fa han what is to d	•	asis is mor	e upon the	and the p	resentr	ather
Jews believe that a funeral should take place as soon asafter death.							1.
The funeral services are always very							
	Jews bury their dead (they do not cremate) in a simple pineas all are equal in G_d's eyes.						
Most Jews believe in an, but it is not the primary focus of their religion and there is a lot of room for personal opinion about the nature of the afterlife.							
	AFTERLIFE	COFFIN	LIFE	LIVING	POSSIBLE	SIMPLE	

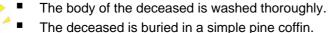
Mourning practices in Judaism are extensive. Jewish practices relating to death and mourning have two purposes:

- 1) to show respect for the dead (kavod ha-met),
- 2) to comfort the living (nihum avelim), who will miss the deceased.

There are four main stages of mourning.

- List these stages.
- How long does each stage last?
- What happens at each stage?
- > Who does it involve?
- How do these stages of mourning bring hope and comfort to those who have lost someone?

#### Jewish Death Rituals According to Jewish Law



- The deceased is buried wearing a simple white shroud (tachrichim).
- The body is guarded or watched from the moment of death until after burial.
- Just before a funeral begins, the immediate relatives of the deceased tear their garments or the rabbi does this to them or hands them torn black ribbons to pin on their clothes to symbolize their loss.
- Upon hearing about a death, a Jew recites the words, "Baruch dayan emet," Blessed be the one true Judge.

Research one of the Death rituals.

Design a prayer booklet for a funeral service. Include prayers

and actions of the mourners

during the service.

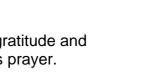
- ✓ What is involved in the ritual?
- ✓ What special prayers are associated with this ritual?
- ✓ Symbolism used.

The Kaddish Prayer recited in memory of the dead speaks of life, gratitude and appreciation and does not mention the word death. Write down this prayer.

✓ What words in this prayer suggest it is about a celebration of life rather than a mourning of the dead?

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✓ Who is involved?

# Some Solutions to Worksheet OR-J301: Death, mourning and the Jewish funeral service

In the Jewish faith the emphasis is more upon the *living* and the present *life* rather then what is to come.

Jews believe that a funeral should take place as soon as **possible** after death.

The funeral services are always very *simple*.

Jews bury their dead (they do not cremate) in a simple pine *coffin* as all are equal in G\_d's eyes.

Most Jews believe in an *afterlife*, but it is not the primary focus of their religion and there is a lot of room for personal opinion about the nature of the afterlife.

#### Four Stages of mourning:

**Stage 1** (aninut) -Time of death to the burial: the mourner's sole responsibility is caring for the deceased and preparing for the burial. During this time, the mourners are released from all other obligations. This period usually lasts a day or two; Judaism requires prompt burial.

**Stage 2** (*shiva*) - Begins on the day of burial and continues until the morning of the seventh day after burial. Mourners sit on low stools or the floor instead of chairs, do not wear leather shoes, do not shave or cut their hair, do not wear cosmetics, do not work, and do not do things for comfort or pleasure.

**Stage 3** (*shloshim*) – A further period of twenty three days during which life gradually returns to normal. During this period, the mourners do not attend parties or celebrations, do not shave or cut their hair, and do not listen to music.

**Stage 4 (avelut)** – a period of light mourning which lasts until the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> month after the person's death.

# Other material available from Trish Bartlett Resources.

#### Modules of Work Years 7 to 12

Each mod	dule contains
	Lesson plans
	Worksheets
	Overheads
	Assessment Tasks

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Each module is available as a booklet to download from the web site.

#### **KITS**

#### **Survival Kits**

A great resource for the REC: the Kit is comprised of a series of worksheets for the unforeseen absences.

#### **Lenten/Easter Kit**

The Lenten/Easter Kit is a series of modules linked from Year 7 to Year 10. Each module looks at a different aspect of the Lenten / Easter Season thus avoiding repetition over the four years. By Year 10, students will have a more enriched and varied understanding of this season of the Church's calendar.

#### Advent/Christmas Kit

The Advent/Christmas Kit is a series of modules linked from Year 7 to Year 10. Each module looks at a different aspect of the Advent / Christmas Season thus avoiding repetition over the four years. By Year 10, students will have a more enriched and varied understanding of this season of the Church's calendar.

#### A Journey to the Sacred

"A Journey to the Sacred" is a five part series delving into the places of worship of each of the five main Religious Traditions.

Modules of work that complement the

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