

Key Vocabulary

Ceremony	An act carried out in a certain way according to certain rules.
Symbol	When something stands for something else.
Hindus: • Sacred thread ceremony	A ceremony for boys to show that they are considered to be an adult.
Jews: • Bar/bat mitzah	A ceremony for boys and girls to show that they are considered to be an adult.
Christians: • Baptism • First Confession • First Communion	A ceremony: • that welcomes children/adults to the Christian church. • where children say sorry to God. • where children receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Big Question: What does it mean to belong?

Key Learning

The Sacred Thread Ceremony (Upanayana)

The ceremony starts with head shaving, bathing and wearing new clothes. A 'havan' or sacred fire is lit, and a Hindu priest says hymns from the Vedas (a holy book). The guru (often this is the boy's father) whispers a special prayer into the boy's ear. The boy must say it three times every day. It marks the beginning of a religious lifestyle. The boy has a sacred thread draped over his left shoulder. It has 3 strands to remind the boy of his duties to: God, to his ancestors and to his guru.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah

When Jewish boys and girls reach a certain age, they become responsible for their actions and must follow Jewish rules. Many families celebrate this with a special ceremony. This is a Bar Mitzvah for boys and a Bat Mitzvah for girls. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah is a 'rite of passage'. Young Jewish people spend a lot of time preparing for these ceremonies. They read the Torah and learn about their faith. The ceremonies have some differences for boys and girls but both boys and girls usually speak about the important things they have learned about. After the ceremonies, many families have a party or celebration.



First Holy Communion

It is a religious ceremony performed in church by Catholics when a child reaches the age of around 7-8 years and celebrates the first time that they accept the bread and wine (also known as the Eucharist).

