

Topic 4: What Really Matters in the Journey of Life?

★ ——— Aspiring to think deeply about life as a journey, what gives it meaning, and what matters most. ——— ★

1 KEY VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Journey	Life seen as a path with stages.
Rite of Passage	A ceremony marking an important stage in life.
Baptism	A Christian ceremony welcoming someone into the Church.
Confirmation	A public commitment to Christian faith.
Pilgrimage	A journey to a sacred place for religious reasons.
Sacred	Set apart for God or of special religious importance.
Hajj	The Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah.
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	A Jewish coming-of-age ceremony.
Seva	Selfless service in Sikhism.
Moksha	Freedom from the cycle of rebirth in Hindu Dharma.

2 THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

- Many people compare life to a journey with different stages.
- Important life events shape who we are and what we believe.
- Religious traditions mark these events with rites of passage.
- These ceremonies help people feel they belong and are valued.
- Pilgrimage is a special journey with a spiritual purpose.
- Sacred places remind believers of God's presence or important events.

WHY IT MATTERS

The journey of life helps people think about what is important, how they should live, and what gives meaning and purpose to their lives.

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HOW DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS MARK THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

Christianity	Islam	Judaism	Hindu Dharma	Sikhism	Humanism
 • Baptism welcomes people into the Church. • Marriage is a lifelong covenant before God. • Pilgrimage strengthens faith and brings people closer to God.	 • Hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. • Muslims travel to Makkah to worship Allah and show unity. • Hajj reminds Muslims that all believers are equal before Allah.	 • Bar and Bat Mitzvah mark a young person's responsibility for Jewish law. • Pilgrimage to Jerusalem has historic and spiritual importance. • Jewish life is shaped by covenant and obedience to God.	 • Samskaras are rituals that mark life stages. • Pilgrimage to places like the River Ganges shows devotion. • The journey of life is guided by dharma and aims toward moksha.	 • Amrit Sanchar welcomes Sikhs into the Khalsa. • Pilgrimage to Amritsar encourages worship, service and community. • Langat at the Gurdwara teaches equality and seva.	 • Life milestones can be celebrated without religion. • Meaning comes from relationships, achievement and community. • Important places matter because of memories and human impact.
<i>"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them..."</i> Matthew 28:19	<i>"... Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to Allah...."</i> Qur'an 3:97	<i>"These words that I command you today shall be on your hearts."</i> Deuteronomy 6:6	<i>"Whenever righteousness declines..."</i> Bhagavad Gita 4:7	<i>"Recognise the whole human race as one."</i> Guru Gobind Singh	<i>"Be happy while you're living."</i> Humanists UK

4 SACRED PLACES AND PILGRIMAGE

Place	Importance
 Jerusalem	Sacred to Christianity, Judaism and Islam because of Jesus, the Temple, the Western Wall and holy sites in the city.
 Makkah	Birthplace of Islam. The Ka'bah is the holiest site and destination of Hajj.
 Bodh Gaya	The Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. A place of meditation and pilgrimage.
 Varanasi	One of Hinduism's holiest cities. Bathing in the River Ganges brings purification and good karma.
 Amritsar	Home of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) and a centre for Sikh worship and community.

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KEY PEOPLE

	Jesus His life, death and resurrection show God's love. Christians follow his example and teachings. Source: <i>The Bible</i> .
	Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha) Left a life of luxury to find truth about suffering. His journey led to enlightenment and the Four Noble Truths. Source: <i>The Tipitaka</i> .
	Guru Nanak Travelled widely to teach about God, equality and service to others. Founded the Sikh faith. Source: <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> .

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KNOWLEDGE SUMMARY

	Life is often described as a journey with milestones.
	Religious use rites of passage to mark changes and belonging.
	Pilgrimage is a journey that helps believers grow in faith and understanding.
	Sacred places connect believers with God, history and important events.
	Different religions value different sacred places, but all see them as spiritually significant.
	Non-religious people create meaning through relationships, community and personal achievement.

