

Year 7 (Topic 1): Introduction to Religion

Lesson 1: What is Religion?

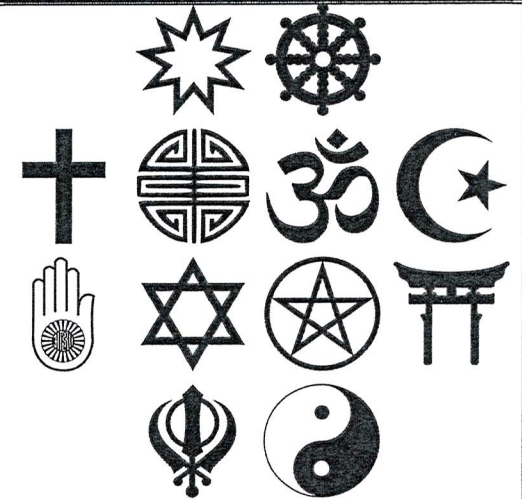
Religion is a set of beliefs and practices centered around questions about the meaning of life, the universe, and our place in it. People follow religions to find answers to these big questions, to connect with a higher power, and to find a sense of community and purpose. Religions often have rituals, moral guidelines, and stories about creation and the afterlife.

Lesson 2: What types of religion are there?

There are many types of religions in the world, each with unique beliefs and practices. Major religions include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. Some religions believe in one god (monotheistic), like Christianity and Islam, while others believe in many gods (polytheistic), like Hinduism. There are also religions that focus more on spiritual practices and philosophies, like Buddhism.

Lesson 3: Why are symbols important?

Symbols are important in religion because they represent key beliefs, ideas, and values. They help people express their faith and connect with their religion on a deeper level. For example, the cross is a symbol of Christianity, representing the sacrifice of Jesus. The crescent moon and star are symbols of Islam, representing guidance and faith. Symbols can be found in religious art, architecture, and rituals, helping to unite believers and pass on traditions.



- **Belief:** Trust in something without needing proof. In religion, beliefs are ideas about God, the universe, and life's purpose.
- **Ritual:** A set of actions done in a specific way for religious reasons, like praying or going to church.
- **Monotheism:** Belief in one God. Religions like Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are monotheistic.
- **Polytheism:** Belief in many gods. Religions like Hinduism are polytheistic.
- **Sacred:** Something holy or very special in religion, like a holy book or place.
- **Prophet:** A person who is believed to speak for God or a god, like Moses or Muhammad.
- **Worship:** Showing respect and love for a god, often through prayers and rituals.
- **Sect:** A group within a religion that has its own beliefs and practices, like Catholicism in Christianity.
- **Faith:** Strong belief in a god or religion, often without needing proof.
- **Scripture:** Sacred writings of a religion, like the Bible or the Quran.
- **Pilgrimage:** A special journey to a holy place for religious reasons, like the Hajj in Islam.
- **Henotheist:** someone who recognises many gods but worships only one
- **Afterlife:** Belief in life after death, where the soul continues to exist.
- **Deity:** A god or goddess. In polytheistic religions, there are many deities.
- **Atheist:** someone who does not believe in a gods/gods/spirits
- **Theist:** someone who believes in a deity
- **Agnostic:** someone who is unsure of belief.