

Notes:

Questions

1. What lessons can Christians learn from the history of the relationship between Jews and Christians?
2. Identify each of the sects of Judaism in the first century and Today:
 - Sadducees
 - Pharisees
 - Essenes
 - Haredi
 - Hasidic
 - Reform Judaism
 - Conservative Judaism
3. How might you use one or more of the Jewish customs and festivals as bridges to share the light of the gospel with Jews?

Comparing Christianity and Judaism

	Christianity	Judaism
	Jesus Christ	Abraham
Scriptures:	The Holy Bible is a collection of canonical books, divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.	<i>Tanakh</i> (Jewish Bible), [The whole of the Old Testament books, but in a different order]
Place of worship:	Church, chapel, cathedral, basilica, home, bible study, personal dwellings.	Synagogues, Western Wall of the Temple in Jerusalem
Concept of Deity:	God is eternally supreme as the creator and preserver of the world. The trinity exists as three beings in one Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. One being three persons. Three persons, one God.	Belief in one God and the teachings of the tradition, prophets, and rabbis.
Practices:	Prayers, sacraments (some branches), worship in church, reading of the Bible, acts of charity, communion.	Prayers are recited three times daily, with a fourth prayer added on <i>Shabbat</i> and holidays. <i>Shacharit</i> prayer in the morning, <i>Mincha</i> in the afternoon, <i>Arvit</i> at night; <i>Musaf</i> is an extra <i>Shabbat</i> service.
Life after death:	Man is appointed to die once and then face judgment. Those who believe live on in heaven, while those who reject God suffer eternity in hell. After the culmination of the events of the Book of Revelation, all believers shall be bodily resurrected.	The concept of the world to come, Reincarnation (in some groups), and uniting with God elicits different opinions and beliefs.
Place of origin:	Israel	Israel
Definition:	Follower of Christ.	Of the tribe of Judah.
Literal Meaning:	Christ means “the anointed” or “Messiah”. A Christian is a believer in Christ. A believer is also referred to as a saint in Protestant branches.	A Jew (Hebrew: יהודים 'yehudim (sl.); Yehudim (pl.); Ladino: ג'ודִיּוֹן, Djudio (sl.); Djudio (pl.); Yiddish: יִידִּין, Yid (sl.); יִדְּנִין, Yidn (pl.) is a member of the Jewish people/ethnicity.

Branches:	Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical, Charismatic, Nondenominational, and many others.	Religious: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Renewal, Reconstruction. Traditions: Sephardi (Spain, Middle East, Turkey). Ashkenazi: (Europe, Russia). Mizrahi: (Iraq, Iran, India).
Time of origin:	Approx. 33 AD.	c 1300 BC
Principle:	God created man. Man sinned and fell under its curse. God redeems sinful man through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Those that He redeems, He regenerates them, and they become 'born-again'.	By accepting the Mosaic Covenant, they chose to follow God's commandments. A unique ethnicity. Early monotheists.
Angels:	Angels are servants of God used as messengers, warriors, and guardians of humanity.	Angels serve God as messengers. The world is full of beings that exist that we cannot see or understand. <i>Kabbalah</i> includes mystical studies of this.
Goal of religion:	To love God and obey his commandments while creating a relationship with Jesus Christ and spreading the Gospel so that others may also be saved.	To celebrate LIFE! To fulfill the Covenant with God. Do good deeds. Help repair the world. Love God with all your heart—strong social justice ethic.
Means of salvation:	Through Christ's death and resurrection. Salvation is by grace, through faith. Not by works, lest anyone boast.	Through belief in God, good deeds, and complete faith.
Human Nature:	Man has inherited 'original sin' from Adam. Mankind, then, is inherently evil and requires forgiveness of sin. By knowing right and wrong, Christians choose their actions. Humans are a fallen, broken race in need of salvation and repair is provided by God through Jesus.	You must choose the good from the bad. You are responsible for your actions, not your thoughts.
Identity of Jesus:	Son of the Living God and Savior of the world. Second Person of the Trinity. Some denominations reject the Trinity.	Simply not part of liturgy. Not mentioned one way or the other.
Population:	Approximately 2.64 Billion.	Approximately 16 million.
Nature of the Messiah	God and Man (the divine Son incarnate)	Fully human leader , not divine; has not yet come ; still future

Second coming of Jesus:	Affirmed, no one knows the date of return, not even Jesus, only the Father.	Not part of liturgy.
Clothes:	Conservative Christians dress modestly (women usually put up their hair, wear dresses below the knees, cover up their tops, and some even cover their heads), men wear dress clothes, and do not show chests, legs, and arms. Liberal Christians reject Prohibitions.	Jews wear skullcaps called <i>kippot</i> , also known as <i>yarmulkes</i> . In prayer, Men over 13 wear shawls, called <i>Tallit</i> , and during morning prayer, leather straps called <i>Tefillin</i> , which awaken the spiritual connection with God. Women cover their heads with a prayer shawl.
About:	Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.	Judaism traces itself back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Law : the 10 Commandments was given to Moses (and 600,000 Jews who left Egyptian slavery) in c 1300 BCE to settle in a land to be known as Israel and follow God's law.
God's role in salvation:	Humans cannot save themselves or ascend to a higher level on their own. Only God is good, and therefore only God can save a person. Jesus came down from Heaven to save mankind. Believers get their name in the Book of Life.	Divine revelation of God's law and to judge man's actions. Good deeds and righteousness. Each New Year, during <i>Yom Kippur</i> , Jews fast and pray for forgiveness from God, and if accepted, are written into the Book of Life for the following year.
Holy days/Official Holidays:	Christmas (birth of Jesus), Good Friday (death of Jesus), Sunday (day of rest), Easter (resurrection of Jesus).	<i>Sabbath, Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Tu BiShvat, Purim, Passover, Lag BaOmer, Shavout</i> , etc.
Marriage:	Marriage is between one man and one woman. Jesus affirms this in Mathew 19:3-9 '...Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'.	Ancient times: unlimited polygamy with concubines. In modern times, monogamy (one man and one woman) has been officially recognized since 1310 AD.
Rites:	Seven sacraments: Baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, penance, anointing of the sick, holy orders, matrimony (Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox). Other denominations have just Baptism and communion.	For a <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> ceremony (13 years old), boys must read from the Torah in front of the congregation and are then considered adults. <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> is a similar ceremony for girls.
Religious Law:	The 10 Commandments and the New Commandment to 'Love one another'.	<i>Halakhah</i> . Ethics. Commandments. 613 <i>mitzvahs</i> to be followed. Charity. Prayer. Rabbinical rulings with minority opinions.

Status of Adam:	God created Adam. Through his fall came sin and death to the human race.	God created Adam. We are born good. No sin transferred
Confessing sins:	Protestants confess sins to God in Jesus' name. Catholics confess mortal sins to a Priest, and venial sins straight to God (Orthodox have a similar practice). Anglicans confess to Priests, but this is considered optional.	In ancient times, there was a sin offering for individuals. Today, people individually repair their sins. On Yom Kippur, they confess sins and ask forgiveness from God. But also, they must ask forgiveness directly from any people they may have wronged.
Day of worship:	Worship should be daily. Many Christians attend church on Sundays, as it is the 1st day of the week. Jesus rose on Sunday and is considered a Day of rest.	Friday at sunset through Saturday sunset is the Sabbath -THE most Holy Day (yes, all 52 of them). Taking time off from work. Many spend the day in contemplation and prayer.
Legislation:	Varies through denomination.	Prerogative of the people
Clergy:	Priests, Monks, Bishops, Pastors, Ministers, President. Depending on the denomination	Ancient times: A hereditary, privileged priestly class — Kohen and Levi. Present day: Religious functionaries like Rabbis, Cantors, Scribes, Mohels.
Original Language(s):	Hebrew, Aramaic, Koine Greek	Hebrew. Every word has a 3-letter root word. Yiddish: part Hebrew, part German/East European language. Sephardic: part Hebrew, part Arabic language.
Promised Holy one.:	Second Coming of Christ	Belief in the Coming of a Messiah.
Goal of Philosophy:	Objective reality. Worship of God, who created life, the universe, and is eternal. Christianity has its philosophy, found in the 66 books of the Bible.	To live a proper and Holy Life. To appreciate Life in every way. To do Good Deeds. To live ethically. To make a choice based on Free Will. Universal Education for every Jew; to study, learn. Read and write.
Jewels:	Faith, Hope, Love, and Charity	Torah, People, Land, Law. Love God.

Sharing the Gospel with Jewish Friends

1. Begin with Common Ground

- **Affirm your shared faith** in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6).
- Express gratitude for the **Hebrew Scriptures (Tanakh)**, which are the foundation of your own faith (Romans 3:1–2).
- Acknowledge Israel's role in God's redemptive plan (Genesis 12:3; Romans 9:4–5).

2. Show Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures

The New Testament illustrates how Jesus fulfills promises and prophecies in the *Tanakh*:

- **Messiah as the promised seed: Genesis 3:15; Fulfilled in Galatians 4:4.**
- **Messiah from David's line: 2 Samuel 7:12–13; fulfilled in Luke 1:31–33.**
- **Suffering Servant: Isaiah 53; fulfilled in 1 Peter 2:24.**
- **New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31–34; fulfilled in Luke 22:20 and Hebrews 8:6–13; 9:14–15.**

This highlights that Jesus is not a “foreign idea” but the **fulfillment of Israel’s Scriptures**.

3. Explain the Need for Atonement

- **In the Torah, sacrifice was required for the forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 17:11).**
- **After the destruction of the Temple (AD 70), no sacrifices could be made—yet the need for atonement remains.**
- **Point to Jesus as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:5–6; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:11–14).**

4. Share the Messiah’s Mission

- Not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it and its purpose (Matthew 5:17).
- To bring salvation not only to Israel but to all nations (Isaiah 49:6; Acts 13:47).
- To inaugurate the kingdom of God through His death and resurrection (Daniel 7:13–14; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

5. Present the Gospel Clearly

- **God loves Israel and the world** (Deuteronomy 7:7–8; John 3:16).
- **We all fall short** (Psalm 14:2–3; Romans 3:23).
- **God provides atonement** through the Messiah (Isaiah 53:10–11; Romans 5:8).
- **Salvation is by faith** in the promised One (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 10:9–10; Galatians 3:11–12; Hebrews 10:38–39).

6. Approach with Gentleness and Respect

- Paul’s pattern was to go **first to the synagogue** (Acts 17:2).
- He reasoned from the Scriptures, **not attacking but explaining** (Acts 18:4).
- Show humility, love, and patience, leaving the work of conviction to the Holy Spirit (John 16:8).

Invite your friend to read passages like Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, or Jeremiah 31, and ask, “Who do you think this describes?” This lets them engage with the text directly.