

What do Jews believe about God and how do they remember these beliefs?

Many Jews treat the name of God with the greatest of respect – no one word or name can sum up everything that God is, so many Jews don't try to limit God in this way, often referring to God as simply 'Hashem', meaning 'The Name' (except when they are praying). Some Jews do not write the name of God out fully, instead they put 'G-d' as a mark of respect, and so that God's name cannot be erased or destroyed.

The actual name of God is considered so sacred by Jews that for a long time it was only ever spoken by the High Priest in the Holy Temple on Yom Kippur – the holiest day of the year. As there has been no Temple or High Priest for hundreds of years, this name has not been uttered for hundreds of years, so its pronunciation has been forgotten.

One of the most important writings in Judaism is **the Shema** - Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

4 "Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart. 7 You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, they are to be as frontlets between your eyes, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Just as we have words around school to remind us about what we consider important (e.g.?), the words about God in the Shema are so important to Jewish people that they also keep them in important places and remember them in a number of ways

Mezuzah



- the paragraph of the Shema is inside it and that many Jews have a tradition of touching or kissing it when entering a room

Tefillin - contains the Shema



Can you match the use of the Tefillin or Mezuzah with the instructions in the Shema?

What words would you put next to the door to remind us of something important?