

The start of life		Significant milestones in childhood	
Christianity	A Christian baby is born into the faith with the ceremony of baptism/christening . This is when a baby is given its Christian name, normally this will happen when babies are just a few weeks or months old. A Christian baby will also be given Godparents . These are two or three relatives or friends who agree to help bring up and care for the baby if the parents cannot.	Christianity	Communion and Confirmation: In many churches, Christian children will confirm their faith when they are 13 years old. They restate the promises made when they were baptised.
Judaism	Any baby born to a Jewish mother is seen as Jewish. Brit Millah (circumcision) is the birth ceremony for baby boys. This ceremony will take place at the home or synagogue. A baby boy will be given his name at this ceremony. Baby girls are given their name and blessed by the Rabbi on the Shabbat after their birth.	Judaism	Bar/Bar Mitzvah: Boys have their Bar mitzvah aged 13 and girls have their Barmitzvah ages 12 or 13. After this ceremony, the child is responsible for following the commandments. The ceremony will take place at a Shabbat service on Saturday morning, the child will read from the Torah scroll and the Rabbi will bless them. After, there will be a party with speeches and a celebratory meal.
Hinduism	On the twelfth day after birth, the naming ceremony takes place. The priest will use Hindu astrology to work out a suitable name. When babies are one year old, a hair cutting ceremony is held.	Hinduism	Sacred thread ceremony: The ceremony takes place at home, the child, aged between 7 – 14, will have the recite a verse from the first Veda in Sanskrit. It is usually only boys who have the ceremony. The priest will give the child three strands of cotton thread that represent three promises: to respect knowledge, his parents and society. The child then puts on the sacred thread and will wear it for the rest of his life. Afterwards, there is a ceremony where people bring gifts for the young man.
Commitment of a loving relationship		Life after death	
Christianity	Getting married and having children is mentioned in the Bible many times and is an important part of Christian life. When two people get married, this is called a wedding . The couple will make vows promising to care and love each other. The Bible is read and hymns are sung, afterwards there is a wedding feast and party.	Christianity	Once a Christian dies, the body is washed, dressed and placed in a coffin. A hearse will take the body to a Church for a funeral service. Christians can be buried or cremated – the body is burnt into ashes. Christians believe death is not the end and the soul of the dead will have a new life with God.
Judaism	The rabbi will lead the wedding under a huppah – a canopy – it can be in the synagogue, at home or outdoors. The huppah stands for the home the couple will make together. The couple will drink from the same blessed cup of wine and it is tradition for the groom to smash a glass under his foot.	Judaism	After the death, the body is washed and wrapped in a shroud. The coffin is made from simple wood to show everyone is equal in God's eye. Jewish funerals are usually held the day after the death. The first week after the death is called Shiva , a time of intense mourning.
Hinduism	For Hindus, it is considered a duty to marry and have children. A sacred place with a canopy is set up, the bride will sit in this sacred place dressed in a red sari. The couple will take seven steps together and make seven wishes whilst the priest recites from the Vedas. The ceremony is followed by a lavish feast.	Hinduism	For Hindus, death is not the end. Life is a cycle and death is a part of this. Their real self passes into a different body. The body is cremated usually on the day of death. It is custom to return a person's ashes to water. After the death, the family will mourn for 10-12 days.
Map of life			
Some believe that religion provides a 'map of life' and indicates to people how they should live their lives. The rites of life including significant milestones such as birth, marriage and death.			