



Religious Conflict

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A clash or struggle
between different
religious groups

Revelation

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The way in which God
chose to make himself
known to human
beings

Roles

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Tasks that people are
expected to perform in
a community

Inspiring Vision

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That which motivates
people to believe in
something





Community

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A group of people
with something in
common

Communication

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Giving and
receiving
information

Co-operation

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Working together
to achieve a
common goal

Sharing

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Giving to
others





Respect

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Valuing
each person

Sacrifice

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Giving up
something for the
good of others

Service

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Doing
something for
others

Vision

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What a community
sees as important or
central to its work





Leadership

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The role of
guiding a
community

Commitment

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To be
dedicated to
something

Authority

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The power given to
an individual or
group to make
important decisions

Church

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A community of
Christian people





Denomination

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A branch of a world religion

Founder

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The person who establishes a community or an organisation for a special purpose

Vocation

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A calling to serve God and others

Sectarianism

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Hatred of someone because of their religious beliefs





Ecumenism

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The attempt that Christians make to understand and respect other denominations

Tolerance

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Respect, acceptance and appreciation of all the differences in our world, including religious differences

Interfaith Dialogue

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Communication and understanding between people from different major world religions

Mission

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Putting religious beliefs into practice





Gospel

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The 'Good News' of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the New Testament

Ministry

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Special duties performed by priests, ministers and lay people to serve God and the Church

Preaching

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To speak out and explain a religious truth and urge people to act on it

Religious Commitment

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The decision to make a sincere effort to put one's religious belief into practice





Messiah

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Means 'the
anointed one'

Messianic Expectation

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The Jewish people
awaited a Messiah
to liberate them
from Roman Rule

Ancient Judaism

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The history and
culture of the Jewish
people at the time of
Jesus

Transformation

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A complete change
in the appearance
and nature of Jesus
after the resurrection





Conflict with Authority

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A clash or struggle with people in power

Discipleship

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Following Jesus and his teaching

Sacrifice

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Giving up something for the sake of others

Eucharist

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A thanksgiving meal which is celebrated by Christians, it is one of the sacraments in the Catholic Church





Evangelist

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Someone of deep faith who preaches the good news

Kingdom of God

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A way of living based on Jesus' message of truth, justice, peace and love

Martyrdom

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A willingness to suffer and die for one's beliefs

Miracle

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An amazing event performed by Jesus that showed the power of God





Pentecost

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The day the apostles received the Holy Spirit and began spreading the message of Jesus

Passover

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A Jewish festival to celebrate the Exodus

Table Fellowship

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The way Jesus shared meals with everyone to show the Kingdom of God is open to all

Parable

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A short story told by Jesus to teach people about the Kingdom of God





Missionary

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One who is sent on a journey to spread the Gospel by preaching or by example

Resurrection

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The central Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after he was crucified

The Holy Land

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A name for Palestine, the country where Jesus was born

People of God

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Those who believe in God and try to carry out his will





Allah

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The name given to God in the Islamic faith

Caliph

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The chief Muslim civil and religious leader

Five Pillars of Faith

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- Shahadah (Creed)
- Salah (Prayer)
- Zakah (Charity)
- Sawm (Fasting)
- Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Hafiz

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A person who can recite the entire Qur'an





Hajj

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A pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim should make once in their lifetime, if they are able

Halal

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Meat that has been prepared in a certain way, so as to allow all the blood to drain out of the animal

Haram

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Things that are forbidden in Islam

Hijra

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The event where Muhammad and the Muslims left Mecca, it marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar





Pilgrims

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People who have made a special journey for religious reasons

Pilgrimage

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A journey made by a pilgrim to a shrine or a sacred place

Prophet

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A person called by God to receive an important message and preach it to the people

Qur'an

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The sacred text of Islam, which Muslims believe is the word of Allah





Ramadan

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The month of
fasting in Islam

Rite of Passage

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The events used to
mark a person's
journey through life

Kaaba

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A holy shrine
located in
Mecca

Eid-al-Fitr

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A festival celebrated
by Muslims to thank
Allah for supporting
them during Ramadan





Buddha

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A name that means
“Enlightened One” and
which was given to
Siddhartha Gautama by
his followers

Buddhist

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Someone who takes
refuge in the Buddha,
in his teachings and in
the Sangha

Middle Way

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The theory that people can
find happiness in a life lived
between extreme luxury
and extreme hardship

The
Abhidhamma

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The main teachings
of the Middle Way
and the Four Noble
Truths





Relic

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An object that belonged to a holy person, which is kept and treated as holy after their death

Sangha

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A community of monks and nuns founded by the Buddha

Siddhartha Gautama

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The man who founded the religion of Buddhism

Stupa/ Pagoda

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A monument in a temple which holds the relics of the Buddha of the temple





The Eightfold Path

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The Buddhist way of life

The Four Noble Truths

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- Dukhta
- Samudaya
- Magga
- Nirvana

Tripitaka

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The sacred writings of Buddhism, which mean “Three Baskets”

The Vinaya

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Discipline involving rules for nuns and monks on how to live like the Buddha





Ark

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A special cupboard in the synagogue where the scrolls of the Torah are kept

Bar Mitzvah

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A ritual that occurs when a Jewish boy is seen as an adult in his faith

Bimah

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This is the raised platform in the synagogue from where the Torah and prayers are read

Covenant

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A special agreement between God and his people





Diaspora

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The scattering of Jews from Israel after it was taken over by Romans

Hebrews

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The name by which the Jewish people were known when they lived in Israel before the birth of Jerusalem

Kaddish

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A special prayer for mourning said by Jewish people

Kiddushin

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The Hebrew name for marriage





Kosher Food

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Food that is clean,
pure and meat that is
slaughtered in a
certain way

Monotheistic

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A religion in which
people believe and
worship only one
God

Ner Tamid

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A light that always hangs above
the ark in the synagogue, it is
constantly lit and symbolises the
everlasting covenant with God

Orthodox
Jews

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Jews that are very
traditional and follow
the Torah closely





Patriarch

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A founding
father

Persecution

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Making people
suffer because
of their religion

Promised
Land

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The place in Canaan
chosen by God, which
was to be the home of
the Jewish people

Rabbi

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A religious leader in
the Jewish faith,
also called a scribe





Shema

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The most
important prayer
in Judaism

Synagogue

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Jewish place of
worship

Tenakh

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The name Jewish
people give to
the Hebrew Bible

The
Holocaust

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The extermination of
Jews by Hitler and Nazi
Germany between 1933
and 1945





The Wailing Wall or Western Wall

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The most sacred place for Jews,
it is the last remaining wall of
the temple built for Jews in
Jerusalem, which was destroyed
by the Romans

Reform Judaism

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Jews who do not
follow the same
strict laws as
Orthodox Jews

The Talmund

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The text that helps
people apply the old
Jewish laws to new
problems

The Mishnah

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The text that gives
instructions on issues
such as legal matters
and marriage





Tallit

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A prayer robe or shawl worn by most Jewish males when they pray

Passover

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The festival celebrated for one week in spring to celebrate the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt

The Kippah

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A cap worn by Jews for prayer

Menorah

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A seven-branched or nine-branched candlestick





Arranged
Marriage

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When parents plan for their son or daughter to marry someone that they choose to be suitable

Brahman

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The supreme soul or spirit that Hindus believe in and which has no form

Creed

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A summing up of what the followers of a religion believe in

Dharma

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The Hindu belief to always do what is right and correct





Garbagriha

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The shrine room
where the statue of
the God or Goddess is
kept

Guru

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A spiritual
adviser in
Hinduism

Karma

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The belief that when you do
good, good will come your
way and when you do bad,
bad will follow you

Puja

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The Hindu word
for worship





River
Ganges

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A river held
sacred by
Hindus

Samsara

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The cycle of birth
and rebirth, also
called reincarnation

Upanishads

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An important Hindu
sacred text that
contains stories and
parables

Vedas

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The oldest Hindu sacred
texts consisting of four
collections of prayers,
hymns and magic spells





Yantra

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A design that helps Hindus to pray

Mantra

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A phrase given to Hindus by a spiritual guru that they use over and over again during meditation

Polytheistic

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A religion in which people believe and worship many Gods

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Agnosticism

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The view that people cannot know for certain whether or not God exists

Atheism

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A view that denies the existence of God

Awe and wonder

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Feelings inspired by mysterious aspects of life

Childhood faith

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A simple trust in God and an acceptance of one's parents' faith





Experiencing God

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Being aware of
God's mysterious
presence

Fundamentalism

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The view that a sacred
text is a factual
account to be taken
literally

Humanism

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A belief system that
rejects religion and
makes sense of life
through human reasons
alone

Materialism

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The view that
only material
things are real





Mature Faith

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A close relationship with God and an active commitment to one's faith

Personal Faith

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A person's own religious beliefs and response to God

Prayer

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The way people of faith communicate with God

Reflection

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Thinking deeply about certain aspects of life





Religious Belief

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A set of ideas about God that people accept as true

Religious Practice

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The things people do to express their religious beliefs

Secularism

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The view that religion should have no direct influence on society

Stages of Faith

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The development of a person's relationship with God from childhood faith to mature faith





World View

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A set of ideas about what the world is like

Worship

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The way people praise and honour God in prayer and at religious services

Adolescent Faith

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A challenging stage of our faith development when we ask many questions

Schism

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A divide or a split within a community or religion





Actions of Significance

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Actions that have a special meaning for people

Celebration

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A religious ceremony performed in public for a community of faith

Communal Prayer

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Praying to God with others as a community

Contemplation

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A form of deep silent prayer that does not use words or thoughts





Encountering Mystery

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Connecting with something mysterious that is beyond human comprehension

Icon

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A sacred image used as an aid to pray mainly in the Orthodox Churches

Identity

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The distinct characteristics by which a person or group is recognised

Meditation

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A form of silent prayer based on the use of an icon, a repeated word or a passage from scripture





Participation

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Being actively involved in an act of worship

Penitence

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Prayer admitting to wrongdoing and asking God for forgiveness

Personal Prayer

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Praying to God by oneself

Petition

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Prayer asking God for help with one's own needs or the needs of others





Places of Significance

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Places or buildings that have a special meaning for people

Praise and Thanksgiving

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Prayer to praise and thank God for blessings already received

Ritual

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An occasion when people use symbolic objects, words and actions to express what is deeply important to them

Sacrament

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A religious ceremony in which participants receive the grace of God





Sign

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Something that communicates a brief message or a piece of information

Symbol

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Something visible, representing something invisible that is difficult to put into words

Times of Significance

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Times of the year that have a special meaning for people

Wonder

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A feeling inspired by some mysterious aspect of life





Action and
Consequence

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What people do and
the effect it can
have on themselves
and others

Choice

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Looking at different
options in a situation
and selecting one

Civil Law

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The rules of a country,
which are put in place
by those in charge

Conscience

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The ability to know
and judge what is
right and wrong in a
particular situation





Constitution

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A document outlining the fundamental political principles by which a state is governed

Decision-making

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The process of making up one's mind about moral issues

Forgiveness

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To have pity and be willing to excuse someone's mistake

Freedom

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The liberty to say, do or think what one wants





Influence

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Something that shapes or affects a person's behaviour

Integrity

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Being upright and honest and sticking to one's moral principles

Judgement

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The belief that, in the end, God will judge each person on their moral behaviour

Justice

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To treat all people fairly and respect their rights





Laws

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Codes of behaviour
enforced by the
state

Libertarianism

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The view that people
should be free to behave
as they choose, without
interference from the
state

Morality

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A set of principles to
help us know the
difference between right
and wrong behaviour

Moral Growth

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The process by which
people learn to distinguish
right from wrong and then
to do what is right





Moral Maturity

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The stage beyond self-interest where people take the needs of others into account when making moral decisions

Moral Vision

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An awareness of what is right and wrong

Peace

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Harmony between people instead of disorder or conflict

Pluralism

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The view that all groups in society must have equal representation





Reconciliation

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Making the effort to heal and restore a broken relationship

Religious Fundamentalism

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The view that the laws of a state should be based on the moral laws of its dominant religion

Religious Moral Vision

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An awareness of what is right and wrong shaped by religious beliefs

Respect

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To have a high regard for someone or something





Sin

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An act that damages a person's relationship with God and others

Society

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The entire web of relationships that binds communities together

Stewardship

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The way people care for the Earth on behalf of God

Tradition

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Religious belief and practice handed down from generation to generation

