

Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 9

Topic: Women in Religion
Half Term: Summer One



Key Terms

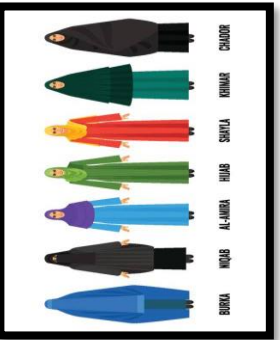
The immaculate conception	The belief that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin, and she was therefore the immaculate conception.
Monk	A member of a religious community of men who live a certain way due to their religion.
Nun	A member of a religious community of women who live a certain way due to their religion.
Night of Power	The night that Prophet Muhammed was visited by the Angel Jibril and told the words of the Qur'an.
Qur'an	The Muslim holy book.
Haj	A pilgrimage to Mecca. It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and all Muslims should do this.
Gender equality	This means that gender does not affect opportunities or cause different treatment.
Deity	A god or supernatural being in human or animal form.
Tridevi	Three Hindu goddesses.

The two most important female figures in Christianity are Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary. Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus. She witnesses the resurrection of Jesus and tells his other disciples. She was previously considered to be a prostitute, however this representation of her is now considered to be wrong. The Virgin Mary is also hugely important, especially to Catholics, who pray to her to speak to God for them. She is believed to be the mother of God, and free from sin.



There are differences in views about the role of women within Christianity. For example, the Protestant Church allows women to be priests, but the Catholic Church does not, however both men and women can devote their lives to God by becoming a nun or monk. Some Christians believe that men and women are different and therefore should have different roles and responsibilities, both in the Church and in wider life, however other Christians believe that men and women were made equally.

Khadija is a hugely important figure in Islam, with some Muslims calling her "The mother of believers." She was Prophet Muhammed's first wife, and is believed to be the first Muslim. After the Night of Power, she was the first person to believe Prophet Muhammed and become a Muslim. As a successful, independent business woman, she also financially supported Prophet Muhammed to be able to complete his religious work. Khadija and Muhammed were married monogamously for 25 years.



In Islam, both men and women are required to dress modestly. However, Muslim women have special clothes which they sometimes choose to wear in order to protect their modesty. Many Muslim women wear a hijab or veil to protect their modesty. Not all Muslim women choose to do this. In the UK this is matter of choice. Islam teaches that men and women are equal in the eyes of Allah - they are individually accountable for their actions, and will be judged equally by Allah. However, it is believed that men and women are not the same, and that they have different purposes. Traditionally, it is believed that it is up to the man to provide for his family financially while it is the woman's responsibility to look after the home and family. With the exception of the pilgrimage to Haj, men and women are also expected to worship separately.

Buddhism teaches that men and women are equally capable of achieving enlightenment, and so should be given the same opportunities. The role of women in Hinduism varies and has changed greatly over time, with modern Hindu communities accepting that men and women have equal worth. There are several female deities - the Tridevi. These are Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati.



Suggested Reading

- The Quiet at the End of the World* Lauren James

