Mitzvah

מִצְוָה

Why are good deeds so important to Jewish families?

RE · Year 1/2 · Judaism · Engage

Do you remember...?

How many Gods do Jewish people believe in?	**One God**
What is the Jewish holy book called?	**The Torah**
Where do Jewish people meet to pray?	**The synagogue**
What is the weekly day of rest called?	**Shabbat**

Today we are learning...

Why is learning to do good deeds so important to Jewish families?

- ✔ I can say what a good deed is.
- ✔ I can say and spell the Jewish word mitzvah.
- ✔ I can think of good deeds Zoe could do for her Gran.

What is a good deed?

A good deed is…
…something kind that helps someone else.



Draw or write a good deed on your whiteboard!

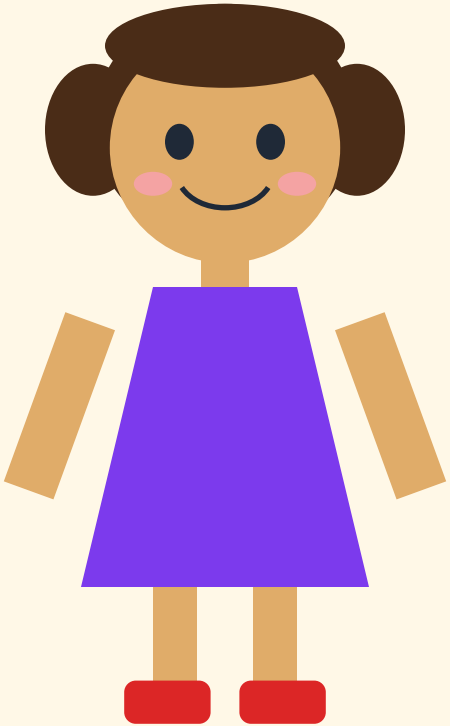
Good deed or not?

Helping a friend who fell over	Snatching a toy	Sharing your snack	Pushing in the line
Helping to tidy up	Calling someone names	Making a card for someone who is poorly	Saying thank you

Sorted! Good deeds and not good deeds

Good deed	Not a good deed
Helping a friend who fell over	Snatching a toy
Sharing your snack	Pushing in the line
Helping to tidy up	Calling someone names
Making a card for someone who is poorly	
Saying thank you	

Meet Zoe!

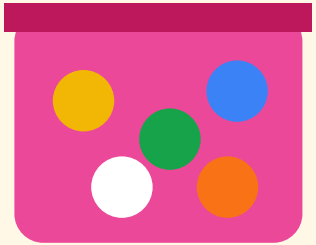


Shalom! I'm Zoe. My family is Jewish.

Zoe has brought her backpack to school today...

What's in Zoe's backpack?







I wonder who these are for? Is it Gran's birthday? What else could it be?

There's a note for us!

Hello everyone! Zoe here.

Gran is not very well so I have made a get-well card for her and I bought something at the shop to help her feel better. Mum was pleased with me because I thought up this good deed for Gran all on my own.

Our family is Jewish and good deeds are very important to us. Good deeds make the world a better place! That's what my mum says.



Role play: Zoe visits Gran







★ What will Zoe say when she gives Gran the card?

★ How does Gran feel? What does she say?

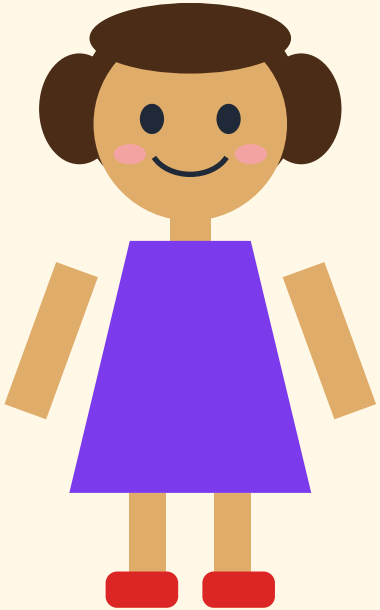
★ How does Zoe feel afterwards?

Wait... there's a P.S.!

P.S. Gran was very pleased to see me. She loved the card and the present. It made her feel a bit better.

Gran said thank you to me and then she said, "It's a mitzvah to visit the sick. It's not just a good deed. It's one of God's ideas, his rules."

It made me feel good inside. I belong to the Jewish people, and visiting the sick is one of the good deeds God has given his people to do.



Say it... spell it!

M I T Z V A H

mitzvah = a good deed that God asks Jewish people to do

More than one? **MITZVOT**

Let's think of a LOT of mitzvot!

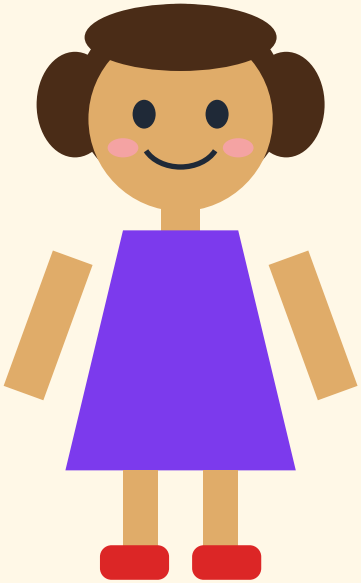
Let's wonder...

Why does doing a mitzvah make Zoe feel she belongs?

Visiting the sick is a mitzvah for Jewish people. Should it be for everyone?

Is visiting always a good idea? What if Gran is too poorly, or you are grumpy?

Thinking pairs: more mitzvot for Gran



What other good deeds (mitzvot) could Zoe do for her Gran?

1. With a partner, draw or write 3 ideas on your whiteboard.
2. Join another pair. Share your ideas in a group of 4.
3. Choose ONE idea for your group to act out.

Act it out: spot the mitzvah!

Zoe | Gran | Mum | Narrator

Actors: Think hard about what Gran would say back to Zoe.

Audience: Watch carefully. What good deed did you spot?

📷 Your teacher will take photos for our MITZVAH display!



Why are good deeds so important to Jewish families?

A mitzvah is…

Good deeds are important to Jewish people because…

Can you do a mitzvah for someone this week? Shalom!

Teacher page: lesson plan (50 mins)

Time	Section	Slides
0–5	Shalom, recap of last lesson, objective	1–3
5–12	What is a good deed? Whiteboards, then sort the deeds	4–6
12–20	Meet Zoe, look in the backpack, read Zoe's note	7–9
20–27	Role play: Zoe, Mum and Gran on the visit	10
27–33	The P.S.: say and spell MITZVAH / MITZVOT, wonder questions	11–13
33–37	Thinking pairs: 3 more mitzvot for Gran, share in fours, choose one	14
37–47	Prepare and perform good-deed role plays; class spots the mitzvah; take photos	15
47–50	Plenary: sentence stems, 'I can' check, Shalom	16

Resources: backpack with sweets or a cake, an envelope marked GRAN, and Zoe's note and P.S. (print slides 9 and 11) · whiteboards · deed cards (next slide) · giant MITZVAH letters · camera.
Short of time? Make the get-well cards in a separate session. Zoe comes from 'My Jewish Faith'. Any suitable Jewish child character works.
Based on the Emmanuel Project Judaism unit (ENGAGE), © 2020 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

Printable deed cards: cut out for sorting

Helping a friend who fell over	Snatching a toy	Sharing your snack	Pushing in the line
Helping to tidy up	Calling someone names	Making a card for someone who is poorly	Saying thank you