

How far does it make a difference if you believe in life after death?
Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People	
Christians	Followers of God who believe that Jesus of Nazareth's death means their souls can exist with God after they die.
Muslims	Followers of God who believe that by following instructions passed on by Muhammad of Mecca their souls can exist with God after they die. Their religion is called Islam .
Humanists	People who don't believe in any god or afterlife, and say people should act so that everyone can enjoy the one life they have.
Sikhs	Followers of God who believe that living according to the Gurus' teachings will result in joining with God.
Hindus	Followers of God/ Brahman/ The Ultimate Reality who try to connect with it by focusing on a minor god or goddess.
Buddhists	Followers of teachings given by The Buddha that they say can lead to the end of suffering.

2. You need to know...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are different reasons why many people believe in life after death. These reasons include believing in religious teachings, having religious and near-death experiences and wanting justice to offset an unjust world
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the New Testament (the second part of the Christian Bible) Saint Paul says that believing in Jesus' resurrection is what makes someone a Christian Christianity and Islam share a belief in a Day of Judgement, when God will decide which people can be resurrected and be with God for ever For many Muslims, belief, actions and intentions in this life are important for the outcome of the Day of Judgement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sikhism teaches that people should move from being self-centred (manmukh) to being God-centred (gurmukh) Hinduism and Sikhism teach that through reincarnation, humans need many chances to learn how to get close to God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddhism doesn't have a teaching about a god. It also teaches that we don't have a permanent soul. Many Buddhists feel that acting with the right intentions helps people let go of self-centredness, which causes suffering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanists say that there is no evidence for life after death Humanists think the lack of an afterlife is a reason to make the most of this life

3. Key vocabulary	
afterlife	Having a life after death.
resurrection	A body and a soul coming back to life together.
reincarnation	A soul entering a new body, to physically live again.
judgement	A decision made by a god about whether a soul can go to Heaven or not.
rebirth	Either when a soul is reincarnated or when some parts of a being's consciousness and their karmic energy become part of a new life.
akhirah	Arabic for "the hereafter".

4. Concepts	
Living a Good Life	self/spirit/consciousness 
Ultimate Questions	afterlife 

5. Contexts
The Tanakh (the Jewish Bible or Christian Old Testament) has little to say about an afterlife. However, there's a lot about it in the New Testament and the Koran . Even though Jesus was Jewish, he had a lot to say about Heaven and Hell and is even said to have been tempted by the Devil before he started preaching his message.
Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism share some important ideas- karma, rebirth, samsara and freedom from samsara