

**LO : I can
describe the
ceremonies of
Bar Mitzvah and
Bat Mitzvah**

What is Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah?



- Move from being a child to being an adult.
- Judaism says a boy is a "bar mitzvah" when he turns 13 and a girl becomes "bat mitzvah" when she turns 12.
- The child is now responsible for what they do. If they do anything wrong, it is their fault and not their parents'.



- The children must now make sure that they follow the Jewish laws.
- No ceremony is needed to celebrate this but many people choose to have a special party.

What happens in the service?

- On the shabbat following his thirteenth birthday a Jewish boy is called up in front of the congregation (the people) in the synagogue to read a passage from the Torah in Hebrew (quite a long one sometimes!).
- He also usually makes a speech, which traditionally begins with the phrase "today I am a man."



- His father traditionally says a blessing thanking God that he is not responsible for his son's sins any more (because his son is old enough to be held responsible for himself).
- These days, the religious service is followed by a party that is often as fancy as a wedding reception.



Bat Mitzvah



- In some parts of the Jewish church, women are not allowed to join in religious services, so a bat mitzvah, if celebrated at all, is usually little more than a party.
- In other parts of Judaism, the girls do exactly the same thing as the boys.