

Jehovah's Witnesses

1. Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jehovah's Witnesses form a Christian-based religious movement. The denomination was founded in the USA at the end of the 19th century.▪ God is called by the Old Testament name "Jehovah".
2. Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ There are over 8 million active Witnesses in over 230 countries in the world (2016). The website, jw.org, is currently translated into 979 languages.
3. Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beliefs are based on the Bible. The 66 books are considered to be divinely inspired and historically accurate.▪ A degree of separation from non-believers is maintained.▪ Neither Christmas nor Easter is celebrated because they are believed to be based on pagan customs.▪ Humanity is believed to be in the 'last days' and God will act to destroy wickedness before 144,000 people will rule along with Christ in the heavenly Kingdom. Billions of others, including resurrected ones, will enjoy paradise on earth.▪ Jesus is believed to be a son of God though not divine.
4. Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jehovah's Witnesses usually believe abortion is wrong and avoid surrogate motherhood as well as any procedures that involve the use of donated sperm, eggs, or embryos.▪ Babies are not baptised.



5. Prayer & Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Witnesses will send their children to secular schools but discourage participation in university education for its own sake. ▪ They also refuse military service, voting in elections, and taking part in celebrations like birthdays. ▪ All who are physically capable of doing so engage in various forms of missionary work, highlighting the “good news” from the Bible. ▪ <i>The Watchtower</i> is one of the Witnesses’ publications, and is their primary Bible study aid.
6. Diet & Fasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jehovah’s Witnesses avoid eating the flesh of animals that have not been properly bled because they believe it is wrong to eat blood. ▪ They do not smoke or use tobacco.
7. Clothing & Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modesty would be normal. Men are usually clean shaven.
8. Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They are usually willing to receive medical care, with the exception of allogeneic blood component support (red cells, white cells, plasma, and platelets) and autologous pre-deposit (PAD). In all other areas, (such as other autologous procedures, and whether to accept plasma derivatives) each individual Witness makes a personal decision. ▪ Doctors generally consider that respect for patient autonomy requires that these wishes be respected. There are also sound legal reasons for this; to administer blood in the face of refusal by a patient may be unlawful and could lead to criminal and/or civil proceedings.
9. Care of the Dying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Death is looked upon as a sleep-like condition from which there will eventually be a resurrection, and hence not something to be feared. ▪ The presence of one of the congregation elders (ministers), along with other fellow Witnesses, is usually requested and appreciated. Any Witnesses present will endeavour to be respectful of non-Witness family and their wishes. ▪ There is no “last rites” service.



10. Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Donating organs or tissue for transplantation or research is a matter for personal choice.▪ There is no objection to post-mortems, though family permission should be obtained.▪ There is no particular preference for burial or cremation and usually.
11. Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The chaplaincy department has a local contact number for obtaining further advice and support.

See the Appendices for further information about the Jehovah's Witnesses

