

KS3 RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 9 - Amish

Key questions

- Who are the Amish? Where do they mainly live?
- How do the Amish live their lives?
- How do the Amish not conform to the modern world? Why do they do this?
- How do the Amish live as a community? Why do they live that way?
- What are the gender roles in Amish families? Why?
- How does the Bible support the Amish lifestyle?
- Why do most Christians not live like the Amish do? How does the Bible support a different way of life?

Key words

- Amish
- shun
- conform
- modern
- society
- collectivism
- individualism
- patriarchy
- patriarchal
- gender
- equality

Key concepts

- The Amish are a group of Christians that live by the rules in the Bible very strictly.
- The Bible says: “Do not be conformed to this modern world.” For the Amish, this means that they reject modern technology like electricity, mobile phones and the internet.
- Not being conformed also means acting different to other people too, for example: the Amish will always show forgiveness, as Jesus said: “Turn the other cheek.” They will never fight back or use violence.
- For the Amish, it is important to, “Love your neighbour.” To show this, the Amish help their family, friends and community for free.
- An example of this is barn raising, where the whole Amish community will come together to build a barn for someone, for free.
- Amish families run on traditional gender roles; husbands are the head of the household, wives are expected to support the husband by cleaning, cooking and looking after the children.
- This is known as a patriarchal family structure.
- This is because, in Genesis (the first book of the Bible), Eve is created to support Adam: “It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him.” She is his “helper”.
- Also, the Bible says: “If you are a wife, you just put your husband first.”
- However, other Christians believe that men and women should be treated completely equally and do the same roles. This is because both men and women are created by God: “God created humans in his image, male and female he created them.”

