

## Some Important Ideas in Judaism

Jewish people believe that:

- there is only one God;
- God is:
  - eternal
  - omnipotent (means: *all powerful*)
  - good
  - just
  - merciful
- God created the world and everything in it. The world is God's;
- people should care for God's world and everything in it. Being a good Jew, means helping to make the world a better place. An important phrase in Judaism is **Tikkun Olum**, which means "healing the world";
- life is God's creation, so life is sacred;
- people are not perfect; only God is perfect;
- God chose the Jews to be an example to the world of how to live a good life;
- the Torah is God's way of telling Jews how to live a good life;
- the Torah tells Jewish people about what is right and what is wrong and about how they should behave towards God and towards other people;
- they should try to understand, what God wants and then do it;
- they can only understand what God wants by studying Torah and discussing it with other people. Study is really important for Jews.

A great rabbi once tried to explain simply what he thought the Torah is about. He said, **"What is hateful to yourself, do not do to others; the rest is explanation."**

Talk to your partner or group about these ideas. Which ones do you think are most important? Can you put them in order of importance? (Use a pencil and number them).