

# Jesus the Jew

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Taken from *Learning Links to Jesus. Teacher Resources for the religion classroom.*  
Maurice Ryan and Jan Grajczonek. Lumino Press Brisbane 2008 p. 10

The gospels portray Jesus as an observant Jew layman. The following information is contained in the gospels:

- Born of a Jewish mother named Miriam (Mary) in honour of Moses' sister (Luke 2)
- Was born during a census (Luke 2:1) in accordance with the prediction in Psalm 87.
- His Jewish name was Yeshua (Jesus) in honour of Joshua, a conquering hero leader of the Jewish people after Moses.
- Was circumcised on the eighth day (Luke 2:21) and presented in the Temple (Luke 2:22-24)
- According to Jewish law (Genesis 17)
- Was wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:7) in accordance with the Wisdom of Solomon 7:1-6 which described the way that Jewish kings were born.
- Was presented in the Temple (Luke 2:22-24) in accordance with the Torah's directive (Exodus 13: 1) to present the first born to God.
- Extolled respect for the Jewish law (Matthew 5: 17-20)
- Wore fringed clothing (Luke 8:44) according to the practice of observant Jews who maintained loyalty and fidelity to the covenant (Numbers 15:37-41)
- Had Jewish friends and followers.
- Travelled to the Temple in Jerusalem for the major pilgrimage festivals.
- Studied and recited Jewish scriptures (Luke 4).
- Often taught in synagogues (Matthew 4; 23;9;35; Luke 4;14-18; John 18:20) and in the Temple in Jerusalem (John 18:20)
- Shared a common belief in some teachings with other Jewish groups, such as the Pharisees: resurrection of the body, alms-giving, prayer, fasting, and the practice of addressing God as Father. He praised Pharisees (Mark 12:34) and shared meals with the Pharisees (Luke 7:36)
- Was buried according to Jewish custom (Mark 16)