



DISCUSSION 1

To the Discussion Leader:

These are prompts for discussion. Be open and listen for related topics that emerge from your group.

After viewing the film, use this guide to explore the topics of peace, tolerance, and co-existence.

Towards a Pedagogy of Peace & Co-existence: Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and the Dalai Lama

In NOT IN GOD'S NAME, eight* faiths presented, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism, have precepts of non-violence and a respect for all life. How do we transform a legacy of compassion to a culture of co-existence?

** Please note: 7 faiths in film, 1 faith in DVD Extras*

Use this DISCUSSION GUIDE to:

Discuss the issues that separate us.

Explore how adopting a practice of compassion and respect for all living beings would help you be a better global citizen.

When we think of the great peacemakers of our times (men and women who have stood for truth, compassion, and justice), a few names come to mind: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and the Dalai Lama. Each used the principles of compassion, peace, and non-violence as a strategy for political and social change. The religions in the film all share the common value of respect for all human life and compassion, yet violence persists. Using the RELIGIONS PRIMER, look closer at the similarities between these principles.

Discuss:

What do all the religions have in common?

How do they state the idea of compassion and respect for all living things?

How do their ideas compare to your idea of respect for all living things?

Consider these quotes from the Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King, and Mahatma Gandhi:

*"True compassion is not just an emotional response but a firm commitment founded on reason...
...So if we truly wish to learn, we should consider enemies to be our best teacher! For a person who cherishes compassion and love, the practice of tolerance is essential, and for that, an enemy is indispensable. So we should feel grateful to our enemies, for it is they who can best help us develop a tranquil mind! Also, it is often the case in both personal and public life, that with a change in circumstances, enemies become friends."*

— **Compassion and the Individual - Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama**

"At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

— **Speech in St. Louis, Missouri, March 22, 1964 - Martin Luther King**

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.'"

— **I Have a Dream Speech, August 28, 1963 - Martin Luther King**

"It is necessary to revive the eternal law of answering anger by love and of violence by non-violence..."

— **Mahatma Gandhi**

Discuss the quotes in practical terms. List ways you can apply these principles in daily life.

View the film clip "Respect" from the educational extras on the NOT IN GOD'S NAME DVD.

Discuss the difference between tolerance and co-existence.

Can tolerance lead to co-existence? How?

Extending the experience further:

- Use the IN YOUR COMMUNITY list to locate Indian resources near you.
- Visit a local temple or place of worship.
- Attend a performance or festival.

In the RESOURCES guide, there are Internet sites that identify temples and places of worship in your community.

Explore the websites for various religious communities. There are also sites that list festivals, community performances, and events.

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