**Sample 1 Some Thoughts on Peace from Religious Traditions**

1. Prior to viewing the statements have the class develop a list of what they think the major religious traditions say about peace.
2. Then view the statements below on overhead/powerpoint
3. Compare the two sets of information.
4. Use this as a basis for approaching the forum task: Does religion have a role in achieving personal and global peace in the 21st Century?

Further texts from a range of religious traditions can be found at: <http://www.unification.net/ws/theme074.htm>

A range of peace quotes that would be useful discussion starters at: <http://www.salsa.net/peace/quotes.html>

**Buddhism:**

The First of the Five Precepts: ‘I abstain from harming all sentient beings’

Hatred is never appeased by hatred. Hatred is only appeased by love. This is the eternal law.

*Pali Dhammapada v.5*

**Christianity:**

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’  *Matthew 5:9*

Whoever claims to be in light

but hates his brother

is still in darkness.

Anyone who loves his brother

remains in light.

Whoever hates his brother

is walking about in darkness

not knowing where he is going,

because darkness has blinded him.  *1 John 2:10-11*

**Hinduism:**

'This is the sum of duty: do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.'  
 *Mahabharata 5:1517*

‘And when a man sees that the God in himself is the same God in all that is, he hurts not himself by hurting others: then he goes indeed to the highest Path’

*Bhagavad Gita 13:28*

**Islam:**

‘And the servants of the Beneficent God are they who walk on the earth in humbleness, and when the ignorant address them, they say, ‘Peace’  *Qur’an 25:63*

‘O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do?

Great is hatred in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do.’  *Qur’an 61:2-3*

**Judaism:**

‘Thou shalt not kill’ *Exodus 20:13*

‘The Lord has told you what is good. What is required of you is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God’ *Micah 6:8*

**Sample 2**

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When you ‘investigate the understanding of peace and how it is informed through significant writings within sacred texts for TWO religious traditions’ refer to the work done in the Preliminary course on ethics. The foundations for teachings on peace will generally find their basis in the ethical teachings of a religious tradition.

In conjunction with this the following article on ‘the golden rule’ (which would provide a useful link to the Norman Rockwell image if it was used at the start of this unity) may be useful for discussion:

Everyday ethics: Could golden rule bring world peace?

The golden rule isn't always as simple as it appears.

http://www.startribune.com/614/story/511333.html

**Sample 3 Further examples from the sacred texts of Christianity and Islam**

**Christianity:**

Source: <http://iskandar.com/waleed911/peaceinthebible.html>

Please note that only New Testament references as per the Syllabus have been included here. Any references to Hebrew texts should be made in light of the usage in the New Testament, for example, Jesus’ recitation of the Isaiah text in Luke 4.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." - Galatians 5:22  
  
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." - Matthew 5:9  
  
"...be at **peace** with one another." - Mark 9:49  
  
"Now the God of **peace** be with you all. " - Romans 15:33   
  
"Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:3   
  
"For God is not the author of confusion, but of **peace**, as in all churches of the saints."

1 Corinthians 14:33   
  
"Grace be to you and **peace** from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ," Galatians 1:3   
  
"And let the **peace** of God rule in your hearts, to which you are also called in one body; and be you thankful." - Colossians 3:15  
  
"Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of **peace** shall be with you." - Philippians 4:9  
  
"Grace unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:2   
  
"Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and **peace**, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." - 1 Timothy 1:2  
  
"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in **peace** of them that make peace." James 3:18  
  
"Grace and **peace** be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord," 2 Peter 1:2   
  
  
"Mercy unto you, and **peace**, and love, be multiplied." - Jude 1:2

**A process to ‘demonstrate how TWO religious traditions guide the individual in achieving inner peace’**

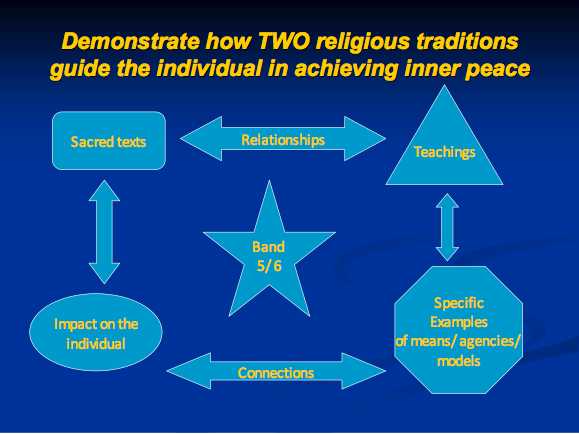
For each religion studied students complete the following summary chart. This could be done in pairs or small groups.

It is suggested that students have **3 - 4 examples** from sacred texts as the foundation of this study.

An example using Christian prayer as a means of achieving inner peace is included as a guide.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **How religious tradition X provides guidance for the individual to achieve inner peace** | | | | |
| **Sacred Texts**  (specific texts relating to peace) | | **Principal beliefs**  (based on the specific sacred texts) | **Practical examples**  (of texts and teachings translated to action) | **Guidance for the individual** |
| **1** | ‘In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.’  Matthew 6:6 | Catechism of the Catholic Church:  - ‘The tradition of the Church proposes to the faithful certain rhythms of praying intended to nourish continual prayer…’ 2698  - ‘The Christian tradition comprises three major expressions of the life of prayer: vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer. They have in common the recollection of the heart.’ 2721 | The history of Centering Prayer owes much to the Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton. In his writing he said, "If you go to your center you will find God there."  Within Christianity there are many groups who assist individuals to develop their ability to enter into centering prayer (and other forms of meditation). For example:  <http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org/> | Centering prayer is one means by which the Christian adherent may follow the example of Jesus and go to their own ‘deserted’ inner place to encounter God.  Students may also be interested to research the suggested links between a sustained prayer life and mental and physical well-being |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |

**Sample 5**



An outstanding response to a question such as ‘Demonstrate how TWO religious traditions guide the individual in achieving inner peace’ will incorporate all the elements of the unit. Students need to draw on concrete examples of:

* Sacred texts interpreted in
* Teachings which are evidenced in
* Specific examples/means of finding peace/role models/agencies/movements which then provide guidance for and impact on
* The individual

As in all areas of study students need to gain practice in ‘joining the dots’ or making connections between the component of topics to maximise their potential marks.

**Sample 6 Examples: Religion and World Peace**

***Seeds of Peace*** is an initiative of the National Council of Churches of Australia. The link below goes directly to the downloadable files. Amongst these are individual case studies of Australians working for peace in a wide variety of circumstances.

**NB** These materials would also be useful for investigating religion and inner peace. Go to:

<http://www.ncca.org.au/special_projects/dov/seeds_of_peace/sop_files>

***The Columban Mission Institute (Australia)***

Links to a range of peace-related issues ranging from the international impact of genetically modified food on poor nations to a range of initiatives to foster Christian-Muslim dialogue in the Australian context. <http://www.columban.org.au/>

***Peace Churches***

Students could investigate expressions of Christianity which expressly advocate pacifism, for example the Society of Friends (Quakers) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_church>

***Religions for Peace – World Conference on Religion and Peace***

Current examples of peace activism emanating from religious motivation.

<http://www.wcrp.org/Rforp/RFP_1_MAIN.html>

***MidEast Web***

Sacred texts and current initiatives for peace from the three Abrahamic traditions:

<http://www.mideastweb.org/mewreligion.htm>

***Projects Working for Peace among Israelis and Arabs***

Links to a wide range of such projects:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Projects_working_for_peace_among_Israelis_and_Arabs>

***The Parents Circle***

A coalition of Jewish and Palestinian families who have lost immediate family members as a consequence of war.

<http://www.theparentscircle.org/>

***Pax Christi***

An international Christian organisation working for peace in through a multitude of initiatives

<http://www.paxchristi.net/>