

# HOËRSKOOL ELSPARK

## LIFE ORIENTATION

### GRADE 9: TERM 4

#### ACTIVITY 3

#### CONTRIBUTION OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS IN PROMOTING PEACE

##### Religious Peace

- ❖ The practices and teachings in most of the religions promote values that support and work towards achieving peace within societies/communities that we live in.
  - ❖ Living in peace and respecting the people around us is the heart of all major religions in the world that we live in.
  - ❖ Most if not all religions that we belong to help people to find inner peace
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##### African Traditional Religions (ATR)

- ❖ People have firm faith in the existence of God the creator whose focus is peace and harmony
  - ❖ To honour God, the people, live in Harmony with the other members of the community, the deceased and nature.
  - ❖ Each person must contribute to the welfare of the community and an understanding between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour within the society
  - ❖ Moral value: UBUNTU meaning that people are only human through others
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##### Christianity

- ❖ The Christians believe in Jesus's teachings of non-violence, peace, compassion and forgiveness.
  - ❖ Most of these teachings are found in the new testament.
  - ❖ In one of the readings Jesus tells his followers not to fight violence with violence
  - ❖ So, the need for inner peace and peace all around was emphasised in most of the scriptures
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##### Hinduism

- ❖ The two most important virtues of the Hindu ethics promote peace: Ahimsa... to avoid hurting creatures and people all around  
Satya... truthfulness
  - ❖ They also focus on inner peace
  - ❖ With inner peace and cleansed life, they are able to reach out to other people and to share this peace
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##### Buddhism



- ❖ The first rule in the moral code that all Buddhists live by is “I will not harm any living thing”
  - ❖ Meditation calms and allows them to clear their mind and also brings inner peace.
  - ❖ They respect all forms of life and they promise not to harm any living thing
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**Islam**



- ❖ The word Islam comes from an Arabic word that means peace.
  - ❖ For peace to be attained, oppression and injustices need to be omitted
  - ❖ Their greetings say “peace be upon you” (Assalamu alakkum)
  - ❖ Peace comes through the submission to Allah and following his will
  - ❖ Muslims have the duty to promote and to keep peace and justice with everyone
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**The Bahá'í faith**



- ❖ Focus of their teachings is to work towards world peace.
  - ❖ They believe that everyone is from the same race
  - ❖ Reconciliation according to them means that all the main problems of inequality between people are dealt with, especially poverty, violence against women and children, xenophobia
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**Judaism**



- ❖ The Jews greet each other with the word Shalom which means Peace (2Kings 4:26)
  - ❖ Shalom expresses the hope that one day everyone will live in peace
  - ❖ Living in unity with God means to live in peace with other people
  - ❖ And they must be responsible for their moral life based on the Torah
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**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:**

1. What are pacifists?

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2. Which religious groups greeting means peace be upon you?

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3. Do you think the peace culture still exists in our country today? Explain your answer.

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4. Looking at the community that you come from, what are some of the contributions made by religious groups to promote peace within the community?

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5. Think of ways how you as an individual can promote the culture of peace in your home or school environment.

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