

Discussing the Life of Prophets in the Different Religions

Summary

The activity presents to students a discussion of the life of Abraham – one of the main prophets in the three religions Christianity, Judaism and Islam – and how it is presented in the different holy books.

Description of the activity

The activity represents a group discussion between the teacher and students. The discussion is built on the presentation of the life of the prophet and the comparative study of it in the different monotheistic religions. The teacher has to point out the main events of the life of the prophet, the values and morals he followed, and to ask how this is possible to follow in the current time. Each student himself can write down his thoughts and put them on the board and then the teacher can discuss with the group all thoughts, questions and issues raised by the kids.

The suggested learning objective to be used in this activity discusses Abraham as man of virtue and strength of faith. In addition to the comparative study presented the teacher might find it useful to use the specific texts in the Bible, Quran and Torah referring to Abraham (these can be found in the additional reading resources suggested for this paragraph). Some questions for discussions could be:

- What message does Abraham try to give to people?
- Why did Allah give Abraham the title Khaleel and not to any other prophet?
- Why can the figure of Abraham be found in all the main monotheistic religions – what marks the significance of this figure?

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity can be held in class or outdoors. It is important for the premises to secure a safe environment for students to feel free to express their thoughts.
- **Resources needed:** A white board, projector or a black board, pens, post-it notes.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 20 students as maximum number.
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** It will be helpful for the teacher to present the texts of the life of Abraham discussed in the different holy books, and asks the students to read them, before stepping into the comparative analysis of the presentation of the life of the prophet in the different religions.
- **Activity duration:** the activity can be held as one time event during class.

Learning Objectives

The students will learn about religion, values, beliefs and culture through studying the life of a prophet. The learning objective is to receive the religious knowledge through the studying the personal experiences or prophets described in the sacred books. This will help students have a more personal experience with regard to religion, beliefs and different cultures, existing in the world.





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Expected Outcomes

Students will discover how common themes and topics, values and ethics are shown in the different religions. The activity discusses faith, belief, rejection and acceptance in society, which are topics relevant for every student, religious or not.

Target group

Students between 13 and 16 years of age

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

Literature
Philosophy
History
Geography
Languages

Learning style of this activity

Verbal, Social

Learning objects to be used with this activity

The Story of Abraham (consists of 7 chapters)

<https://www.islamreligion.com/articles/293/story-of-abraham-part-1/>

Variations of the activity

The activity can be done using role-play – putting students in different roles of the life of the prophet and after the role play is done everyone is to be asked about their feelings, understanding and awareness of the topic.



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