

Religion, peace and conflict keywords.

War: fighting between nations to resolve issues between them.

Peace: an absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony.

Justice: bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law of making up for a wrong that has been committed.

Forgiveness: showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

Reconciliation: a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement.

Protest: an expression of disapproval, often in a public group

Violence: using actions that threaten or harm others.

Terrorism: the unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal.

Greed: selfish desire for something.

Self defence: acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.

Retaliation: deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you.

Nuclear weapons: weapons that work by nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people.

Weapons of mass destruction: weapons that can kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage.

Chemical weapons: weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroying the natural environment.

Biological weapons: weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death.

Just war: a war which meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness; follows traditional Christian rules for a just war, and is now accepted by all other religions.

Holy war: fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.

Pacifism: the belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.

Peacemaker: a person who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it.

Peacemaking: the action of trying to establish peace.

Religion, peace and conflict – Core knowledge

Questions

1. What is reconciliation?
2. What is justice?
3. Give an example of peaceful protests that were attempting to change the law for the better.
4. Give three reasons why wars may be started.
5. Name different types of weapons able to inflict widespread damage.
6. Name three criteria for a just war.
7. What is pacifism?
8. What is the Quaker approach to war?

Answers

1. When individuals or groups restore friendly relationships after conflict or disagreement.
2. Bringing about what is fair and right.

3. Martin Luther King led lots of peaceful protests throughout the Civil Rights Movement in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s in an attempt to protest about racial and social inequalities.
4. Greed, self-defence, retaliation.
5. Nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons and biological weapons.
6. The war must have a just cause, war must be declared by the correct authority (ie government), the intention of the war must be to do good and defeat evil, war must be a last resort, there must be a reasonable chance of success, and the methods used to fight the war must be proportional and not excessive.
7. The belief that peace should be the central value.
8. Quaker's believe war is wrong and are therefore conscientious objectors they refuse to fight.

Religion, peace and conflict Bible references.

“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. ... Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” Isaiah 2:4

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10

“Do not repay evil for evil ... if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:17-19

“But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.” Matthew 5:39

“If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth ...” Exodus 21:23-24

“Put your sword back in its place” Jesus said “for all those who draw the sword die by the sword.”

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago ‘you shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgement.”
Matthew 5:21-22

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”
Matthew 5: 9

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37