

Living

Year: 6 Term: 5 and 6

Key question:

What difference does it make to believe in Ahimsa (harmlessness), Grace (the generosity of God), and Ummah (community)?

In this unit, we will look at the key ideas in three religions.

For Hindus: being harmless means, for example, no violence, eating no meat and wearing no leather; ahimsa links to ideas of karma and reincarnation. Gandhi practised ahimsa in the liberation of India; if people believed in ahimsa, what difference would it make to farming, supermarkets, your meals, community relations, international relations? Why doesn't everybody believe in being harmless?

For Christians the idea of grace from God means that God loves people unconditionally and is willing to offer forgiveness to anyone for anything. Christians believe in Jesus' death and resurrection as an expression of God's love, and Christian forgiveness today (Luke 23:34, John 3:16, 1 John 1:7-9).

For Muslims, the worldwide Muslim community is called the Ummah, and being part of the Ummah is expressed, e.g. in pilgrimage to Makkah and in shared welfare through zakat.

Vocabulary

sawm	The act of fasting
dharma	The eternal and inherent nature of reality, regarded in Hinduism as a cosmic law underlying right behaviour and social order.
ummah	ummah refers to the whole Muslim world, or the community of believers.
harmlessness	The quality of being harmless (not able or likely to cause harm)
Ahimsa	The ethical principle of not causing harm to other living things.
Mandir	A Hindu temple.
communion	the sharing or exchanging of thoughts and feelings, especially on a mental or spiritual level.
zakah	The practice where a Muslim gives 2.5 per cent of their wealth over a certain amount to charity, after they have paid for what is necessary to support themselves and their families.

Key Questions:

- What does it mean for Hindus, Muslims and Christians to commit to key beliefs?
- How do Muslim people build their community, the Ummah?
- How does it feel to be part of the Muslim Ummah?
- What does harmlessness mean in the Hindu religion?
- How do Hindus show their commitment to ahimsa?
- What did Jesus teach about God's grace and forgiveness?
- How did Jesus show the meaning of grace?
- How can the life of a great Christian person show us the meaning of grace?
- What have we learnt from Muslims, Christians and Hindus about their commitments?



Mandir



ummah



sawm