

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser – Year 4

Thematic Unit

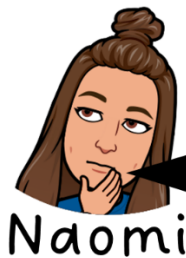
How and why do people try to make the world a better place?

Key Vocabulary

steward	Someone who takes care of something
sin	The Christian and Jewish belief that all people prefer to go their own way and make wrong choices
good and bad deeds	The Muslim belief that all people can choose good or bad deeds and all need God's mercy
Tikkun Olam	Jewish belief that people have a responsibility to mend and repair the world
sacrifice	Christians believe that Jesus gave his life for others and many people are inspired by this
Zakat	One of the Five Pillars of Islam The principle that Muslims should give money to the poor and needy
Humanism	A non-religious worldview
The Golden Rule	The idea that you should treat other people as you would like to be treated

Key Questions and Golden Nuggets

What's wrong with the world?	Christians and Jews believe that people prefer to do their own thing rather than follow God. They call this sin and believe people need to keep saying sorry and ask for help. Christians believe the Holy Spirit gives this help. Muslims believe that people do good and bad deeds and need God's mercy too. All three religions believe that these wrong choices harm the world.
Repairing the world, rescuing the Earth: what can we learn from this Jewish idea?	Throughout scripture, Jews are taught about being good stewards for the world they believe God created. Jews believe in the idea of Tikkun Olam which is about a responsibility to mend and repair the world.
Who is inspired by Jesus' example of sacrifice?	Christians believe that Jesus died and gave his life as a sacrifice. This has motivated many people through history and today to live their lives in a way that puts others first.
How do Muslims try to make the world a better place?	All Muslims have a duty to give a slice of their money to charity. It is to please Allah and what He guides a Muslim to do as shown in the Qur'an. Each year, every Muslim works out what he or she needs to live and then Zakah is paid from what is left. The aim of paying Zakah is to stop people becoming too greedy or selfish with money.
How do non-religious people try to make the world a better place?	Many non-religious people hold beliefs about how to treat the world and many non-religious people choose to follow versions of the 'Golden Rule'. Some non-religious people follow the worldview called Humanism.



The Jewish teaching of **tikkun olam** is about mending or repairing the world. It is an idea anyone can learn from. You don't have to be Jewish like me to do your bit for the world and its people.

How Jewish people show care

- Many Jewish people put money into a collection box called a tzedakah. It can be found at home or at the synagogue, a Jewish place of worship.
- When the tzedakah box is full, it is donated to charity or a special cause.
- People come together to pray at the synagogue, but it can also be used for events.
- Tikkun Olam means 'repair the world'. Jewish people try to do this to help people and the world.
- Tikkun Olam can be done in different ways, for example by planting trees, recycling, or visiting people who are unwell or need help.

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How and why do people try to make the world a better place?

Many Humanists think:

'The world is a wonderful and amazing planet, but it is not perfect – things go wrong, and people can be hurt. We can work together to make it better. We won't get any help from gods or goddesses, but we can make the world better ourselves.'

Samuel



Many Muslims think:

'Every human is born submitted to Allah (God). But people turn away from God and do bad things. This can spoil our lives – and other people's lives too. But Allah has shown us the straight path to live by. It is called Islam. We try to follow the path and help make a better world.'

Ali



Many Christians think:

'God made the world good and beautiful. Humans are free to choose how to live. This freedom is a gift from God. The Bible says we have spoiled our relationship with God and spoiled the world by making bad choices (called 'sin'). But God came to Earth (in Jesus) to rescue us and repair the damage. Now we need to make the world better too.'

Hannah



Many Jewish people think:

'The Almighty (G-d) created the Earth and everything in it, and he makes all things good. But the world needs to be mended all the time. Jewish people have an idea called 'Tikkun Olam.' It means to 'mend the world' and people work with God to make the world better. Anyone can join in.'

Naomi



The third pillar of Islam is called Zakah. This is where Muslims who can afford to must give money to help poor people. All Muslims have a duty to give a slice of their money to charity. It is to please Allah and what He guides a Muslim to do as shown in the Qur'an. Each year, every Muslim works out what he or she needs to live and then Zakah is paid from what is left. The aim of paying Zakah is to stop people becoming too greedy or selfish with money. It tries to clean a person's mind and heart of the love for money and keeping it to oneself. It is given to poor people, orphans, people who owe money to someone else and to travellers. The Qur'an talks a lot about generosity, for example:

"Whatever you spend with a good heart, give it to parents, relatives, orphans, the helpless, and travellers in need. Whatever good you do, God is aware of it." - Quran 2:215



How could you make the world a better place?

Here are some qualities of a person who might make the world a better place...

Love Kindness Generosity Compassion
Peace Courage Forgiveness Determination
Teamwork Care Vision Leadership



Here are some Jewish scriptures about making the world a better place. Christians find these verses in the Old Testament too.



The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. Genesis 2:15	The seventh day of the week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your oxen or donkeys or any other animal. Deuteronomy 5:14	When you are attacking a town, don't chop down its fruit trees... Fruit trees aren't your enemies, and they produce food that you can eat, so don't cut them down. Deuteronomy 20:19
The heavens and the earth belong to you (God). And so does the world with all its people because you created them. Psalm 89:11	Trust in your wealth, and you will be a failure, but God's people will grow like healthy plants. Proverbs 11:28	Truthful words will stand for ever, but lies are soon found out. Proverbs 12:19
If you treat the poor badly, you are rude to your Creator; if you are kind to them, you show Him respect. Proverbs 14:31	Starting a fight is like water leaking through a dam: better stop the quarrel before it gets worse. Proverbs 17:14	The Lord blesses everyone who freely gives food to the poor. Proverbs 22:9