

ABCs of Philanthropy: Religious Perspective

Religious Activity Themes:

Luke 10:33-35

"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill--I'll pay you on my way back.'"

(Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group)

Talmud Sotah 14a

The Torah begins with an act of loving-kindness and ends with an act of loving-kindness.

Tell the participants that today they will have some fun learning about philanthropy. They are going to play a relay game that will help them learn about philanthropic actions.

Qur'an 6:160

The Quran says: If you do a good deed Allah (God) will reward you many times over and if you do a bad deed you will be punished for it only one time.

Islamic Saying:

"The one who points the way to good deeds is like the one who does them."

"The most beloved of deeds to Allah (swt) is the one that is done all the time, even if it is little."

Processing Questions:

1. What did you learn about philanthropy from our game?
2. Why does God want us to show acts of loving kindness?
3. Why do you believe that the Holy Scripture begins and ends with acts of loving-kindness?
4. How would our community become a better place by the actions you have written and placed on the wall? Why are these actions helpful to others?
5. Tell us about philanthropic actions you have done and why you did them.
6. What could this group do to encourage others to take philanthropic action?



Additional Questions--Muslim Perspective

1. As stated in the Islamic saying above, why is a small good deed done every day better than doing a bigger good deed only once?
2. If we do a lot of small deeds every day, how will it make our whole week or month or even whole year better?
3. In the Qur'an saying above, we learn that Allah rewards someone more for a good deed than He punishes for a bad deed. Why do you think this is better? Can you think of an example of a time you are rewarded more for a good deed? Example: If you are mean to your little brother, your mom may make you go to bed 10 minutes early but if you are nice to him she may let you stay up past your bed time for 30 minutes.

Additional Questions - Judeo-Christian Perspective:

1. How did God show us love? Play: Jesus Lover of My Soul: John Ezzy/Daniel Gaul/Stephen Mcpherson/Hillsongs Publishing. From Shout To The Lord. Discuss the lyrics.
2. In the story of the Good Samaritan what philanthropic actions were displayed?
3. What skills or talents do you have, that could help you imitate the actions of the Good Samaritan in your community?

