

Goodness in Everyday Acts – Faith-Based Themes

Religious Activity Themes:

Genesis 1:26-28 (New Living Translation)

Then God said, "Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life--the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the livestock, wild animals, and small animals."

So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them. God blessed them and told them, "Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters over the fish and birds and all the animals."

Mishlei Agur

"As one hand washes the other, so must one person help another."

During WWII, this young and brave Jewish girl was forced in to hiding by the Nazi's two weeks before her 13th birthday. Her father had given her a diary for her birthday that she kept for almost two years as she and seven others hid in an attic warehouse. Her tremendous spirit and acts of goodness kept them strong under a great deal of hardship until they were finally captured and taken to concentration camps.

Muslim Theme:

Whenever they reaped their first harvest, farmers brought early, fresh fruits to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH&HF). Then he would distribute them among those who sat around him as a sign of courtesy and respect. This morning, a poor man brought one fruit from his small farm and gave it to the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF).

He (PBUH&HF) accepted the gift, tasted it and then went on eating it alone while the companions watched. One of those present meekly said: O Prophet of Almighty God, you have overlooked the right of those who watch while you eat. The Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) smiled and waited till the man who had brought the fruit had gone.

Then he (PBUH&HF) said: I tasted the fruit and it was not yet ripe. Had I allowed you to have some of it, someone would have definitely shown his distaste, thus disappointing the poor man who had brought the gift. Rather than make him feel disappointed, my palate accepted the bitterness.

Additional Questions: Judeo-Christian Perspective

1. Was Anne Frank correct when she said, "people are really good at heart"? Why or why not?
2. In some traditions, what does it mean for humans to be created in the image of God?
3. Why is it important in some traditions that we understand that each human bears the image of God?
4. Who are some people in their faith tradition who have sacrificed for the good of others and the common good?
5. How did religious faith help Anne Frank to remain positive and how does it help to make others strong when facing hard times?



6. What simple everyday philanthropic acts can you do to make your community, school, faith organization and our world better?

Additional Questions: Muslim Perspective:

1. How can people as a part of their daily lives show signs of gratitude and respect as examples for others?
2. How can a small act of charity affect others who may be capable of greater charity?
3. In what way can we show charity in accepting charity?
4. How is charity performed in front of onlookers multiplied?

