



Y6 Thinking like a Theologist

Islam

Concept: Beliefs and Meaning



Key Knowledge:

- People see different things as important due to influences from their culture, family, religion, school, etc. This means each person has their own interpretation of what living a 'good' life is.
- In Islam, people can even have different interpretations of what the Holy Book, The Qur'an, says.
- Jihad means 'effort' or 'struggle' and some Muslims interpret this as meaning, not just a personal struggle inside themselves, but a struggle involving fighting or Holy war (a military Jihad), a struggle to protect the freedom of Muslims to practice their faith or to protect Muslims against attack.
- Some Muslims interpret the Prophet Muhammad's words: "The person who struggles so that Allah's word is supreme is the one serving Allah's cause" to mean it is their duty to fight in order to make sure people know Allah's word is supreme.
- They believe they are being 'good' by doing this and some of them believe they will be rewarded with heaven when they die if they do this. A small number of these may even become suicide bombers or terrorists.
- However, the Qur'an makes it clear that Muslims may fight in self-defence but must not start a fight or a war. There are strict rules about when fighting may be considered as a Jihad.

Key Vocabulary:

Interpretation is a different view or explanation of what something means.

Akhirah (life after death) is an Islamic term referring to **the hereafter or the final destination**. It is a core belief in Islam that life on earth is but a test and that we will be returning to Allah, where he will decide their eternal home.

Jihad has two meanings for Muslims. It is both a struggle for faith and a struggle against evil.

Greater Jihad is about making the effort to be a good Muslim through a personal struggle to improve spiritually. It is a duty and an act of worship.

Lesser Jihad is an outward struggle to defend Islam from threat. It is sometimes called a holy war.

Learning Questions

Enquiry Question:

Does belief in Akhirah (life and death) help Muslims lead good lives?

What influences our own opinions/beliefs?

How do Muslims interpret the Qur'an's words differently?

When can fighting be considered as a Jihad?

Evaluation:

What is your positive vision of the world?