

Title of Session: Religious Educators

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: Tapped In Reception

SinemG: think today topic is very interesting

SevimO: yes I really want to know about this topic

SinemG: I really wonder about the role of religion in education

BjB: in the US religious education and secular education are two separate entities

BjB . o O (I'm speaking of formal education)

SevimO: ok

BjB: I would hope that religious education would include moral issues that would carry over into secular life

SinemG: yes you are right

BjB . o O (respect for others, honesty, compassion)

SinemG: in Turkey religious education is also important

SinemG: like in your country

SevimO: yes in turkey the same

SevimO: as yours

BjB: if we were all compassionate and respectful of others there would be no wars. War is a very sad affair

SinemG: you are right again

SinemG: and I believe that in schools

SinemG: with the help of religious education

SinemG: teacher can teach students to show respect to different religions

SinemG: then as you said there would be no wars

BjB: I do also. Not only different religions but different cultures, different colors, different nationalities

SinemG: yes surely

BjB: an interesting website you may find useful is www.understandingrace.com

SevimO: ok thanks

SinemG: just then people show respect to each other without regarding their religion, their nationalities

BjB nods

SinemG: thanks it looks like a good website

NesrnK joined the room.

SinemG: hi Nesrin

NesrnK: thanks

BjB: the person who leads the Religious educators discussion is not logged in

BjB: we can have a discussion here in reception though...

SevimO: ok

DilekS: thanks

BjB: Sinem and Sevim and I have already been discussing religious education and secular education

BjB: I would like to hear what your views are on the subject.

ZelihaE: hi everyone

NesrnK joined the room.

SinemG: can't we continue even if the leader doesn't log in

SinemG: hi Zeliha

NesrnK: ok

BjB : yes, that is what I'm suggesting we do, Sinem

SinemG : ok

SevimO : friends please tell us what you think about this subject

NesrnK : it is necessary

BjB : I'm in the US where religious education is separate from secular education

DilekS : the religious education is necessary for everyone

BjB : why, Dilek?

SinemG : for peace it is vital

DilekS : and I think

ZelihaE : first of all I want to learn what is religion for you

SevimO : yes you are right Sinem

NesrnK : I agree to Sinem

BjB : ahhh...good question, Zeliha

ZelihaE : answer

NesrnK : yes very good

DilekS : because the religious teach us ethical rules

BjB : belief in a higher being?

SinemG : it has different meaning for different people you know

ZelihaE : perhaps

NesrnK : religious is the most important thing in the world

SinemG : for me it is also important

BjB : yes, ethical issues are what we were discussing earlier...compassion, respect for others, what else?

ZelihaE: also

NesrnK: the meaning of the other world

DilekS: teach us everything what you want to know

ZelihaE: being a true person

SinemG: also can be learning other cultures

SevimO: respect the others

SevimO: also

SinemG: via learning their religion

BjB: what does it mean to be a true person?

SevimO: yes right Sinem

BjB nods to Sevim and Sinem

DilekS: for example science

BjB . o O (is there such a thing as a fake person?)

BjB listens to Dilek

NesrnK: a true person live without harming others

BjB: how does Science relate to religion?

ZelihaE: we can live in peace by this way

BjB: nice, Nesrin.

SinemG: yes what is the relation between science an religion

SinemG: I also wonder

BjB: most famous or well know scientists were/are very religious people

NesrnK: if we have a good life which includes religious things all people live happily

DilekS: in my holy book there is everything about universe

YaseminK joined the room.

DilekS: for example the big bang theory

ZelihaE: in our holy book you can find lots of scientific events

EsraE joined the room.

DilekS: and how came into being

BjB : welcome, Esra

TerrieT joined the room.

EsraE: thanks

NesrnK: yes most famous and smart people are religious by this way they found or invented many things

BjB : good, Terrie.

DilekS: how a person come into being

BjB : we're discussing the relation of Science and Religion, Terrie

SinemG : you mean that religion and science combine each other

SinemG : isn't it

ZelihaE: exactly

DilekS: it is related to science

SinemG : ok

BjB : different religions have different beliefs in how people came into being

YaseminK: ok I see

DilekS: yeah

NesrnK: but the GOD IS ONE

BjB : does that make the other religions wrong?

SinemG : and this leads people to investigate

YaseminK: can you give an example

SinemG: thus science comes out

BjB: that is what I meant by belief in a higher being, Nesrin

BjB: some people believe in Adam and Eve

NesrnK: there are differences but the creator same

SinemG: yes

SevimO: yes I agree

EsraE: I agree

NesrnK: so opinion is one

NesrnK: yes

BjB nods....yes, in some form there is always a higher being

YaseminK: I ALSO AGREE

TerrieT: there is only one God

NesrnK: yes certainly

BjB: whew! So we have that as a common belief

DilekS: we believe in god and everything comes from HIM

SinemG: even if there are lots of religion

TerrieT: Yes

EsraE: all religions have some similarities in general

SevimO: yes

YaseminK: yes there is one God

EsraE: and if you look at those similarities they shape the religion

YaseminK: and we know that

NesrnK: the rules in religion differs because these religious came into being different times

ZelihaE: now we are discussing religious education but I want to learn do all of us live our religion

TerrieT: I feel that I live my religion

NesrnK: so the needs were different and the rules were different

SinemG: ok what can teacher do to impose good things related to religion on their students

EsraE: everybody feels that

ZelihaE: it is very nice

DilekS: when will the conference start

BjB: what are the main rules you feel should be lived?

BjB: o O (ten commandments? Is there a list?)

EsraE: whatever god says

YaseminK: what

BjB: does God change his mind every once in a while?

ZelihaE: do you do requirements of your religion

EsraE: you cannot count them

NesrnK: to strongly believe the existence of GOD

DilekS: no BJ

TerrieT: God's words stand firm.

BjB: ok...then let's start a list...I am not familiar with your faith and I know Terrie's faith also is different

NesrnK: no but some people changed the rules after some time

BjB: do ethics apply?

BjB . o O (I think we started out agreeing to ethical behaviors)

EsraE: you mean what

NesrnK: yes sure

BjB : honesty, compassion

BjB : what else?

NesrnK: sure

BjB : respect

TerrieT: Yes

NesrnK: trust

SevimO : respect

DilekS: what's your religion bj

BjB : I'm Jewish

YaseminK: we are Muslim

BjB nods.

BjB : we have more in common that we have differences

ZelihaE: I agree

SinemG : yes you are right bj

YaseminK: for example?

SinemG : in what ways then

BjB : all the things we've been discussing, Yasemin!

SinemG : I know that

SinemG : peace is also very important in your holy book

YaseminK: but there is some differences

Sine mG: like in ours

ZelihaE: we believe in one

ZelihaE: GOD

BjB : what else guides your daily interaction with others...peace is good.

NesrnK: respect

NesrnK: trust

TerrieT: love

NesrnK: are very important values

DilekS: you should be a good person

DilekS: helpful

BjB : ahhh...love hasn't been mentioned. Good, Terrie

DilekS: trustful

BjB : tell me more about the definition of a good person, Dilek

DilekS: and so on

BjB grins...no, no...not and so on ;-)

NesrnK: sensitive and sensible

YaseminK: respectful

SinemG: friendly also

BjB : sensible?

EsraE: all good feelings

EsraE: shortly

ZelihaE: NOT SELFISH

BjB : how do you get good feelings, Esra?

DilekS: we should do the necessities of our religion

BjB : sharing, Zeliha?

ZelihaE: yes

EsraE: both makes me happy and other people

ZelihaE: yes

BjB : it's hard to put those necessities into words, isn't it?

YaseminK: sure

NesrnK: these things can be acquired by religious

DilekS: the religion order us to be a good person

SinemG: yes bj it is too hard

SevimO: sure

BjB : just like our values...you have to LIVE your values for them to mean anything.
What about freedom?

DilekS: and want us do special things

EsraE: everyone deserves it

SinemG: let there be freedom

ZelihaE: can you tell us details of your religion and relation between education

BjB : how do we define freedom?

NesrnK: because the existence of other world forces us to be a good person

SinemG: I always support this idea

BjB : should some people have more freedom than others?

SinemG: no

YaseminK: no

SevimO: noo

EsraE: of course not

SinemG: everybody deserves it

NesrnK: no but it is true

TerrieT: no

BjB: There are so many areas of unrest in the world...why do you think that is?

EsraE: bj what is your idea about freedom

BjB: are those people not religious?

NesrnK: sure

SinemG: maybe

NesrnK: but not all people cant live in peace

SinemG: I wish they live

TerrieT: The bible states that thou shall not kill

NesrnK: it isn't possible in anywhere

SinemG: but you are right

NesrnK: yes

SinemG: what does it mean then

YaseminK: it can be possible

BjB: I think freedom is all the things we've listed in our discussion...freedom from want, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of movement to live where you want to

BjB: yes, many religions are against killing or harming others...

NesrnK: maybe all people believe in religious nobody live in such bad conditions

DilekS: but you shouldn't damage others for the sake of freedom

EsraE: but still someone kill someone

SevimO: but everyone kill

ZelihaE: but still they do this

BjB: does that mean that people who go to war are evil and not religious? Most wars were created on religious issues

SevimO: someone

DilekS: it is not freedom then

SinemG: not just for the sake of freedom

NesrnK: these are different from others

ZelihaE: not only for war

YaseminK: yes it is not freedom

NesrnK: if the aim is religious war can be true

DilekS: to kill is wrong in every religion

DilekS: so

YaseminK: of course

NesrnK: because such wars are for the help of people

ZelihaE: without no reason some people come and kill our citizens

BjB: how so, Nesrin?

BjB: Zeliha, those people must have a reason!

BjB: . o O (not that it's right)

DilekS: wars are not good according the religion

TerrieT: God has nothing to do with anything evil, such as war.

YaseminK: important reason

BjB: I agree...since we all agree on this issue...

NesrnK: if something can be solved with talking or advising the war can be necessary

BjB : let's all agree to do what we can to end all war and conflict. Can we do anything?

DilekS: YEAHHH

YaseminK: it is not solution

ZelihaE: sure

SinemG : yes surely

SevimO : yes

BjB : what can we do?

EsraE: yes

SinemG : as a prospective teacher

TerrieT: yes

BjB smiles...ahhh, wonderful, Sinem

DilekS: we shouldn't in war

NesrnK: to give peace invitation to all world

ZelihaE: as a true teacher

BjB : how can we live our daily lives?

EsraE: we can teach our student how good peace is

SinemG : we can help our students to have good ideas on this issue

SevimO : teach our students to love people

TerrieT: humble

BjB : and we ourselves must model this behavior...

SinemG : surely

ZelihaE: not only our students

YaseminK: sure

BjB: whether we are teaching in a religious school or a secular school

EsraE: yes

DilekS: we should live as a good person

NesrnK: yes a good teacher is a model from all perspectives

YaseminK: we should be a model to everyone

ZelihaE: not only our students

BjB: so...if the future depended on Tapped In Members...we would have world peace! :-)

SinemG smiles

EsraE: I agree

NesrnK: yessssssss

YaseminK: yes

ZelihaE smiles

TerrieT: yes!

DilekS: the religion order true and good things

BjB: sometimes we lose sight of the individual's power

DilekS: so

NesrnK: sure

ZelihaE: world peaceeeeeeeee

TerrieT: That's so true.

ZelihaE: welcome tom

BjB: there is a Blanket The World with Peace group here in Tapped In

NesrnK: himmmmmmmmm

NesrnK: can we be a member

BjB: perhaps you all should join that group and use the ideas there in your future classrooms

NesrnK: it can be wonderful

ZelihaE: maybe

DilekS: it can be useful

BjB: to join the group do this...

SinemG: it is a good idea

YaseminK: we should do everything for peace

SevimO: yes

BjB: go to the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen

NesrnK: we can share our peace thoughts

TerrieT: it is a good idea

NesrnK: yessss

SevimO: yes then

BjB: then click on Groups in the purple menu bar

SinemG: yes then

ZelihaE: no war

BjB: and enter Blanket

ZelihaE: yess peace

BjB: you will get one match

BjB: click on the match and you will see the group ID page

BjB: join the group

NesrnK: ok thanksssssss

BjB : then we can all go to the group room and look at what is there

ZelihaE: we can stay here

BjB : yes, if you like, Zeliha

TomC: Problem with peace is that there are those who want to kill us at any cost...

ZelihaE: yeahh

DilekS: we said Tom

NesrnK: yes the reasons are very illogical for killing

BjB : we're trying to find positive solutions...we can't change everyone. But we can practice a life that models peace and we can influence our future students

YaseminK: yes I agree Dilek

EsraE: I hope

TerrieT: I agree!

ZelihaE: a good model

YaseminK: of course we should be good model

BjB : the Blanket the World With Peace group was created after a European war. The group is designed to resolve conflicts

BjB : because the children of war are the ones who suffer the most

NesrnK: yes even one good person can differs many people bad thoughts

BjB . o O (and the children of any conflict suffer...whether it's abuse, neglect, famine, or civil war)

TerrieT: What have they accomplished thus far?

NesrnK: criticizing isn't a solution

ZelihaE: we should educate young people

YaseminK: God will help good people

DilekS: to solve this problems everything is done the wars are continue why?

BjB : Terrie, the group has led some great projects in schools

BjB : Dilek, if you can answer that question, I personally will fly to your house and give you a big hug!

ZelihaE: you are right Yasemin

TerrieT: Can you give me an example.

BjB : did you join the group, Terrie?

TerrieT: yes!

BjB : there are examples in the group room

NesrnK: I joined

BjB : and there are also resources

Room: Blanket_Grp

BjB joined the room.

ZelihaE joined the room.

BjB : click on the third link under featured items

BjB : to see some of the projects that the group created

BjB : There are many other peace sites and I've tried to add as many as I feel are relevant to the group resources

TerrieT: Good projects!

BjB : getting late for our Turkish friends

BjB . o O (they have to leave)

TerrieT: bj should I go back to the reception area?

BjB : you can stay here and look around if you want.

BjB : I'm going to go to the Hurricane Help Center and add some links for help for the

California Fire Victims

TerrieT: Is this the end of the forum?

BjB: yes, we've been talking for almost an hour!

BjB: did you learn anything?

BjB: did you expect to get into a religious debate with a group of Muslims?

TerrieT: Yes! This was a great experience.