

RELIGIOUS STUDIES · KS1-KS2

Founders and Teachers

A Multi-Faith Assembly

About this assembly

A 15-minute whole-school assembly introducing the founder or central figure of four major world religions. Designed to highlight what they shared in their teaching — kindness, humility, care for others — without flattening their differences. Best for KS1-KS2 (some content may be too abstract for the very youngest).

Opening — the question

'Today I want to ask you a question. If a religion has hundreds of millions of followers, what kind of person started it? What were they LIKE? Today I am going to tell you about four people who started, or were central to, the world's biggest religions. They lived hundreds or even thousands of years apart. They lived in different countries. They taught different things. But — they had something in common. Listen out for what.'

Jesus (Christianity)

'About 2,000 years ago, in a small country we now call Israel, a baby was born called Jesus. His family was poor. When he grew up, he didn't have a job that made him important. But he started teaching, and people listened. He told stories about kindness — about a Samaritan man who helped a stranger by the road, about a father who forgave his son who had run away. He said the most important things were to love God and to love your neighbour. Even his enemies, he said, you should love. He had only twelve close friends. But Christians believe his teachings changed the world.'

The Buddha (Buddhism)

'About 2,500 years ago, in what is now Nepal, a prince called Siddhartha Gautama lived in a beautiful palace. He had everything he could want. But one day he saw an old person, a sick



person, and a dead person — and he realised life is hard for everyone, even princes. He left the palace to find out why people suffer and how to end it. He sat under a tree for forty-nine days, thinking. Then he understood, and from that day was called the Buddha — the awakened one. His teaching: stop wanting things to be different from how they are, and you stop suffering. Be kind to all living things. Sit quietly each day. He taught for 45 years until he was 80.'

The Prophet Muhammad (Islam)

'In Arabia, about 1,400 years ago, a man called Muhammad — peace be upon him — became the central messenger of Islam. He grew up an orphan, raised by his uncle, and became a merchant. Muslims believe that when he was 40, he started receiving messages from God which became the Qur'an. He taught that there is one God, that we should pray five times a day, that we should give to the poor, and that we should treat strangers with hospitality. When he died, the community he founded grew quickly. Today, around 1.9 billion people follow his teachings — about a quarter of the world's population.'

Guru Nanak (Sikhism)

'About 550 years ago, in what is now Pakistan, a man called Nanak was born. As he grew up, people noticed he asked unusual questions. Why are some people richer than others? Why do religions argue about who has the truth? He travelled across India and beyond, teaching what he had come to believe: that there is one God who is the same for everyone, no matter what religion. That all people are equal — rich and poor, men and women, every caste. That we should work honestly, share with others, and remember God. He became the first Sikh Guru, and Sikhism — the religion he founded — was born.'

Closing — what they shared

'Four people. Four religions. Different times, different countries, different stories. But did you spot what they had in common? They all taught: be kind. Help those who are struggling. Don't think you are better than anyone else. Care about others as much as yourself. Maybe — just maybe — when so many wise people from so many places teach the same thing, they are onto something. Whatever you believe — those teachings are not bad ones to live by.' Optionally end with: 'Today, try one act of kindness. See if it makes the day a little better.'

