

Year 8 Knowledge Organiser: Does religion help people to be good?

Why help others?

Many people choose to **help** and **support other people** not because of **religious beliefs** but as they want to make a **difference** to people's lives. They want to **reduce** people's suffering.



"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."



This means that helping and supporting someone who is unable to give you something back is a **fulfilling part of life**. Many people like to help others by **volunteering**, giving to **charity** and supporting people in the local community.



An example of an altruist

Peter Singer is a philosopher who believes that we have a **ethical duty (responsibility)** to **help others** if we can. He is an altruist who therefore has a **selfless concern** for the welfare of other people. He believes that if we can afford to we have a responsibility to help others. He believes that if we look at all of the **unnecessary** things that we buy (new phones, cars etc) and use that money to help those in developing countries we can make a **massive difference** to people's lives. Singer also believes in donating money to **effective** charities, these are the organisations that will make the **most impact** for people.



He believes that you can also give **up your time** for charity but it can be more effective to donate money depending on how much money you are giving.



"Nineteen thousand children are dying every day. Does it really matter that we're not walking past them in the street?"

What is an altruist?

An altruist is someone with selfless concern for the welfare of other people. They may do this by being:

- Generous
- Kind
- Showing Compassion
- Volunteering
- Donating to charity



Year 8 Knowledge Organiser: Does religion help people to be good?

What do Sikhs believe about helping others?

Sikhs believe that we should support people in the **community** not only by giving money to charity but also by completing **voluntary work**. Sikhs believe you should give **10%** to charity. Selfless service (voluntary work) for others is called **sewa**. Sikhs believe that to live a **good life** you must do **good deeds** and so sewa is choosing to help others within the community. Many Sikhs will choose to do their Sewa in the **gurdwara**. **The langar** is a free kitchen where many Sikhs will do their Sewa.

10%
VOLUNTEER



What do Jews believe about helping others?

Jews believe in **tzedakah** which **means justice** or righteousness. They believe that they should give **10%** to charity to support those who are less fortunate. They also believe in supporting others through donations that will make people **sustainable** rather than relying on future donation. This is the idea of giving a man a **fishing rod** and not a fish.

10%



Know It:

1. Explain one reason why someone would give to charity
2. What is voluntary work?
3. What is an altruist?
4. What does ethical duty mean?
5. What is sewa?
6. Give an example of how Sikhs may choose to do their sewa.
7. How much money should Sikhs give to charity?
8. What is tzedakah mean?
9. How much money should Jews give to charity?
10. What does make people sustainable mean?

Grasp It:

Design an information leaflet that is suitable for a Year 6 student to explain:

- Peter Singer's opinion about helping others

One religious attitude to helping others

Think It:

- Explain why it's important for people to help others (giving to charity or voluntary work)
- Explain in detail why it's important to Sikhs to help others