Bahá’í

Presented by Denise Samari

Key theme: Oneness of humanity, values of kindness, love, forgiveness and respect.

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| Time reference | Summary / Key themes | Transcript |
| 00:00 | Background to Bahá’í religionKey message: all religions teach people to show kindness, love, forgiveness and respect.  | Hi my name is Denise and I would like to tell you about my religion the Bahá’í faith.The Bahá’í faith is the youngest of the world’s religions. There are around 7 million Bahá’ís and they can be found in nearly every corner of the globe. Bahá’ís believe that all religions teach people to show kindness, to love one another, to forgive and to show respect. The messengers of these religions came to the world at different times in history some of their names you will be familiar with they include Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad. Bahá’ís believe Baha’u’llah is the latest of these messengers, he has renewed religion and brought us new teachings for today. |
|  | The oneness of humanity and beauty of diversity | One of the most important things he has taught us is the oneness of humanity. Bahá’ís believe that we are all members of one human race. It doesn’t matter where we were born the colour of our skin, the shape of our eyes, what language we speak or what religion we belong to, we are all part of one big human family. The Bahá’í writings tell us that we should think of ourselves as the many coloured flowers of one garden and the fruits of one tree. As you can see it is the differences and colour and shapes of these flowers which creates their beauty and it is the same with people. We are told to think not just of our own country but the whole world. Baha’u’llah said – ‘The earth is one country and mankind its citizens.’  |
|  | Places of worship around the world | There are Bahá’í houses of worship all around the world. Worship is another word for prayer and anybody from any religion or non can come and pray or just sit in silence in the Bahá’í house of worship. As you can see each one has a different design but they all have nine sides and nine doors. The nine sides and nine doors show us that there are many paths to god and all religions lead to him.This is the house of worship in Uganda, Africa. This one is in Sydney, Australia. This one is in Panama in Central America. This one is in Germany and this beautiful one in the shape of a lotus flower is in India. This one is in Chicago in North America. And this one is very far away on a pacific island in Samoa. This one is in Chilli and this one is in Cambodia.Eventually there will be a local house of worship in every city and town. Here is one that is going to be built in another pacific island Vanuatu where there is a big community of Bahá’ís. Here is one that is going to be built in Kenya another country in Africa.  |
|  | Putting the teaching of unity into practice | There are lots of ways Bahá’ís put this teaching of oneness and unity into practice. Here are some examples Bahá’ís meet in their homes and invite friends and neighbours to pray with them. They hold children’s classes where children of all backgrounds can learn how to develop kindness, justice, peace, love, happiness and other virtues. They do this through stories, games and songs. When they are older they go to junior youth groups where they have fun together and explore ideas about how they can develop their skills and use them to help their communities. |
|  | Reflective song about values | Thank you for listening to us we would like to finish with a song about kindness which if you like you can learn.Do not be content with showing friendship and words aloneDo not be content with showing friendship and words aloneLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathDo not be content with showing friendship and words aloneDo not be content with showing friendship and words aloneLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burnLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathDo not be content with showing friendship and words aloneDo not be content with showing friendship and words aloneLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burnLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your pathLet your heart burnLet your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path |

 Bahá’í Glossary:

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| Bahá’í faith. | The Baháʼí Faith is a religion teaching the essential worth of all religions, and the unity of all people. |
| Moses |  He is an important prophet in the Bahá'í Faith, He is traditionally mentioned in The Bible as leading the Israelites out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. In the book of Exodus. |
| Krishna | Krishna, Sanskrit Krishna, one of the most widely revered and most popular of all Indian divinities, worshipped as the eighth incarnation (avatar) of the Hindu god Vishnu and also as a supreme god in his own right. |
| Buddha |  Buddha was a philosopher, mendicant, meditator, spiritual teacher, and religious leader who lived in ancient India. He is revered as the founder of the world religion of Buddhism. |
| Muhammad | Muhammad was a religious leader and the founder of Islam. |
| Baha’u’llah | The founder of the Baháʼí faith 1817-1892. His name means ‘Glory of God’. The promised one of all religions. |

Further ideas and resources can be found on [http://re.bahai.org.uk](http://re.bahai.org.uk/)