

Knowledge Organiser

8.3 How do sacred texts help people to respond in times of crisis?

What is a crisis?

A crisis is a situation or event that poses a threat to an individual or a group's well-being, safety, or stability. It can be a personal crisis or a collective crisis affecting a community or society.

What is a sacred text?

A sacred text is a religious book or collection of writings that holds special significance and authority for a particular religious tradition. These texts are considered holy and contain teachings, stories, and guidelines for believers.

How are sacred texts used?

Sacred texts are used as a source of guidance and inspiration for religious believers. They provide moral, ethical, and spiritual teachings that help individuals navigate through life's challenges, including times of crisis. Sacred texts are read, studied, memorized, and recited as a way to connect with the divine and find strength and solace in difficult times.

What is understood/meant by authority?

Authority refers to the power or right to make decisions, give orders, and enforce obedience. In the context of sacred texts, authority means that these texts hold the ultimate truth and are considered the highest source of guidance and wisdom for believers.

What other sources of authority could be used to support faith and respond to a crisis?

Besides sacred texts, other sources of authority that could support faith and help respond to a crisis include religious leaders/figures, community traditions, personal experiences of faith, and prayer/meditation.

Where, who, or what would you turn to for guidance?

In times of crisis, individuals may turn to various sources for guidance, including sacred texts, religious leaders, family members, friends, mentors, and personal reflection. Prayer, meditation, and seeking advice from trusted individuals can provide comfort and guidance during difficult times.

How do sacred texts support faith?

Sacred texts support faith by offering teachings, moral values, and narratives that inspire believers to trust in a higher power, find meaning in their suffering, and maintain hope and resilience during challenging times. They provide comfort, reassurance, and a sense of purpose.

What impact might the interpretation of sacred texts have on how an individual/group responds in a time of crisis?

The interpretation of sacred texts can vary among individuals and religious groups, leading to different responses in times of crisis. Interpretation influences the understanding of moral obligations, the importance of community support, and the application of teachings to specific situations. It can shape attitudes, beliefs, and actions, impacting the way individuals and groups respond to a crisis.

Religious Texts

Timothy 2:12

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- States, "But I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet."
- Provides guidance on gender roles and authority within the Christian faith, which may affect how some individuals respond to crises.

Proverbs 23:1

- Sacred text from the Old Testament of the Bible
- Advises, "When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you."
- Encourages individuals to be cautious and observant of their surroundings, especially when dealing with those in positions of power or authority.

Matthew 7:12 (The Golden Rule)

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- States, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
- Encourages individuals to treat others with kindness, respect, and empathy in all situations, including times of crisis.

John 8:1-11 (The Woman Caught in Adultery)

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- Tells the story of Jesus intervening to protect a woman accused of adultery from being stoned to death.

- Highlights the importance of mercy, forgiveness, and the potential for personal transformation during times of crisis.

Jeremiah 17:9

- Sacred text from the Old Testament of the Bible
- States, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"
- Reminds individuals to be cautious of their own desires and motivations, encouraging introspection and self-reflection during times of crisis.

Matthew 12:6

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- Jesus states, "I tell you that something greater than the temple is here."
- Suggests that religious institutions and rituals may not be the sole source of guidance and solace in times of crisis, emphasizing the importance of individual faith and spiritual connection.

Psalms 32:1

- Sacred text from the Old Testament of the Bible
- Begins with, "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."
- Offers comfort and reassurance that forgiveness and redemption are possible, even in the midst of personal or societal crises.

Matthew 28:20 (The Great Commission)

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- Jesus says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- Provides the assurance that God's presence and support will be with believers at all times, including during times of crisis.

Luke 23:43 (The Thief on the Cross)

- Sacred text from the New Testament of the Bible
- Jesus tells a criminal being crucified next to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
- Offers hope and the promise of eternal life, even in the face of imminent death and personal despair.