

Religious Studies Topic of the Month

June 2023

Is true happiness possible?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



Disclaimer:

This topic relates to an article, written by Elizabeth Weissberg for The Guardian* entitled "They moved to a Buddhist retreat in rural America. Have they found happiness?".

Introduction

This article reflects upon experiences felt by people, during their stay at the Katog Rit'hröd Buddhist center in Parthenon, Arkansas.

Link to article: <https://bit.ly/3J4lqHo>

Discussion prompts

- How is Tibetan Buddhism distinct, from other forms of Buddhism?
- Which part of the noble eightfold path do you think is the hardest to follow, in the world today?
- How might living in a Buddhist Centre help an individual, wishing to follow the eightfold path?
- How might living with karuna (compassion) for others bring a person peace?
- How might isolating oneself from the world, help to solve an individual's problems?
- To what extent do you agree that meditation is useful, for people in the modern day?

Links to topics on the syllabus:

- Buddhist beliefs
- Living the Buddhist life
- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Practices that shape and express religious identity