



# TEACHER OF TRUTH

“Sathya Bodhaka”



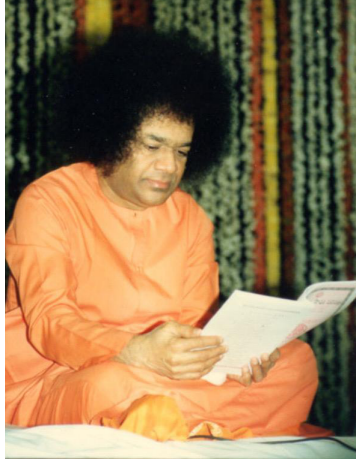
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Sri Sathya Sai Educare



# God says...

"You have to teach the equal validity of all faiths. Teach them through quotations from the *Bible*, the ideals of Christianity. So, too, use the sacred texts of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Islam, etc., to acquaint them with the ideals held aloft by those faiths.

Also tell them the stories contained in the scriptures of all religions. Do not belittle any one religion or give predominance to another. There was a suggestion that children must be taught the entire *Geetha*. That is a mistaken view. Of course, if they desire to do so through their own ardor and enthusiasm, do not stand in their way. But what we have to do is to place before them in sweet, simple style, the teachings of all faiths.



The Sai religion is the harmonious blending, through love, of all religions. Though some followers of other faiths feel that the Sai religion is contrary to theirs, we should not entertain similar feelings. Ours is the totality, the Sun. So we should not limit or restrict our vision.

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba, All India Bala Vikaas Gurus Conference, November 21, 1979

## The 3 Rs for Gurus

**Read, Reflect, and Rewire.**

It is very important for teachers to be ever-prepared to teach God's children. Read Sai Literature. There is plenty available both in audio and print form. Reflect on what you read by keeping your children in class in mind. When we put in that effort, Sai will allow the Rewiring to happen in our hearts and minds.

Reading and increasing our spiritual quotient is a wonderful self care tool. It gives us new perspectives, peace, and a deep connection with not just our children, but our own selves.

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Ugadi, Tamil New Year, Gudi Padwa, Vaisakhi, Vishu, Bengali New Year, Aluth Avurudda, Khmer New Year, Songkran, Thingyan, and Kha b' Nissan are some of the new year celebrations that occur in March and April.

Swami says we do not need to wait until the arrival of a New Year as denoted on a calendar, but rather, should treat every second as new and sanctify our lives. Each second is an expression of the Divine. By realizing unity with the Divine, our lives will be full of bliss.

(Taken from the Divine Discourse, January 1, 1992)

# ...Guru does

With Nowruz (Persian/Zoroastrian New Year) on March 21, Khordad Sal (Prophet Zarathustra's birthday) on March 26, Ramadan beginning on April 1, Easter on April 12, and Ram Navami on April 10 upon us, it is important to see the aspects of every religion Swami showcases so that we can draw from them. People of all faiths come to Prasanthi Nilayam during such festivals, where the universal message of Love and Truth is celebrated through various religious and cultural traditions. The language is the language of love and the focus is on elevating the human values.

The Sarva Dharma symbol represents the Truth Swami speaks about here. Swami particularly calls out two lesson elements in this excerpt: quotes and stories. He does not stop there. He also asks us to focus on the **ideals** laid down by the religion—not the ritual, but the spiritual aspect. For example, among many others, Zoroastrianism focuses on the divinity of the 5 elements of nature, the oneness of the creator, and the 7 sacred paths (one of which is unity of thought, word, and deed). If one pays close attention, Swami always talks about Jesus and the ideals He stood for, and not the religion of Christianity as we know it today. He always implores us to love like Jesus: "Be like Jesus. Jesus was a person whose only joy was in spreading divine love, offering divine love, and receiving divine love" (Divine Discourse, December 25, 1979).

## MULTIFAITH PRAYER

Click the image to access hours of prayers, stories, and reflections from all the world's religious faiths. Begin your mornings and fill the day by listening to Sikh kirtans, Buddhist chants, Christian hymns, Islamic chants, Native American prayers, and Hindu songs. As you listen, tune in to see the common thread of love, oneness, and universality running through each of them. Enjoy Moments of Oneness.



Finding quotes and stories from all faiths allows us to share with all children the underlying essence of the 5 human values in all religions. Swami's teachings on unity are based in universal Love, like the Sun. The Sun shines equally on all. It is unbiased and life-sustaining. It is Love. When we take the high road and focus on the essence of all faiths, children truly begin to see the oneness in them. However, one must be mindful when teaching Unity of Faiths. Young children in Group 1 and younger children in Group 2 are all pure in their thoughts and do not know about the factions man has created. There is no dichotomy in their minds for them to hear from us about Unity. Thus Swami exhorts us to focus on **ideals** from stories from different faiths—something everyone can relate to. Stories with focus on ideals are enough Groups 1 and 2. Groups 3 and 4 can focus on the quotes and go deeper into the teachings. For example, a Group 1 child can be simply told the story of Buddha and how loving Buddha is; Group 2 and 3 can learn about the Eightfold Path; and Groups 3 and 4 can learn about the 4 Noble Truths. Every aspect of every religion can be shared in a developmentally appropriate manner when we plan, reflect, and then teach ([see this resource on Buddha](#) from Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre).

Let us face the ever-effulgent sun, so no shadows of doubt or ignorance lurk in front of us. ([Read more about what Swami has said about the various religions here.](#))

April 22 is Earth Day and Swami reminds us, "Beings are many, but the breath is the same. Nations are many, but the earth is one." (April 26, 1993)

Pay tribute to Mother Earth with this [beautiful song](#) and read aloud this story for children: [Dear Children of the Earth](#) by Schim Schimmel.

