# Title: Peace and Conflict – Sikhism

**Key Questions:** Have we ever been forgiven for something we did wrong? How do followers of T\* seek and offer forgiveness? How can forgiving others benefit us? Should I forgive everything? Have we ever been impressed by an example of forgiveness? Is forgiveness always possible? Can I forgive on behalf of others? Why can it be a good thing if I forgive others?

**Key Concepts:** Working for reconciliation

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To understand the principles of Just War within Sikhism.  To know what the Guru’s taught about peace and violence. | Starter – Guru Nanak  No one is my enemy No one is a foreigner With all I am at peace God within us renders us Incapable of hate and prejudice.  **Guru Nanak**  1) What message do you think Guru Nanak was trying to put across here?  2) How might following this teaching today affect the life of a Sikh believer?  Dharam Yudh- Just War  Sikhism has a concept of the Just [**War**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/war/). It's called Dharam Yudh, meaning war in the defence of righteousness.  In groups, read some information on Dharam Yudh information and highlight all the conditions/principles for a Just War.  1) After reading these principles how do you feel?  2) Are these principles fair/just?  Which principle/s do you think will be easy to follow? And which do you think will pose a challenge and why?  Introduce Guru Gobind Singh as the one who gave Sikhs the mission of fighting against oppression and [**formed the Khalsa**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/holydays/vaisakhi.shtml).  Guru Gobind Singh made it clear that military action was to be the last resort, but emphasised that they should not be avoided if they proved necessary:  When all efforts to restore peace prove useless and no words avail, Lawful is the flash of steel. It is right to draw the sword.  **Guru Gobind Singh**  In small groups, students need to discuss the statement by Guru Gobind Singh and list advantages and disadvantages of his statement. This can be done in a table format.  Watch the clip and listen to what a practicing Sikh, who was a former soldier in the British army states about his religion and violence.  With all the information from today’s lesson students need to decide whether *Just War* can ever be justified or not.  Plenary-  ‘Nothing can ever be called a *Just War*, war is war!’  How far do you agree with this statement?  Show that you have thought about different point of views in your answer. Use religious evidence/examples to support what you write. | Information on Dharam Yudh can be obtained from a variety of different web sites.  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/sikhethics/war.shtml>  The conditions/principles of Just war:  \*The war must be the last resort - all other ways of resolving the conflict must be tried first  \*The motive must not be revenge or enmity.  \*The army must not include mercenaries.  \*The army must be disciplined  \*Only the minimum force needed for success should be used.  \*Civilians must not be harmed.  \*There must be no looting, territory must not be annexed, property taken must be returned  Does religion promote war or peace? @ BBC 1 Sunday Morning Live  Clip can be obtained from:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_08Aj3vrLg>  Is religion the cause of wars?  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHoiJj8iSCE> |