

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



Module 1 - Back to His Basics

Week 1

Title: What is the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center and realize its value through practice, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we are all One.

Quote:

“The main goal of the Sathya Sai Organization ... is to help humanity recognize its inherent divinity. ... So, your duty is to emphasize the One, to experience the One in all you do and speak. Do not give any importance to differences of religion, sect, status, or color. Have the feeling of Oneness permeate all your acts. Only those who do so have a place in this Organization; the rest can withdraw.”

– Sathya Sai Baba, 6 January 1975

<http://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/not-twice-thrice>

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Sai say is the purpose of a Sai Center? Please elaborate.
2. Do our Center activities reflect, project and inspire the message of oneness and our inner divinity to all? How and how not?

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Time permitting few individuals can share a summary of their Pair Share discussion with the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Pair Share
Pair with a person sitting next to you. First person asks, “What is the purpose of a Sai Center?” Second person provides answers. Switch roles. Staying within the context of the Spiritual Principle for this Study Circle, what might be the next question? Ask this of your partner. Keep asking questions and responding.

Affirmation:

[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I am God. (I am an exemplar in fulfilling the true purpose of a Sathya Sai Center, which is to recognize the same inner Divinity in one and all.)

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



Week 2

Title: What is the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center and realize its value through practice, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we are all One.

Quote:

“The delegates assembled in this conference appear to be concerned about the functioning of their centers. Why were these centers started? The primary objective of the Sai Organization is to raise the human consciousness to the Divine by eliminating all animal tendencies. People do not seem to be aware of their true nature. Only those who understand their true selves can help to elevate others. The Upanishads have given the clarion call to mankind to wake up from their ignorance and go forward towards their supreme divine destiny of self-realization.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks, 18 November 1995, 6th World Conference (70th Birthday)

<http://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/fill-world-love/>

Discussion Questions:

1. How does each wing of the Center (devotion, service and education) help us realize our innate divinity? Please give specific examples for each wing.

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Time permitting few individuals can share a summary of their Pair Share discussion with the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Pair Share

Pair with a person sitting next to you. Take turns discussing the following scenario:

You are at your workplace or at a community service project and someone asks you why you go to a Sai Center. Please explain its universal purpose and value.

Affirmation:

[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I am God. (I am an exemplar in fulfilling the true purpose of a Sathya Sai Center, which is to recognize the same inner Divinity in one and all.)

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



Week 3

Title: What is the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the essential purpose of a Sathya Sai Center and realize its value through practice, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we are all One.

Quote:

“You know that these organizations ... are for awakening in man the consciousness of the Divinity inherent in him and to encourage him to cultivate it, so that he could blossom into a real spiritual aspirant and then into a wise aspirant, and finally into a Liberated Personality merged in the Supreme. For, this is not like any other Organization. This does not seek to establish a new cult or sect, a new type of recitation or meditation, a novel ritual, an initiation that separates people as 'disciples' within the fold and 'non-initiates' without the fold. It seeks to restrain dullness/ignorance (Thamoguna) and passion/egoism (Rajoguna); it instills in men the Truth that all are kin in soul, that the stranger is but oneself in another habiliment (attire), and that service to another is the best service that one can do to oneself.”

– Sathya Sai Baba, 20 December 1967

<http://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/truth-and-love/>

Discussion Questions:

1. Do our current practices and routines provide a perception of inclusion? How and how not?

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Time permitting few individuals can share a summary of their Pair Share discussion with the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Pair Share

Pair with a person sitting next to you. First person imagines himself/herself as a newcomer to the Center. (Give just a few silent seconds). Would the purpose described in the above quote be evident to a new comer to the Center? If yes, how? If not, why not? Explain this to the second person. Switch roles.

Affirmation:

[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I am God. (I am an exemplar in fulfilling the true purpose of a Sathya Sai Center, which is to recognize the same inner Divinity in one and all.)