

Fundamentalism and Terrorism

One Perspective



STUDENT ACTIVITY

In this activity, you will have the opportunity to explore reasons why someone becomes a fundamentalist and what that looks like. First, let's begin by exploring what makes someone a fundamentalist.

What makes someone a fundamentalist?

Belonging to a group is about sharing similar beliefs or outlooks on life. Those outlooks can range from social to political to religious. At what point does group membership define you as a fundamentalist? The following are statements that can be recognized as fundamentalist in nature.

In the *ABC News: Classroom Edition* videos, Reverend Billy Graham acknowledges that he is a fundamentalist. In trying to share his fundamental Christian philosophy, he said,

Statement 1:

"I never have a doubt about the Bible. I never have a doubt about the message of the Gospel. And I never have a doubt about my own calling. I know that God called me to bring his message to this generation."

In a 1957 message to a gathering of 90,000 people in Yankee Stadium, Graham said,

Statement 2:

"I believe you are here by divine appointment. I believe this is your night with Almighty God."

In remembering back to the early days of his life, Graham said,

Statement 3:

"I was young and energetic and very visionary about the future. I felt that God had called me; that I had God's message to the world and that if people would listen, they could be changed individually and that whole nations could be changed."

When asked what he hopes his Maker will say when they finally meet, Graham replied,

Statement 4:

"I don't think he'll say it because there have been too many failures and mistakes in my life. But I would like him to say, Well done, good and faithful servant."

1. In the space below, list the common language or words that appear more than once in statements 1-4 on page one.

2. After reviewing the list on page one, list a minimum of three characteristics or traits that might be shared by a group of people who are fundamentalist.

3. In the space below, write a paragraph about someone you know who may be identified as a fundamentalist. In your writing, share some identifying characteristics that suggest this person is a fundamentalist. Because fundamentalism is sometimes associated with terrorism, it often has a negative connotation. However, as is the case with Billy Graham, fundamentalists are often people of high morals.

[illegible]