American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

Faith and Love: Religious diversity groups find common message during roundtable discussion

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Abraham is an important patriarchal figure in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and in November, more than 40 team members gathered at American's headquarters to discuss the important role the prophet played across the religions. The roundtable discussion, known as Abraham's Tent, is a joint endeavor hosted quarterly by the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRG). Organizers believe the occasion provides an opportunity to compare and contrast the ways that each Abrahamic religion approaches different topics. This quarter's subject: leaders of the faiths.

It is believed that Abraham was the first person to teach the idea that there was only one God and that followers should live faithfully, serving God. The presenters each educated attendees on the role Abraham played in their respective religion and then offered more information on another important leader in their faith.

"Everything being done is in the name of Abraham," said one MEBRG attendee. "It's because it's a continuation of his original core message." That message is one of love and faith that is represented in each of the religions.

In Judaism, Abraham is the father of the biblical covenant between the Jewish people and God; in Christianity, he represents all believers, Jewish or Gentile; and in Islam, he is seen as a link in the chain of prophets that begins with Adam and culminates with Muhammad.

"We are taught to follow the one who created all," MEBRG presenter and IT Applications senior architect Nauman Ahmed said of Abraham's declaration.

JEBRG presenter and IT Applications senior developer Aaron Herstein and CEBRG presenter and Sales Strategy

senior analyst Wheeler Bryson continued the conversation.

“We believe the descendants of Abraham will be blessed as long as they follow the covenant that Abraham entered with God,” Aaron said. Wheeler, speaking about the Christian faith, added, "The Bible teaches us that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. And, out of love, God sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to save the world — not to condemn it. For all these reasons, Jesus Christ is the Leader and Source of our faith."

The quarterly Abraham’s Tent events are designed to start a conversation and harbor religious understandings. During the discussion, presenters from each of the three religious-based EBRGs present on a topic before opening it up to a Q&A or comments about the day’s discussion.

At the end of the event, MEBRG members Mazen Saed, IT Data Team lead, and Sadat Shaik, senior developer IT Applications, presented the other EBRGs with holiday gifts. “In an effort to build a positive relationship with the other groups here, especially at a time where there is so much division in the world, we presented holiday gift boxes to each of the EBRGs,” Sadat explained.

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