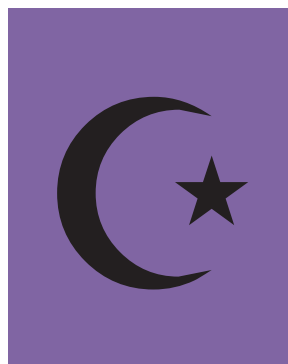


World Religions Workbook

a Christian approach



Doug Potter

World Religions Workbook

a Christian approach

Doug Potter, D.Min.

Assistant Professor of Apologetics
Southern Evangelical Seminary
Matthews, NC

World Religions Workbook: A Christian Approach
Copyright © 2015 Douglas E. Potter

All rights reserved.

No portion of this e-book may be legally copied, reproduced or transmitted in any form and by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, digital or analog recordings, or by any information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author or publisher. However, the following rights are hereby granted for the legal owner of this e-book: (1) You may store a copy of this e-book file in a safe and unshared location as a backup. (2) You may place a copy of this e-book file on other electronic devices that you own. (3) You may print one hard copy on paper and replace that hard copy when it is discarded due to wear, lost, or stolen. (4) Pastors and teachers may share this in digital form with their students so long as this e-book is being used as a text and no financial profits are being made. Redistribution of this e-book beyond these limits and/or any sale of this e-book is considered illegal. Other requests regarding the use of this material may be directed to the author or publisher.

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version ® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway a Publishing Ministry of Good News Publishers. Used By permission. All rights Reserved.

CONTENTS

Teacher's Introductionvii
Student's Introduction	ix
■ Unit 1 Introduction to Religion	1
Bible Study: God and Creation (Genesis 1–3)	4
■ Unit 2 Judaism	7
Bible Study: Messianic Prophecies (Old Testament)	12
■ Unit 3 Hinduism	15
Bible Study: God's Nature (Attributes)	20
■ Unit 4 Buddhism	23
Bible Study: Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)	28
■ Unit 5 Christianity	31
Bible Study: Points to Show Christianity is True (Bible)	36
■ Unit 6 Islam	39
Bible Study: The Trinity (John 14).	44
Test Unit 1 Introduction to Religion	47
Test Unit 2 Judaism	49
Test Unit 3 Hinduism	51
Test Unit 4 Buddhism.	53
Test Unit 5 Christianity.	55
Test Unit 6 Islam.	57
Test Answer Key.	59
World Religions: Scope & Sequence.	61
Glossary	63
Further Information/Resources	65

TEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

This workbook is geared toward children in middle school (Grades 6-8, ages 11-13) or those that have never studied religions other than Christianity. It makes no apology for why Christianity is true, but rests in the provable position that Christianity is true and every religion opposed to it is false.

This workbook covers only what a beginning student should know about each world religion and the truth of Christianity. It is written for the student that has been raised in a Christian home or at least been educated in the Christian faith. That is, there is an expectation of a Christian background and biblical education. It is not intended for a new believer in Christ. Also, it is not a full blown course in Christian apologetics. That should come later (see the *Teachers Guide to the 12 Points that Show Christianity is True*). However, this is preparatory to a course in Christian apologetics.

Lessons based on the units should be presented by a teacher or parent and read by the student as a text. Each unit contains objectives, introductory questions, and subject material to be covered in the lesson followed by a Bible study. Each unit on a world religion adds a chart on the religion that should be filled in by the student as they listen to the teacher or read the text. The Bible study, following each unit, can be done independently by the student or in a group. The tests can also be used to assess the student's level of understanding.

All work should be reviewed by the teacher, discussed with the student(s) and retaught if necessary. There is a scope and sequence to help integrate the objectives with course work and assignments, a test answer key and a glossary. This is a resource to help develop lessons and other teaching materials. This is an interactive e-book with links to Bible references, photos, quizzes, and tests on the internet. Look for underlined text, maps 🗺️ photos 🖼️ and Quizlet exercise 🗑️ to click on. You can join the class on Quizlet to take full advantage of these features.

Teachers or parents are likely to face more questions than this study answers. For preparation and further research see the Further Information/Resources page at the end. And as I have said, many times speaking to parents on teaching children Christian apologetics, the most important person that must be trained in World Religions or Christian apologetics to help your child is *you*! A good self-study course to get started is the Southern Evangelical Apologetics Lay Institute.

First exposure to a person from a different religion than Christianity likely comes very early. Many live in a multi-cultural and religious society. This is a great opportunity for ministry and points to the need to teach young Christians about the truth of Christianity. Many in today's culture have regulated religious truth to a category of unverifiable belief. Hence, one's religion becomes no more significant than a preference for a certain flavor of ice cream. However, beliefs are not always true. People can believe that things are true that are false. Belief in ancient times that the world was flat does not mean the world was ever flat. Likewise, the belief that God is everything known as Pantheism, does not entail the truth that God is identical to creation. Hence, truth in religion is absolute, the same way as truth in all other areas of life such as politics, finances, science, history, etc. Jesus is not just a founder of a religion, but He is the founder of the only true religion as He says, He is the only way to God (John 14:6).

That's not arrogant or intolerant, that is just the way all truth is: absolute and thus trans-cultural. Something that is true for all people, all the time and everywhere. What we often struggle with is that our understanding or grasp of the truth is not always complete or absolute. But that is a different issue than the nature of truth itself. We are finite and limited. But we do not have to know something exhaustively, to know if it is true or not. As this study will show, other religions can have some truth in

them but opposites cannot both be true, and other religions oppose Christianity in crucial areas, such as who is God, who Jesus is, and how we are saved. Hence, they cannot all be true and one religion, Christianity is true.

Certainly we must be kind and loving to all people in other religions. We must show them respect and freedom to believe different from us. But we do not have to show agreement with everything they say or believe if it opposes Christianity. Any more than a doctor who knows the cure to a disease but withholds the true cure just to sound amenable with everything a patient says. If we did that, given the truth of Christianity, it would be cruel and unloving.

STUDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the study of world religions. You have probably met or heard of people that believe differently from Christians. You may even have some friends who are not Christian. That is great news if you know others or even have friends who are not Christians. As Jesus said, we should love all people (Matt. 5:43-44). Our love shows the world that we are disciples of Jesus Christ (John 13:35). It is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus that is the sign which we can use to draw anyone to the truth of Christianity (John 12:32). Many have not heard the good news of who Jesus is and what He did for us in dying on the cross and raising from the dead.

In this study you will learn about other views of God and other religions. This is an opportunity for you to see the truth of Christianity compared and contrasted with other religions. This is also a study in how Christianity alone is the true religion. And while there is some truth in other religions, nothing in other religions that opposes Christianity can be true. This is why Jesus wants us to tell others about Him and teach others what He taught (Matt. 28:18-20). Many people have not had the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus or be taught about the truth of Christianity.

You may be in a class, group or studying with your family or just reading and doing the work in this book. The book is divided into six units of study. The first unit introduces you to the study of religion itself. Following this each unit presents a religion in which you will read facts about the religion; fill in a chart on the religion, do a Bible study, study terms you should know, and take a test on each unit.

This is an interactive e-book with links to Bible references, photos, quizzes, and tests on the internet. Look for underlined text, maps 🗺️ photos 🖼️ and Quizlet exercise 🎯 to click on.

It is my hope that you enjoy this study and that knowing what others believe who are not Christians, will help you to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

UNIT 1

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION

Objectives:

- 1.1 Describe some characteristics of a religion.
- 1.2 Define the different views of God.
- 1.3 State the law of Noncontradiction.
- 1.4 Investigate the biblical origin of humans, sin and religion.
- 1.5 Acquire confidence in the truth of Christianity.

What do most people think about when you mention the word “religion”? What people have you ever met from other religions? What were they like and what did they believe?

Based on the map, what are the largest and smallest religions? What areas of the world do you think are the hardest to reach people with the good news of Jesus?



Despite difficulties in defining the term *religion*, there are certain things we can say it must involve. For example, it clearly involves the worship of God or gods. It involves beliefs and practices or rituals. It provides values and tries to give meaning to life. It directs a person to what they believe is ultimate or real, namely some understanding of God.

You may have seen the bumper sticker that says COEXIST written in religious symbols. The idea behind this is that all religions are just different ways of seeing or finding God. Hence, no one religion is exclusively true. However, our study will show that is not true. We do need to co-exist in the sense that we should always respect and love people in other religions no matter what differences there may be. But we do not have to always agree with them that their belief or faith is true, especially when it contradicts Christianity, the true religion.

In this introductory unit, we answer some basic questions about religion which clearly shows that one religion, Christianity, can be the true way to God.

Where did religion come from?

Religion is something that is particular to humans since they alone are created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26). None of the animals, even apes, monkeys, and extinct hominid species (bipedal animals created before humans) show evidence of being religious or spiritual creatures. Only humans show a spiritual capacity to be religious and worship the Creator. So religion began with the first humans.

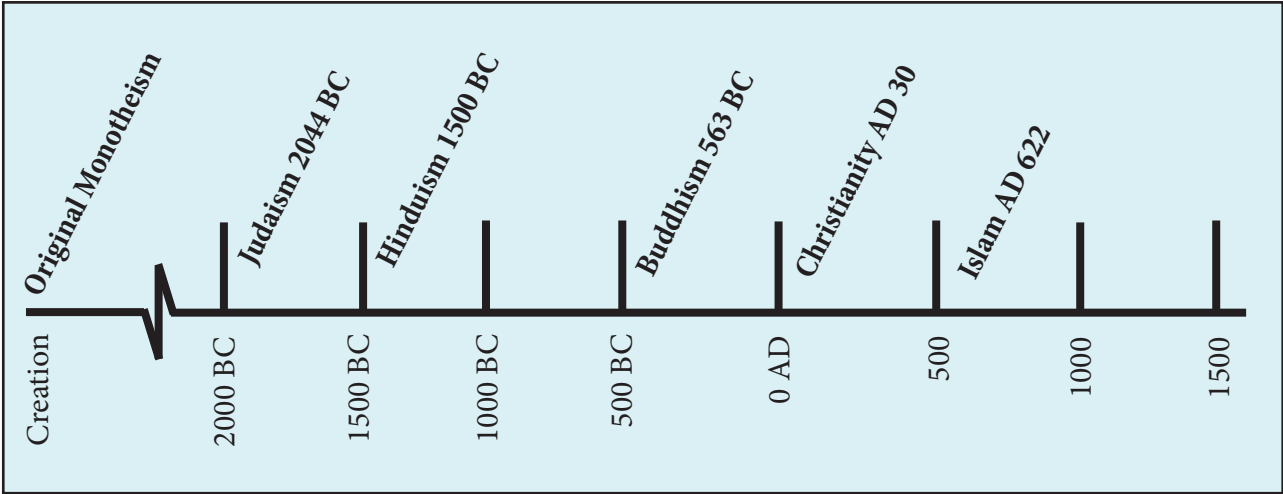
What was the first religion?

The first religion is shown in the Bible, the book of Genesis, with the first created couple being in fellowship with God, their creator. This is called mono (=one) theism (=God). This fellowship was broken by sin (Gen. 3). The fellowship was lost and humans would now have to take from creation to survive. Now they suffer death and need to be saved in order for them not to be eternally separated from God. So the first religion was monotheism, belief in one God who is separate from creation but always present to His creation. This is called original monotheism.

How many religions are there?

Our study will focus on five major religions: Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. From the first understanding of God, original monotheism, many other religions deviated and splintered off over a long period of time. There are many religions and branches of religions; too many for us to study at this point. However, every religion that exists or develops in the future can be reduced to at least one view of God. So if you know the views of God, you will be able to classify any religion or off branch according to their view of God.

Time line of Religions



How many different views of God are there?

There are really only five views of God. They are as follows:

- 1) Monotheism (mono=one, theism=God): Only one God.
- 2) Animism (anima=life, soul): natural things or forces have life/souls in them.
- 3) Polytheism (poly=many, theism=god): There are many small gods.
- 4) Pantheism (pan=all, theism=God): God is all or the same as the universe.
- 5) Atheism (a=no, theism=god): There is no God or gods.

That is it, once you know these views, you can classify any religion. Monotheism was the first view of God, after that, views of God diversified or deteriorated and religions developed. People all over the world hold these views of God through their particular religion today.

View of God:	Monotheism	Animism	Polytheism	Pantheism	Atheism
Some Religions:	Judaism Christianity Islam	Some Primi- tive/ Tribal Reli- gions	Hinduism Buddhism	Hinduism Buddhism	Some Buddhism

What is the true religion?

Very important question. If all the religions have opposite views of God, then they cannot all be true. But one religion could be true. This is what the law of noncontradiction tells us. This law of logic says, opposites cannot both be true at the same *time* and in the same *relationship*. If “C” (Christianity) is true, then all non “C” is false. Hence, no matter what religions might have in common, if they

oppose each other on their view of God, they cannot all be true. But one religion can be true. We hold for many important reasons, that only Christianity is true and anything opposed to Christianity, cannot be true. We will explore in our study some of those reasons that Christianity is true and compare and contrast Christianity with the other religions. However, that being said, truth that is not opposed to Christianity does exist in other religions. So in our study, we will point some of that out too. For example, despite opposing views of God, many religions recognize a common moral law of what is right and wrong.

Do all religions just see the same God in different ways?

The belief that all religions see the same God in different ways is called pluralism. You may have heard the parable of the six blind men and the elephant. One man touches the trunk and thinks it is like a snake. Another the ear and thinks it is a big fan. Another the leg and thinks it is like a tree trunk. Another the tail and thinks it is a rope, and so forth . . . Each thinks it is something different yet they are all wrong since it is an elephant. The problem with this allegory is that in order for it to make sense, someone must see and know it is an elephant. That, of course, is the one who tells the parable. So even in this parable someone knows the truth about God, namely the narrator or teller or someone who can see. Likewise, we believe Christianity tells the truth about God, we are not blind because God has revealed Himself through creation and the Bible (Rom. 1:17–18). Hence, everyone else opposed to our view is getting God wrong.

One thing that makes Christianity different from any other religion is that it is about God (not us) working in history to restoring our broken relationship with Him (Gen. 3). All other religions try to get their adherents to improve themselves in order to reach the ultimate, but Christianity alone is about God saving us through His Son, Jesus Christ apart from our good works (Eph. 2:8–9).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Words to know 📋

Religion

Monotheism

Pantheism

Polytheism

Animism

Pluralism

Atheism

Law of Noncontradiction

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: GOD AND CREATION (GENESIS 1–3)

Genesis, means “beginning,” hence it is the first book of the Bible, written by the prophet Moses. It was likely written while he was leading the Israelites wondering in the desert waiting to enter the promise land. It tells God’s chosen people, the Israelites, who God is, where they came from and why the world became sinful. In so doing, it also shows that the first religion must have been belief in one God (monotheism). In fact, Moses emphasizes this because all the nations surrounding them believe there are many gods (polytheism). If so, you might wonder, then why does Genesis use a plural name for God and even uses “Us” (Gen. 1:26)? Does this mean there is more than one god? In Moses’s day it was quite common to refer to kings and people of royalty in the plural to show them honor. Moses adapts this practice to refer to God, to give Him the highest honor possible. Grammatically, it is called a “royal plural.” Deuteronomy 6:4 clearly shows that Moses and the Israelites believe that God is one. Hence, there cannot be many gods in the one God. Yet again you might think, does the first commandment (Exodus 20:3) imply that there are other “real” god’s? If God has to say, do not worship other gods are they not real? But these other gods are either imaginary, made up by humans or they are the influence of demons (fallen angelic creatures). The Bible is clear that there is no other God than God (Isa. 45:5–7).

Assignment: Read Genesis chapter 1–3 and answer the following questions.

1. How is God different from creation or the world and yet personally relates to His creatures in Genesis 1:1ff?

Answer: _____

2. How are the first humans created in Genesis 1:27 and 2:7, 21–22?

Answer: _____

3. What did God tell the man he could and could not do in Genesis 1:16–17?

Answer: _____

4. What happened so that the first human couple was not ashamed of their nakedness (Gen. 2:25) and then became ashamed of their nakedness (Gen. 3:7)?

Answer: _____

5. Who and what is cursed and what promise is given in Genesis 3:14–19?

Answer: _____

6. How is the God of the Bible (Genesis 1–3) opposed to the other views of God (Pantheism, Polytheism, Animism, and Atheism)?

Answer: _____

UNIT 2

JUDAISM

Objectives:

- 2.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Judaism.
- 2.2 State what is true and false about Judaism today.
- 2.3 Investigate biblical Messianic prophecies concerning Jesus Christ.
- 2.4 Appreciate the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Do you know anyone who is Jewish? Moses is perhaps the most well known Jewish figure because he wrote the first five books of the Bible. Do you know what happened to the Jews during World War II? What happened in 1948? Why do you think some Jews accept Jesus and others reject him as the Messiah?



In this unit we explore the origin and beliefs of Judaism, much of which serves as an important background to Christianity.

Symbol ☆

It is the “Star of David” or “Shield of David” that dates from the 17th century.

Founder & Beginning

Although monotheism existed before Judaism, the Jewish religion is not birthed until God calls Abram (later Abraham) out of his country about 2044 BC (Gen. 12:1). God promised Abraham to make a great nation out of his decedents. And it is formalized during the time of Moses (1450 BC) with the writing of the Torah.

Origination

Abram is called out of the city of Ur. After many generations the nation held captive under the rule of an Egyptian pharaoh. After God miraculously released them through the prophet Moses, they eventually enter the promised land (Israel), but are never able to fully occupy all that was promised to them through Abraham (Gen. 15).

Number of followers

While small compared to other religions, worldwide they number just over 15 million. There are about 4 million in the U.S.

Name of followers

They are most commonly known as “Jews” or “Jewish.”

Sacred Book(s)

The Old Testament is divided into the law, the prophets, and the writings. Together they are called the *TeNaKh* (based on the first Hebrew letter of each section). The first five books of the Old Testament are called the Torah which means “Law.” They are the same books in the Christian Old Testament, but given a different order.

View and Name of God

Judaism has a monotheistic view of God. While they use many names for God, the most revered is *Yahweh*. This name is so sacred and revered, that it is only a derivative of the original name, which has been lost. Even Scribes, who copied the Old Testament, would ceremonially wash themselves before writing the name and were told not even to acknowledge kings if they were in the middle of writing the name. Names in the Old Testament, often revealed the character or nature of the person. Moses asked God His name (nature) and was told “I AM WHO I AM.” Which is what *Yahweh* means (Ex. 3:14; Deut. 6:4).

Place of Worship

The place of worship is called a synagogue. It serves as the center of the Jewish community, includes an ark that stores the Torah scrolls and a menorah. Women and men are separated during a service.

Beliefs

While Jews vary in their beliefs today, they do generally hold that there is only One God. He created the world. He protects and holds His people accountable for their sins. And God gave a moral law to follow in the Ten Commandments (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:1–17).

Special Days/Practices

Some of their special days include the Sabbath – a day of rest (no work), begins at sunset on Friday and ends on sunset on Saturday. A synagogue service is usually held on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Yom Kippur – corresponds to the biblical Day of Atonement. Synagogue services may last all day. Hanukkah – celebrates the purification of the temple by the Maccabees and usually falls in December. Passover – celebrates the biblical origin of God’s provision for the Jewish people in the last plague on Egypt. All leaven foods are removed and a Seder (meal) is given in March or April. Kosher (fit) are foods that conform to Jewish dietary restrictions taken from Leviticus 11:1–47 and Deuteronomy 14: 3–20.

What is true and false in Judaism?

Judaism correctly holds there is one, and only one God who created the world from nothing, that there is a moral law and humans are sinful and in need of salvation. They also have historically held that the Old Testament is the word of God. Christianity also sees the Old Testament as the word of God, but rejects what is false in today’s Judaism. For example, Judaism today fails to accept Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. Some Jews do believe and are called “Messianic Jews.” But Jewish understanding today rejects Jesus as the Messiah, despite the fulfillment of many predictions in the Old Testament and the evidence for His resurrection.

Contrast with Christianity

	Christianity	Judaism
Bible	Old and New Testament is the Word of God	Old Testament (only) is the Word of God
God	God is Triune	God is One
Creation	By God From Nothing	By God From Nothing
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Not the Messiah, human teacher
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Faith and doing good works
Afterlife	Heaven & Hell	Heaven & Hell

Words to know 📖

Abraham

Moses

TeNaKh

Torah

Yahweh

Ten Commandments

Sabbath

Yom Kippur

Hanukkah


Passover

Messianic

10 ■ World Religions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Directions: starting with the name of the religion's symbol, fill in notes from the text you read and/or lesson that you were taught about this religion.

Judaism	 _____
Founder	
Date of Beginning	
Origination	
Number of followers	
Name of followers	
View of God	
Name of God	
Sacred Book(s)	
Place of Worship	
Beliefs	
Special Days/Practices	

Answers

Judaism	☆ Star of David
Founder	Abraham
Date of Beginning	2044 BC
Origination	Egypt–Israel
Number of followers	15.1 Million
Name of followers	Jews
View of God	Monotheism
Name of God	Yahweh
Sacred Book(s)	Torah (Law), the Prophets, The Writings (Old Testament)
Place of Worship	Synagogue
Beliefs	There is only One God. God created the world. God protects and holds His people accountable for their sins. God gave a moral law to follow in the Ten Commandments.
Special Days/Practices	Sabbath, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, Passover, Kosher meals

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: MESSIANIC PROPHECIES (OLD TESTAMENT)

A prophet in the Old Testament was a spokesman of God’s revelation. Often this revelation concerned announcement of future events beyond human power to know. Such a prophet must speak in the name of the Lord. The ability to do miracles is present with a true prophet (Num. 16:5; 28–33). His prophecy must come to pass or come true. His prophecy must be measured against the commandments the Lord previously gave to His people. And a failure on any of these resulted in stoning the prophet without mercy (Deut. 13:1–5). The purpose of such prophecy was to show that God is true and His Word is never broken (Num. 23:19); that there is no one like God (Isa. 46:9–10); that the Messiah will be known based on prophecy (Isa. 48:3,5; Rom. 1:2–4).

Jesus appeals to Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself (Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39, 40, 46, 47; Matt. 13:14; 11:10; 21:42; 26:56; Mark 13:26; Luke 4:20; 22:37; John 15:25. The New Testament writers also appeal to prophecies fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3:18; 10:43; 13:29; 17:23; 1 Cor. 15:34; Rom. 1:2; 1 Peter 2:5, 6; Matt. 2:4–6).

Assignment: In the following study, look up the Old and New Testament references and then summarize what the prophecy says about the Messiah.

Old Testament	New Testament	Your Summary
Gen. 3:15	Matt. 1:20	
Gen. 12:3	Matt. 1:1	
Mic. 5:2	Luke 3:23, 33	
Jer. 23:5–6	Luke 3:23, 31	
Isa. 7:14	Luke 1:26–35	
Micah 5:	Matt. 2:1	
Isa. 53:5–12	Matt. 26:67; Luke 23:33	
Zech. 12:10	John 19:33–36	
Psa. 16:10	Acts 2:27, 31	

**Answers**Gen. 3:15 **Matt. 1:20**Gen. 12:3 **Matt. 1:1**Mic. 5:2 **Luke 3:23, 33**Jer. 23:5–6 **Luke 3:23, 31**Isa. 7:14 **Luke 1:26–35**Micah 5:2 **Matt. 2:1**Isa. 53:5–12 **Matt. 26:67; Luke 23:33**Zech. 12:10 **John 19:33–36**Psa. 16:10 **Acts 2:27, 31**

Seed of the woman

Offspring of Abraham

Tribe of Judah

From the House of David

Son of a Virgin

Born in Bethlehem

He would suffer and die for our sins

His side would be pierced

He would rise from the dead



UNIT 3

HINDUISM

Objectives:

- 3.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Hinduism.
- 3.2 State what is false about Hinduism.
- 3.3 Investigate the biblical view of God's nature.
- 3.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Hinduism with Christianity.

Do you know anyone who is Hindu? Who do you think is the most famous person who is Hindu? It is probably Gandhi (1869–1948). Gandhi advocated non-violent civil disobedience and was a leader in helping parts of India gain independence from British rule.



In this unit, we explore the basic beliefs and practices of a religion that is very much opposed to Christianity in important areas.

Symbol ॐ

The symbol “OM” is a sacred spiritual mantra in Hinduism. While it has no meaning, it is said to refer to the soul (atman) merging with Brahman (ultimate reality). It is used in their prayers and meditation.

Founder & Beginning

There is no known founder. To be Hindu, one must acknowledge the Vedas as divinely inspired and give veneration to deities and spirits (gods) at various levels.

Origination

Its origin is India and dates back to the 1500 BC.

Number of followers

There are about 860 million adherents in the world. There are about 1 million in the US.

Name of followers

They most often referred to as Hindus and Hinduism means “the religion of India.”

Sacred Book(s)

The Four Vedas are accepted as divinely inspired and given to holy men. They include the Rig-Veda, that includes prayers and hymns; the Yajur Veda has short mantras; the Sama Veda has songs or changes; and the Atharva Veda has magic spells and incantations. The Vedas teach about Brahman as an impersonal pantheistic God and gods. Many also accept the Bhagavad Gita which

is a poem in the Mahabaharta (200 BC) that teaches devotion to Krishna (a god).

View and Name of God

Brahman is Pantheism, all is God. There are literally millions of named gods in Hinduism. Some of the most popular include the Bhakti gods (and goddesses): Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Protector), Shivah (Destroyer) and some believe in only Krishna is a god.

Place of Worship

The Hindu place of worship is called a temple. The service is called a *puja*. Each temple is dedicated to a god or goddess that supposedly houses a god.

Beliefs

Hindus believe that good and bad are equal opposites (dualism) we experience in this world, but ultimately it is an illusion (*maya*). God is Brahman which is the only ultimate impersonal reality. There are millions of smaller gods and one should be devoted to a god and/or goddess; but they would see many ways to God (Brahman). Even some living guru's (Hindu teacher) are considered gods.

They believe in reincarnation. That is, the soul (*atman*) never dies but is continually reborn until it reaches enlightenment or release from reincarnation (*moksha*) to merge with Brahman. Karma determines what level one returns. The wanderings from incarnation to incarnation is called *samsara*, which they desire release from. In Hinduism, reincarnation is a negative concept. One cannot know what they will come back as and one bad action in life may result in 1000 rebirths as a bug or a worm.

Special Days

Hindus are taught to do three devotional prayers a day. They usually have a statue that represents a god in their home which they clean, dress and keep decorated. Many are vegetarians.

What is true and false about Hinduism?

Hinduism is right in that there is an ultimate reality. But God (or Brahman) is not identical with the world; that is Pantheism. God is not identical to creation and He did not create out of himself. God is personal since He made personal creations. We can have a relationship with Him since He is the Maker and made us. God is separate from creation even though He is present to creation everywhere. Humans are not God, they cannot become God and they are not a part of God. Pantheists think we must discover we are God, but that would imply change (going from not knowing to knowing) which for God is impossible. God does not change (James 1:17). God alone is the Creator and we are the creature, God is the Maker and we are the made.

Also, good and evil are not an illusion. God made all of creation good (Gen. 1:31). Evil is not a direct creation of God, it was introduced by the disobedient free will of Adam and Eve, who were tempted to be like God (Gen. 3:5) which is the same error of Pantheism.

Reincarnation is not true. First, it is unfair. Why should karma punish someone for something they do not know from a previous life. Likewise, it makes us passive and unkind since we should not help others or risk interfering with their karma. Second, it is fatalistic and gives us nothing to look forward to but absorption into the impersonal Brahma. Compare that with everlasting life with a loving God (Rev. 22:1-5). Finally, it is inconsistent with Hinduism itself. If ultimate reality is one

(Brahma), how can reincarnation of individual souls be real? It too must be an illusion according to the Hindu thinking.

Instead, we have one life to live in this world, and after that we die (Heb 9:27). If we have believed in Jesus, we go to be with Him (2 Cor. 5:7-9), if not then we are eternally separated from God (2 Thess. 1:9). At the end, Jesus Christ will bodily resurrect everyone. For those who have trusted Him, they will have everlasting life for those that have not they will have everlasting contempt and judgement in hell.

Jesus is not a guru. Jesus' claim to be the Son of God is not in the context of eastern religions. Jesus was a Jew who taught there is one personal God (Deut. 6:4) who created the world (Gen. 1:1). Man is in the image of God as separate individuals (Gen. 1:27). Gurus say this is an illusion. Jesus taught about God in words (Mark 10:18), but gurus say God is unexplainable in words. Jesus taught that God punishes sin and there is a heaven and hell (Matt. 10:28), but gurus teach that all merges as one (Brahma). If Jesus was a guru, he was a really bad one.

Contrast with Christianity

	Christianity	Hinduism
Bible	The only Word of God	Another holy book
God	God is Triune	God is everything
Creation	By God From Nothing	Out of God
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Guru or god
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Release from Samsara
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Reincarnation, Nothingness

Words to know 🗒

Hinduism

Vedas

Bhagavad Gita

Brahman

Reincarnation

Moksha

Samsara

Karma

18 ■ World Religions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Directions: starting with the name of the religion's symbol, fill in notes from the text you read and/or lesson that you were taught about this religion.

Hinduism	ॐ _____
Founder	
Date of Beginning	
Origination	
Number of followers	
Name of followers	
View of God	
Name of God(s)	
Sacred Book(s)	
Place of Worship	
Beliefs	
Special Days/Practices	

**Answers**

Hinduism	ॐ OM (No Meaning)
Founder	Unknown
Date of Beginning	1500 BC
Origination	India
Number of followers	860 Million
Name of followers	Hindu
View of God	Pantheism & Polytheism
Name of God(s)	Brahman (Pantheism) Bhakti gods: Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Protector), Shiva (Destroyer)
Sacred Book(s)	The Four Vedas Bhagavad Gita
Place of Worship	Temple, dedicated to god or goddess
Beliefs	God is everything (Brahman) and there are millions of gods, one should be devoted to a god or goddess. Reincarnation: Soul never dies but is continually reborn until it reaches enlightenment (<i>samsara</i>). Karma determines what level one returns.
Special Days/Practices	Devotional prayers 3 (or less), times a day a god (statue) is decorated in the house

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S NATURE (ATTRIBUTES)

The Bible, from the very first verse clearly presents God as distinct from creation (Gen. 1:1). In fact, God creates everything that exists from absolute nothing. He does not create *from* anything else or even *out* of Himself. God creates only *by* His power (=word). Everything that exists, all creation, was created by God and is always held in existence by God. God is even the creator of space and time, which has a beginning with the universe.

You might wonder who created God. But God is uncreated. He is eternal, having no beginning and no end. Only created things have a beginning. But God is uncreated. He is not even self-created, that is creating Himself. That would be impossible. God is self-existing, needing no creator since He has and always will exist.

God is infinite and He gave us some of His perfections in a limited way such as goodness. These limited perfections given to us must be attributed to God in an infinite way. That is we are finite or have limited goodness, but God is infinite goodness. This is because God can't give perfections to His creatures that He doesn't already have. Also, anything that is limited or corrupted cannot be attributed to God in any way. For example, God cannot lie or do evil to anyone. This is exactly what the Bible reveals when it teaches about God's nature.

Assignment: In this study you will examine Bible verses that teach about the nature of God. Complete the chart below by looking up each verse and summarizing what the verse is saying about God in as few words as possible.

Biblical Verse	Your Summary
Ex. 3:14	
Deut. 6:4	
Gen. 1:1	
Ps. 90:2	
Num. 23:19	
Ps. 147:4–5	
John 4:24	
Luke 1:37	
Ps. 139:7–10	
Rom. 16:27	
Jer. 10:10	
1 John 4:16	
Col. 1:16–18	

Answers

Ex. 3:14 God is existence or self-existing
 Deut. 6:4 God is One
 Gen. 1:1 God is the creator (and different from creation)
 Ps. 90:2 God is everlasting or eternal
 Num. 23:19 God does not change
 Ps. 147:4–5 God is infinite knowledge and strength
 John 4:24 God is Spirit
 Luke 1:37 Nothing is impossible for God
 Ps. 139:7–10 God is everywhere
 Rom. 16:27 God is wisdom
 Jer. 10:10 God is life and everlasting
 1 John 4:16 God is love
 Col. 1:16–18 God (=Jesus) made everything and holds it in existence

UNIT 4

BUDDHISM

Objectives:

- 4.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Buddhism.
- 4.2 State what is true and false about Buddhism.
- 4.3 Investigate the biblical understanding of Christian Resurrection.
- 4.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Buddhism with Christianity.

Do you know anyone who is Buddhist? Do you know who the Dali Lama is? The Dali Lama (lama means guru) is a monk and considered the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism (Mahayana). He is considered the 14th incarnation of the Bodhisattva (embodies all the Buddha's) of compassion.



In this unit, we explore the origin and beliefs of Buddhism, which easily integrates into many other religions, but is diametrically opposed to Christianity.

Symbol

The Buddha wheel is an important symbol in Buddhism that represents the teaching of the Buddha that if followed they believe it will bring spiritual transformation.

Founder & Beginning

Although shrouded in legend, Siddhartha Gautama (563–534 BC) supposedly first lived a life of enjoyment, then one of inquiry and then found enlightenment as he sat under a bo (fig) tree to meditate. As a result he supposedly found his way of enlightenment and became Buddha or “awakened one.” He eventually shared this path and gained a following (disciples).

Origination

India around 500 BC.

Number of followers

There are approximately 379 million in the world and about 780,000 in the US.

Name of followers

They are commonly called Buddhists.

Sacred Book(s)

Tripitaka means three baskets and is a collection of rules, sermons, and other teaching. The Lotus Sutra includes core teaching attributed to the human Buddha who was actually a celestial Buddha and all are eligible for Buddhahood.

View and Name of God

The teaching does not necessitate a strict view of God, it is more concerned with personal enlightenment, which can be integrated into other religions that may have a more firm view of God. Hence, Hinduism, Japanese Shinto, and Chinese popular religions are heavily Buddhist. Buddhists can be pantheistic, polytheistic and even atheistic. Some accept Buddha as a god, Hindu gods and Brahman.

Place of Worship

There are many Buddhist temples or centers for worship and meditation. The most well know is the Shewdogon Pagoda in Burma.

Beliefs

Enlightenment is found in a middle way between luxury and self-deprivation. The key to life is to let go of everything to realize Anatman (no-self). Nirvana is a non-state goal of enlightenment. Realizing one's self-extinctedness is the goal of Buddha's philosophy. This is achieved through four noble truths: 1) to live is to suffer; 2) suffering causes desire; 3) eliminate suffering by eliminating desire; 4) desire is eliminated by the eightfold path. The eightfold path is 1) Right view of existence; 2) right intentions of enlightenment; 3) right speech of only what is required (no more no less); 4) right action of what is required (no more no less); 5) right livelihood of a monk; 6) right effort (energy); 7) right mindfulness (proper meditation); 8) right concentration (focus). Buddhism incorporates belief in reincarnation, samsara, karma, and ultimate non-reality.

There are two major schools of Buddhism. Theravada follows the Tripitaka and maintains a strict teaching for monks. Mahayana follows the Lotus Sutra replaces loosing oneself with finding oneself.

Special Days

Buddha birthday is very important and usually a national holiday in some countries. The day of the dead is a special day to venerate ancestors.

What is true and false about Buddhism?

Buddhists recognizes that something is wrong with humans; however, enlightenment through the eightfold path is not the answer or solution to the human problem. Human self-improvement apart from God's grace is the problem. Buddhism says that one must get rid of all desires, but what about the desire to get rid of all desire? Is that a good desire or bad desire; if good, then not all desires are bad, if bad then we should not follow Buddhism according to its own teaching. Buddhism has no correct view of God and humans; therefore it is incompatible with Christianity. God made us personal beings and to seek our self-extinctedness is to violate the image of God in humans (Gen 1:26-27). The only salvation for humans is to accept the forgiveness of our sins that God has provided through His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose from the dead (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 4:12).

Contrast with Christianity

	Christianity	Buddhism
Bible	The only Word of God	Another holy book
God	God is Triune	God is everything or non-existent
Creation	By God From Nothing	Out of God
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Guru or god
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Release from Sam-sara
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Reincarnation, Self-extinctedness

Words to know 📖

Siddhartha Gautama

Buddha

Tripitaka

Lotus Sutra

Theravada


Mahayana

Nirvana

Eightfold Path

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Directions: starting with the name of the religion’s symbol, fill in notes from the text you read and/or lesson that you were taught about this religion.

Buddhism	 _____
Founder	
Date of Beginning	
Origination	
Number of followers	
Name of followers	
View of God	
Name of God(s)	
Sacred Book(s)	
Place of Worship	
Beliefs	
Special Days	

Answers

Buddhism	☸ Buddha Wheel
Founder	Siddhartha Gautama (563–483 BC)
Date of Beginning	500 BC
Origination	India
Number of followers	379 Million
Name of followers	Buddhists
View of God	Pantheism, some Atheism
Name of God(s)	Some Buddha, some Hindu gods (not in teaching)
Sacred Book(s)	Tripitaka & Lotus Sutra
Place of Worship	The Shewdogon Temple
Beliefs	Followers can achieve enlightenment (Buddhahood) through the Eightfold Path that can eliminate desires: Right view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness and concentration.
Special Days	Buddha' birthday (varies), Day of the Dead – ancestor veneration

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: RESURRECTION (1 COR- INTHIANS 15)

The Bible teaches against reincarnation (that is, returning again and again as another form of life) by stating all humans are appointed to live and die once and then to face judgement (Heb. 9:27). For humans to be reborn as an animal or a bug is for God to deny and destroy His own image (Gen. 1:26-27). We are not unreasoning animals (Jude 10), but made as a mind-body unity that is in the image of God (1 Cor. 11:7). We suffer physical death as a result of our rebellion and sin against God (Gen. 3). The Bible clearly teaches that there are two future resurrections (John 5:28-29); one for believers to a resurrection of life and one for unbelievers to a resurrection of judgement. Our resurrection body will be just like Jesus' resurrection body. Paul in I Corinthians 15 explains in detail the importance of the resurrection to the gospel and what it will be like.

Paul teaches that our resurrected bodies will be just as physical and fleshy as they are now, only glorified and imperishable. Instead of being controlled by a natural sinful nature, they will be spiritually and heavenly controlled. Our resurrection bodies will be just like Jesus' resurrection body that was a physical glorified body, that could be seen, recognized, heard, touched, even having His crucifixion scars (John 20:24-31), and able to eat food (John 21:15). And the Bible says our resurrection body will be just like His (1 John 3:2).

Assignment: Read 1 Corinthians 15 and answer the following questions.

1. What is the gospel according to 1 Cor. 15:1-11?

Answer: _____

2. Read 1 Cor. 15:35-50 compare and contrast the sown body with the resurrected body by filling in the chart below?

Natural Body	Resurrected Body
Perishable v. 42	
Dishonor v. 43	
Natural (controlled) v. 44	
Adam (living soul) v. 45	
Earthy v. 47	

Answers

- Perishable v. 42
- Dishonor v. 43
- Natural (controlled) v. 44
- Adam (living soul) v. 45
- Earthy v. 47
- Imperishable
- Honor
- Spiritual
- Last Adam (life-giving)
- Heaven

3. Summarize the mystery Paul explains in 1 Cor. 15:51–58.

Answer: _____

UNIT 5

CHRISTIANITY

Objectives:

- 5.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Christianity.
- 5.2 State what is true about Christianity.
- 5.3 Investigate biblical points that show Christianity is true.
- 5.4 Appreciate the superiority of Christianity over other religions.

Do you know anyone who has rejected Christianity? Do you know anyone who recently became a Christian? Do you know what Christians (Acts 9:2) were called before they were called *Christians* (Acts 11:26)? Why do you think they were called that (John 14:6)?



This unit explores the basic beliefs held by all Christians, which are clearly incompatible with other religions.

Symbol

A Christian cross is widely recognized as the symbol of Christianity because Jesus was crucified or put to death on a cross.

Founder & Beginning

Jesus of Nazareth (6–4 BC – 30–33 AD) is considered the promised Jewish Messiah (or Christ) and hence the founder of Christianity. Jesus was crucified and his disciples claimed that three days after that (according to Jewish reckoning) he appeared to them alive from the dead on at least 12 occasions over a 40 day period in Jerusalem, where he was crucified and buried.

Origination

In Israel, the city of Jerusalem (note, this is the same city Jesus was crucified and buried).

Number of followers

There are about 2.1 billion Christians in the world and about 250 million in the US.

Name of followers

They are most commonly called Christians.

Sacred Book(s)

Christians accept all of the Jewish Scripture as God's Word as well as the New Testament.

View and Name of God

The Christian view of God is monotheistic or theistic; however, they hold that God is one in nature, but Triune or a Trinity in persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They commonly use God or Jehovah.

Place of Worship

Their common place of worship is called a church.

Beliefs

All Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of Judaism and the fulfillment of the whole Torah. They hold that salvation is only found by believing in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and rose from the dead to show that His claim to be the Messiah and God incarnate is true. Jesus, they believe will return one day and judge everyone. There are three main branches in Christendom Greek or Eastern Catholic (called orthodox), Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. All three branches hold in common one Bible, with two testaments (Old and New) and the teaching of early creeds such as the Apostles Creed.

Special Days/Practices

Christians worship each Sunday, the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. They also celebrate His birth on Christmas and His resurrection on Easter. Two practices all Christians engage in are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

What makes Christianity the true religion?

Christianity is the true religion because opposites cannot both be true and all the other religions oppose Christianity in crucial areas of difference. For example, Hinduism=Panthism, opposes the Christian view of God. Hinduism and Buddhism, through reincarnation, oppose the Christian view of resurrection. Islam denies that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

So only one religion can be true and there is plenty of reason and evidence to show that Christianity is true. For example, Christianity can show that a true God exists and what He is like apart from the Bible (Rom. 1:20). Hence, only theism is true. All theistic religions hold that miracles are possible and can serve as a sign from God. The New Testament is historically reliable and Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. There is good evidence that shows God raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead; which is a miracle. God would only use miracles to show the true religion. Hence, Jesus is God who taught that the Old Testament is the word of God and that He would guide His prophets and apostles to produce new inspired writings. Both Islam and contemporary Judaism oppose this. Hence, only Christianity can be the true religion. Other religions can have some truth, but only one religion can be *the* truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

Christianity is Unique


	Christianity	Other Religions
Bible: only word of God	Affirms	Most deny
God: Triune	Affirms	Deny
Creation: By God from Nothing	Affirms	Most deny
Jesus Christ: Messiah, Son of God	Affirms	Deny
Salvation: Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Affirms	Deny
Afterlife: Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Affirms	Most deny

Words to know

- Jerusalem
- Theism
- Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
- Jesus Christ
- Church
- Bible (Old and New Testament)
- Son of God
- Resurrection

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Directions: starting with the name of the religion’s symbol, fill in notes from the text you read and/or lesson that you were taught about this religion.

Christianity	 _____
Founder	
Date of Beginning	
Origination	
Number of followers	
Name of followers	
View of God	
Name of God	
Sacred Book(s)	
Place of Worship	
Beliefs	
Special Days	

Answers

Christianity	† Cross
Founder	Jesus of Nazareth
Date of Beginning	32 AD
Origination	Israel, Jerusalem
Number of followers	2.1 Billion
Name of followers	Christians
View of God	Monotheism or Theism
Name of God	Jehovah, Jesus Christ
Sacred Book(s)	Bible: Old & New Testament
Place of Worship	Church
Beliefs	There is only one God. There are three persons or relations in the one God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
Special Days/Practices	Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Baptism, Lord’s Supper

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: POINTS TO SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE (BIBLE)

In this study you will discover points that show the Bible affirms or teaches that which ultimately leads to the fact that Christianity alone is the true religion. As you discovered in unit 1, false religions can have some truth, but only one religion, namely Christianity can be the true religion. Showing Christianity is the true religion does not eliminate faith in Jesus Christ. A biblical distinction needs to be made between believing *that* Christianity is true and believing *in* Christianity or Jesus Christ. Someone can believe *that* something is true, with no commitment or trust to believing *in* it. The Bible affirms that certain things are able to be demonstrated as true, but other things must be accepted by faith based on God's authority alone. Knowing what can be demonstrated as true; apart from the Bible is an important faith building step. It gives us confidence to hold and practice the things we cannot demonstrate as true, but accept as true completely by faith based on God's authority.

For example, that God exists is able to be demonstrated from knowing about Creation, apart from the Bible. But believing that God is one in nature, but three in persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is accepted by faith and is completely dependent upon God's revelation in the Bible. Likewise, knowing that we do bad things or are sinners separated from God, can be known apart from the Bible. But knowing what the solution to that problem is, namely that the good news is about Jesus Christ, is dependent upon the message in the Bible.

In the following study, we will examine points that the Bible affirms as true which can be demonstrated apart from the Bible. Hence, it is these points that can help everyone see that Christianity is the true religion and everything opposed to it must be false.

Assignment: Read each group of verses below and summarize what is going on in a few sentences. Then try to match a point below with the group of verses that best illustrates the point. More than one point may be used to match with a groups of verses.

1: The Bible acknowledges that truth is absolute.

2: The Bible acknowledges that the opposite of true is false.

3: The Bible acknowledges that we can know God exists from creation.

4: The Bible acknowledges that miracles have happened and point to God's message.

5: The Bible acknowledges the historical truth about Jesus' claim to be the Son of God and resurrection from the dead (miracle).

6: Jesus, who is the Son of God, teaches that the Bible is the word of God and Christianity alone is true.

Deuteronomy 18:9-22 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Deuteronomy 19:15–20 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Luke 24:13–35 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Mark 14:53–65 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

John 14:1–6 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

John 20 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Romans 1:18–25 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Acts 2:22–42 Best Illustrates Point _____

Summary: _____

Answers

- Point 1: God gives instruction through Moses to the Israelites before they enter the land concerning spiritism and false prophets. Deuteronomy 18:9–22
- Point 2: God gives instructions through Moses to the Israelites concerning the use of testimony to establish wrong doing among the people. Deuteronomy 19:15–20
- Point 3: Paul teaches the church in Rome concerning sin in the world. Romans 1:18–25
- Point 4: Peter speaks to the Jews in Jerusalem concerning Jesus’ death and resurrection. Acts 2:22–42
- Point 5: Jesus before His crucifixion is on trial appearing before the chief priests and elders. Mark 14:53–65.
- Point 5: John gives an account of what it was like to discover that Jesus was raised from the dead after his burial. John 20
- Point 6: Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13–35.
- Point 6: Jesus instructs the disciples before his betrayal and arrest. John 14:1–6

UNIT 6

ISLAM

Objectives:

- 6.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Islam.
- 6.2 State what is true and false about Islam.
- 6.3 Investigate the biblical understanding of the Trinity.
- 6.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Islam with Christianity.

Do you know anyone who is Muslim? What happened on 9/11? Why do you think some Muslims are violent and others are peaceful? While there are peaceful verses in the Qur'an there are also passages that speak of killing non-Muslims (*Infidels*) that do not convert or pay a tax. The history of Islam testifies to its spread through battles and conquest.



This unit covers the origin, beliefs, and practices of Islam. Many think it is compatible with Judaism and Christianity since they worship one God, but as we will see, nothing is further from the truth.

Symbol

The symbol of the crescent moon and star dates back to the 14th century but became synonymous with Islam in the 1950's. Some say it symbolizes the migration of Mohammad to spread Islam as the moon and stars are the great illuminators in darkness.

Founder & Beginning

In 610 AD Muhammad supposedly received his first revelation from Allah through the angel Gabriel. The word "Islam" means submission to the will of Allah.

Origination

Muhammad eventually attracted followers and engaged in several battles. He eventually died of natural causes in 632 AD. He never wrote any of his revelations down. It was left to his disciples to do that. His followers split over who should be the next leader after Muhammad. The Shi'ites (minority) said it must be a blood relative. The Sunnis (majority) wanted the leader to be elected.

Number of followers

There are about 1.3 billion Muslims in the world today. About 5.1 million are in the U.S.

Name of followers

They are usually called Muslims.

Sacred Book(s)

The Qur'an (means recitations) and has 144 chapters which are called *Surahs*. Other authoritative works include the Hadith that contains stories and sayings of Muhammad and Shari'a that applies the Qur'an to Islamic law.

View and Name of God

Islam is monotheistic. *Allah* is the Arabic name for God. That God is one with no partners is emphasized.

Place of Worship

A *Mosque* is the name for their place of worship. It is considered sacred.

Beliefs

Muslims believe that God is one, there are angels, prophets, including many from the Old Testament, accepting even Moses, David and Jesus as prophets. They have five obligations, called pillars: 1) confess "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger." 2) Prayer five times a day. 3) Fast during Ramadhan, to celebrate the receiving of the Qur'an. 4) Almsgiving. 5) Pilgrimage to Mecca is expected at least once.

Special Days/Practices

Ramadhan, which is in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time to fast. They can eat and drink only at night. They are forbidden to eat pork. In some countries, they wear a robe and women must wear a vale (purdah). The Qur'an allows them to have up to four wives. Women are given rights but are treated poorly in some countries. *Jihad* is the name used for a holy war.

What is true and false about Islam?

The Qur'an copies stories from the Old Testament, but God did not inspire it. Only the Bible is inspired, but Muslims believe it is corrupted.

Islam correctly understands God as one. However, their understanding of God involves change (Surah 2:106), being unloving and temperamental (Surah 32:13) and deception (Surah 8:30). There is no way to know God or have a personal relationship with Him. Hence, God is unknowable to them. They also reject the Trinity (Surah 5:73).

They accept Jesus as a prophet, His virgin birth, and even miracles. But they do not accept the deity of Jesus or that He is the Son of God (Surah 5:117), to them Jesus is only a man (Surah 18:4–5). They do not accept that Jesus died on the cross or rose from the dead (Surah 4:157).

Jesus is far superior to Mohammed in many ways. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God (John 10:36). Mohammed only claimed to be a prophet (Surah 48:8–9). Jesus was Born of the Virgin (Mary); Mohammed had a natural birth. Jesus did miracles (John 2:1–11), but Mohammed refused to do miracles (Surah 3:181–184). Jesus claimed to be sinless (1 Peter 2:21–22), but Mohammed was sinful (Surah 18:110) and had 10 wives and 2 concubines (33:28). Jesus knew what was in a man (1 John 2:1–2), but Mohammed did not know what is in man (Surah 11:31). Jesus taught forgiveness (Matt. 5:38–39); Mohammed taught revenge (Surah 2:194). Jesus forbade the offensive use of the sword or Crusade (Matt. 26:38–39); Mohammed advocated the use of the sword and Jihad (Surah 8:65).

Muslims do not believe they can be sure of their salvation. They also wrongly believe that salvation is something to be worked for by having your good deeds out way your bad ones. Christianity holds that salvation is a gift received by grace through faith and is not the result of good works (Eph. 2:8-9).

Contrast with Christianity

	Christianity	Islam
Bible	The only Word of God	Corrupted
God	God is Triune	God is One, not Triune
Creation	By God From Nothing	By God From Nothing
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Prophet, only human
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Faith & by good works
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell

Words to Know 📝

Islam

Allah

Muhammad

Qur'an

Surah


Shi'its

Sunnis

Mosque

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Directions: starting with the name of the religion’s symbol, fill in notes from the text you read and/or lesson that you were taught about this religion.

Islam	 _____
Founder	
Date of Beginning	
Origination	
Number of followers	
Name of followers	
View of God	
Name of God	
Sacred Book(s)	
Place of Worship	
Beliefs	
Special Days/Practices	

Answers

Islam	☾ Crescent Moon & Star
Founder	Muhammad (570 – 632 AD)
Date of Beginning	610 AD
Origination	Allah revealed the teachings to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel around Mecca (city in Saudi Arabia)
Number of followers	1.3 Billion
Name of followers	Muslims
View of God	Monotheistic (absolute)
Name of God	Allah
Sacred Book(s)	Qur'an
Place of Worship	Mosque
Beliefs	Islam means submission to the will of Allah, Allah is one, Persons achieve salvation by following the five pillars of Islam: Confession, Prayer, Fast, Almsgiving, and Pilgrimage.
Special Days/Practices,	Ramadhan, Forbid eating pork, Dress with a robe and women have a veil (Purdah).

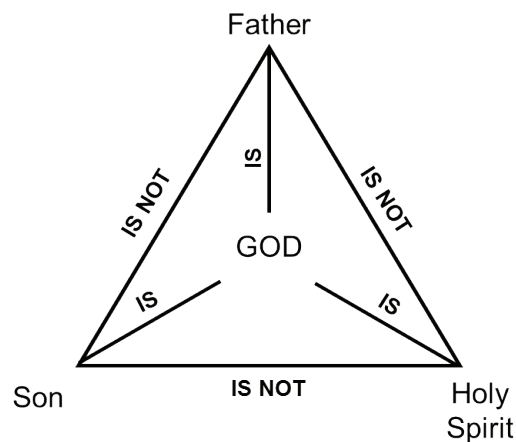
Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BIBLE STUDY: THE TRINITY (JOHN 14)

We know from the Bible that God is one (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29) and that the Father (John 6:27), the Son (John 5:18), and the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) are all called God and do the things that only God can do. Hence, God is a triunity or trinity. God can be one and yet there be three persons in the one God. A divine person has an individual mind and will, but does not have a different nature than the one God. This is not a contradiction. It would be a contradiction if we said there were one God and three Gods. It is also not the case that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are only sometimes God. They have always been and will always be the one God. There is only one divine nature (God) with three persons who are the one God. God is one “what” (divine nature) with three “whos” (persons). This is certainly a mystery but it is not a contradiction.

One good illustration of this is an equilateral triangle. The triangle cannot be a triangle unless it has three angles and the three angles cannot be angles without the whole triangle. The angles are distinct from each other, but they are not distinct from the triangle, they are the entire triangle.

Similarly, the three persons are distinct from each other, such that the Son is not the Father, the Father is not the Son, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. But all three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are the one God (divine nature).



In this study you will see how Jesus teaches the trinity or triune nature of God to His disciples. In the Gospel of John, Jesus' disciples have heard Jesus teach with the authority of God and do many signs and wonders that only God can do. He told His disciples that He must go to the cross and die. Now Jesus comforts them by telling them how they will know the Father (=God) after He is gone and that He will send a Helper (the Holy Spirit) who will always be with them.

Assignment: Complete the chart below by looking up each verse and answering the question(s).

Biblical Verse	Question	Your Answer
Mark 12:28–30	What does Jesus teach about God in this verse?	
John 14:1–6	In comforting His disciples, what does Jesus say to show that the Father is equal to God and Jesus, himself, is equal to God?	
John 14:7–15	Why is it important that Jesus says and does work that is exactly what the Father wants?	
	What Bible stories in the Gospels can you think of that show Jesus' teaching and works (miracles) that must have the authority and power that can only be from God?	
John 14:25–31	Who is the Helper and what is He able to do?	

Answers

Mark 12:28–30 There is only one God.

John 14:1–6 No one can have eternal life or get to God (=Father) without going through Jesus (=Son).

John 14:7–15 To show that the Father sent the Son, that He (Jesus) is the Son of God, Jesus must teach with the authority of God, and do works that show the power of God.

Answers vary Jesus teaching as God to Nicodemus (John 3) and the Samaritan Women (John 4)

Turning water into wine (John 2:1–11)

Feeding the 5000 (John 6:16–21)

Healing a man born blind (John 9:1–7)

Raising Lazarus (John 11:17–44)

John 14:25–31 The Helper is the Holy Spirit who is able to do the things that only God can do such as always be with them and remind them of what Jesus taught.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test 

Unit 1 Introduction to Religion

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. Religion involves the worship of that which is ultimate. T or F
2. Only humans have the spiritual capacity of worship. T or F
3. All religions have the same view of God. T or F
4. Polytheism is the view that there are many small gods. T or F
5. Pantheism is the view that says all is God and God is all. T or F
6. Monotheism says there is only one God. T or F
7. All religions could be true. T or F
8. All religions just see the same God in different ways. T or F
9. Christianity is unique among all the world religions. T or F
10. When it comes to religions, opposites can both be true at the same time and sense. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

11. This usually involves the worship of God or gods.
 - a. Monotheism
 - b. Pantheism
 - c. Religion
 - d. Atheism
12. This view says there is only one God.
 - a. Religion
 - b. Monotheism
 - c. Atheism
 - d. Pantheism
13. This view says God is all and all is God.
 - a. Polytheism
 - b. Monotheism
 - c. Atheism
 - d. Pantheism

48 ■ World Religions

14. This view says there are many small gods.

- a. Polytheism
- b. Religion
- c. Atheism
- d. Pantheism

15. This view says there is no God.

- a. Polytheism
- b. Law of Noncontradiction
- c. Atheism
- d. Pantheism

16. This says opposites cannot be true at the same time and in the same sense.

- a. Monotheism
- b. Pantheism
- c. Religion
- d. Law of Noncontradiction

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test 

Unit 2 Judaism

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. Judaism holds that there is only One God. T or F
2. God promised Abraham to make a great nation from his decendents. T or F
3. Judaism believes there is a moral law to hold us accountable. T or F
4. Judaism today accepts Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. T or F
5. Judaism only accepts the Old Testament as the word of God. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

6. The founder of Judaism is _____
 - a. Jesus Christ
 - b. Siddhartha
 - c. Muhammad
 - d. Moses
7. Jews worship in a _____
 - a. Temple
 - b. Mosque
 - c. Church
 - d. Synagogue
8. A holy book for Judaism is _____
 - a. Bhagavad Gita
 - b. Torah
 - c. Tripitaka
 - d. New Testament
9. The name of God in Judaism is _____
 - a. Allah
 - b. God
 - c. Yahwey
 - d. Brahma

10. In Judaism the moral law is contained in the _____

- a. Eight fold path
- b. Ten Commandments
- c. Resurrection
- d. Five Pillars

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test 

Unit 3 Hinduism

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. There is no known founder of Hinduism. T or F
2. There are millions of small gods and goddesses in Hinduism. T or F
3. Brahman is an impersonal and unknowable God. T or F
4. Reincarnation is governed by Karma T or F
5. Reincarnation and resurrection are the same. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

6. Hindus worship in a _____
 - a. Temple
 - b. Synagogue
 - c. Mosque
 - d. Church
7. One of the holy books for Hinduism is called _____
 - a. Bible
 - b. Bhagavad Gita
 - c. Torah
 - d. Tripitaka
8. The name of the impersonal God in Hinduism is _____
 - a. Allah
 - b. God
 - c. Yahwey
 - d. Brahma
9. The name of the protector God in Hinduism is _____
 - a. Allah
 - b. Shivah
 - c. Vishnu
 - d. Brahma

10. In Hinduism the soul never dies but reaches _____

- a. Enlightenment
- b. Eight fold path
- c. Son of God
- d. Resurrection

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test

Unit 4 Buddhism

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. The life of Buddha is shrouded in legend. T or F
2. Some Buddhists are atheists. T or F
3. The key to Buddhism is to realize one’s self-extinctedness. T or F
4. Buddhism teaches one to embrace all desires. T or F
5. In Buddhism Nirvana is the same thing as Heaven. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

6. The founder of Buddhism is _____
 - a. Muhammad
 - b. Siddhartha Gautama
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. Moses
7. The title “Buddha” means _____
 - a. Awakened one
 - b. Lotus Sutra
 - c. Nirvana
 - d. Eightfold Path
8. The holy book for Buddhism is called _____
 - a. Bhagavad Gita
 - b. Tripitaka
 - c. Qur’an
 - d. Torah
9. In Buddhism enlightenment is achieve through the _____
 - a. Five Pillars
 - b. Son of God
 - c. Eight fold path
 - d. Resurrection

10. In Buddhism, this is a non-state goal of enlightenment.

- a. Tripitaka
- b. Siddhartha Gautama
- c. Nirvana
- d. Mahayana

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test

Unit 5 Christianity

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. Christians accept Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. T or F
2. Christians worship on Friday. T or F
3. No other religion holds the Christian view of the triune God. T or F
4. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God in the New Testament. T or F
5. Jesus said that He was the only way to God. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

6. The founder of Christianity is _____
 - a. Moses
 - b. Siddhartha
 - c. Muhammad
 - d. Jesus of Nazareth
7. Christianity began in _____
 - a. Mecca
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. India
 - d. Egypt
8. The holy book for Christians is called the _____
 - a. Bible
 - b. Qur'an
 - c. Torah
 - d. Bhagavad Gita
9. In Christianity salvation comes by believing in the _____
 - a. Son of God=Jesus
 - b. Ten Commandments=Moses
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Five Pillars

10. That God is one in nature and three in persons is the teaching of the _____
- a. Resurrection
 - b. Ten Commandments
 - c. Trinity
 - d. Allah

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Test

Unit 6 Islam

Directions: Circle “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. The word “Islam” means submission to Allah. T or F
2. Muslims believe the Bible is corrupted. T or F
3. Muslims believe that to be saved one’s good deeds must outweigh bad deeds. T or F
4. Muslims believe that Jesus is the Son of God. T or F
5. Muslims accept Jesus as a prophet and even his virgin born. T or F

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each question.

6. The founder of Islam is _____
 - a. Siddhartha
 - b. Muhammad
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. Moses
7. Muslims worship in a _____
 - a. Temple
 - b. Synagogue
 - c. Mosque
 - d. Church
8. The holy book for Islam is called _____
 - a. Bhagavad Gita
 - b. Bible
 - c. Qur’an
 - d. Torah
9. In Islam salvation is achieved through the _____
 - a. Son of God
 - b. Five Pillars
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Eight fold path

10. Allah is the Arabic name for _____

- a. Islam
- b. Surah
- c. God
- d. Torah

TEST ANSWER KEY

Unit 1 Introduction to Religion

T/F

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. F
9. T
10. F

Multiple Choice

11. Religion
12. Monotheism
13. Pantheism
14. Polytheism
15. Law of Noncontradiction

Unit 2 Judaism

T/F

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T

Multiple Choice

6. Moses
7. Synagogue
8. Torah
9. Yahwey
10. Ten Commandments

Unit 3 Hinduism

T/F

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. F

Multiple Choice

6. Temple
7. Bhagavad Gita

8. Brahma
9. Vishnu
10. enlightenment

Unit 4 Buddhism

T/F

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. F

Multiple Choice

6. Siddhartha Gautama
7. Awakened one
8. Tripitaka
9. Eight fold path
10. Nirvana

Unit 5 Christianity

T/F

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T

Multiple Choice

6. Jesus Nazareth
7. Jerusalem
8. Bible
9. Son of God=Jesus
10. Trinity

Unit 6 Islam

T/F

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T

Multiple Choice

6. Muhammad
7. Mosque
8. Qur'an
9. Five Pillars
10. God

WORLD RELIGIONS: SCOPE & SEQUENCE

	RELATED TO INFORMATION: What the Student Should Know (Cognitive)	PRACTICAL APPLICATION: What the Student should be able to do (Psychomotor)	RELATED TO EMOTIONS: What the Student should be able to feel (Affective)
Unit 1 Introduction to Religion	1.1 Describe some characteristics of a religion.	1.4 Investigate the biblical origin of humans, sin, and religion.	1.5 Acquire confidence in the truth of Christianity.
	1.2 Define the different views of God.		
	1.3 State the law of Non-contradiction.		
Assignments	Listen, discussion & read unit 1. Define Words to know. Complete Unit Test.	Complete Bible Study: God and Creation (Genesis 1–3)	
Unit 2 Judaism	2.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Judaism.	2.2 State what is true and false about Judaism today.	2.4 Appreciate the Jewish roots of Christianity.
		2.3 Investigate biblical Messianic prophecies concerning Jesus Christ.	
Assignments	Listen, discuss & read unit 2 Complete Judaism Chart. Define Words to know. Complete Unit Test.	Complete Bible Study: Messianic Prophecies (Old Testament)	
Unit 3 Hinduism	3.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Hinduism.	3.2 State what is false about Hinduism.	3.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Hinduism with Christianity.
		3.3 Investigate the biblical view of God’s nature.	
Assignments	Listen, discuss & read unit 3 Complete Hinduism Chart. Define Words to know. Complete Unit Test.	Complete Bible Study: God’s Nature (Attributes)	
Unit 4 Buddhism	4.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Buddhism.	4.3 Investigate the biblical understanding of Christian Resurrection.	4.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Buddhism with Christianity.
	4.2 State what is true and false about Buddhism.		
Assignments	Listen, discuss & read unit 4 Complete Buddhism Chart. Define Words to know. Complete Unit Test.	Complete Bible Study: Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)	
Unit 5 Christianity	5.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Christianity.	5.3 Investigate biblical points that show Christianity is true.	5.4 Appreciate the superiority of Christianity over other religions.
	5.2 State what is true about Christianity.		

	RELATED TO INFORMATION: What the Student Should Know (Cognitive)	PRACTICAL APPLICATION: What the Student should be able to do (Psychomotor)	RELATED TO EMOTIONS: What the Student should be able to feel (Affective)
Assignments	<p>Listen, discuss & read unit 5</p> <p>Complete Christianity Chart.</p> <p>Define Words to know.</p> <p>Complete Unit Test.</p>	<p>Complete Bible Study: Bible Study: Points to Show Christianity is True (Bible)</p>	
Unit 6 Islam	<p>6.1 Describe some basic beliefs of Islam.</p> <p>6.2 State what is true and false about Islam.</p>	6.3 Investigate the biblical understanding of the Trinity.	6.4 Appreciate the incompatibility of Islam with Christianity.
Assignments	<p>Listen, discuss & read unit 6</p> <p>Complete Islam Chart.</p> <p>Define Words to know.</p> <p>Complete Unit Test.</p>	<p>Complete Bible Study: The Trinity (John 14)</p>	

GLOSSARY

- Abraham – God promised to make a great nation (Israelites) from his decedents.
- Allah – Arabic name for God.
- Animism – natural things or forces have life/souls in them.
- Atheism – no God or gods exist.
- Bhagavad Gita – sacred poem teaches devotion to Krishna (a god).
- Bible (Old and New Testament) – Word of God accepted by all Christians.
- Brahman – impersonal pantheistic God of Hinduism.
- Buddha – means “awakened one” name of Siddhartha after enlightened.
- Church – body of believers, place where Christians worship.
- Eightfold Path – path to follow to eliminate desires.
- Hanukkah – Jewish celebration of the purification of the temple by the Maccabees.
- Hinduism – means “religion of India.”
- Islam – means “submission to Allah.”
- Jerusalem – capital of Israel, birth place of Christianity.
- Jesus Christ – founder of Christianity (6–4 BC – 30–33 AD), promised Jewish Messiah.
- Karma – moral law that governs the level one returns after death.
- Law of Noncontradiction – opposites cannot both be true at the same time and sense.
- Lotus Sutra – sacred books of teaching attributed to Buddha.
- Mahayana – school of Buddhism follows Lotus Sutra.
- Messianic – having to do with the promised coming of the Jewish Messiah.
- Moksha – release from reincarnation, enlightenment, merging with Brahman.
- Monotheism – only one God exists.
- Moses – prophet of God who lead the nation out of bondage and wrote the Torah.
- Mosque – place where Muslims pray and worship.
- Muhammad – founder of Islam.
- Nirvana – a non–state goal of enlightenment.
- Pantheism – God is all or the same as the universe.
- Passover – Jewish celebration of God’s provision during the last plague on Egypt.
- Pluralism – all religion see the same God in different ways.
- Polytheism – there are many small gods.

Qur'an – sacred book of Islam.

Reincarnation – belief that souls return after death in another body.

Religion – involves the worship of God or gods, beliefs and practices.

Resurrection – belief that we die once but will be bodily raised from the dead.

Sabbath – Jewish day of rest (no work)

Samsara – wanderings from reincarnation to reincarnation.

Shi'its – Muslim minority who said Muhammad's successor must be a blood relative.

Siddhartha Gautama – founder of Buddhism (563–534 BC).

Son of God – Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be God in the flesh.

Sunnis – Muslim majority who said Muhammad's successor must be elected.

Surah – name for chapters in the Qur'an.

Ten Commandments – A moral law written by God, given to Moses.

TeNaKh – First Hebrew letters of each section of the Hebrew Old Testament.

Theism – One God who is personal, all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful and does miracles.

Theravada – school of Buddhism follows the Tripitaka.

Torah– “Law” first five books of the Old Testament.

Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) – Christian belief that God is one in nature, but three in persons.

Tripitaka – “three baskets” sacred books of Buddhism.

Vedas – Four Hindu sacred books.

Yahweh – Jewish name for God.

Yom Kippur – Jewish Day of Atonement

FURTHER INFORMATION/RESOURCES

- Corduan, Winfried. Pocket Guide to World Religions. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- _____. Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Detzler, Wayne A. and Douglas E. Potter, Cross-Cultural Apologetics: Bridging Culture to Defend the Faith. 2011.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Douglas E. Potter. A Prolegomena to Evangelical Theology, NGIM, 2016.
- Geisler, Norman & Doug Potter. Teacher's Guide to the Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True. Bastion Books, 2015.
- Geisler, Norman & Joseph Holding. Living Loud, Defending Your Faith, Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Frank Turek. I Do Not Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Ron Rhodes. Conviction without Compromise, 2008.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Ronald Brooks. When Skeptics Ask. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.
- Geisler, Norman L. & William Watkins. A Handbook on World Views, Bastion Books, 2013.
- Geisler, Norman L. Creating God in the Image of Man? Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1997.
- _____. Knowing the Truth About Creation. Bastion Books, 2013.
- _____. Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True. NGIM, 2015.
- Halverson, Dean C., gen. ed. The Compact Guide to World Religions. Minneapolis, Bethany House, 1996.
- _____. Developing A Christian Apologetics Educational Program: At the Secondary School Level. Wipf & Stock, 2010.
- Rhodes, Ron. The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2001.
- Ryrie, Charles C. So Great Salvation. Chicago: Moody Press, 1997.
- Sailhamer, John H. NIV Compact Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.

