

WORLD RELIGIONS

Bible Text: Genesis 17:1-7; 21:1-21; Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 15:21-28; Acts 10:1-35

Lesson Focus: Christians who are knowledgeable and confident about their own faith can communicate and collaborate respectfully with people of other faiths.

Big Question: How are Christians supposed to interact with people of other faiths?

Key Words: JUDAISM, HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, ISLAM, MUSLIM

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all trace their heritage to Abraham—Judaism and Christianity through Sarah and Isaac, and Islam through Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:1-21).
-] Judaism, Christianity, and Islam value a relationship with one personal and loving God who interacts with individuals in time and space to support and save them. For Christians that saving love of God is most clearly seen in Jesus (1 John 4:7-12).
-] Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism are religions in which an impersonal divinity is understood in many ways and forms, all designed to lead individuals to let go of selfishness and move toward oneness (Romans 2:14-16).
-] The Bible includes many ideas that all religions have in common (Luke 6:31).
-] All of these religions teach care for neighbor and helping those in need. None of these religions advocates violence or war (Proverbs 16:7).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Does it seem strange that three different religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) worship the same God? Why or why not?
-] There are many names for God in the Bible. Which ones do you use most frequently? Why?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 176: Comparative Religions

-] How is each of these religions similar to and different from Christianity?
-] How can you help others to understand these similarities and differences?

Here We Stand Student Book page 178: World Religions

-] Are you familiar with all these religions?

Here We Stand Student Book page 77: Top Five “Other Gods” in the Old Testament and Who Believed Them

-] How are these gods represented in the Old Testament?
-] How do we view “other gods” similarly or differently today?

LIFE CONNECTION

Have you received chain e-mail messages that put down other religions or the people who follow them? How about becoming an in-person “chain” message? Write positive messages about both Christianity and other religions on sticky notes or the sides of clothespins that could be stuck or clipped to shirts, coats, purses, bags, etc. Share the good things you have learned about other religions with people who are willing to clip on!

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Word Scramble

Unscramble each of these words.

1. USIAMDJ
2. NDISMUHI
3. DUDBMHIS
4. IASLM
5. MLMIUS
6. LRGNEOII
7. IHAFI
8. ELFBIS
9. HPIPSCOOIMNAN
10. BHRMAAA
11. ICSAA
12. CBOAJ
13. EMOHDAMM
14. AAGUTAM DBDHUA
15. MANBAHR

Answers: 1. Judaism 2. Hinduism 3. Buddhism 4. Islam 5. Muslim 6. religion 7. faith 8. beliefs 9. companionship 10. Abraham 11. Isaac 12. Jacob 13. Mohammed 14. Gautama Buddha 15. Brahman