

### **Youth Group 9/23/20 - Intro to World Religions**

- What do you think religion is? What are some things you think of as being related to religion?

- Some definitions of religion:

- a system of beliefs and practices that provides values to give life meaning and coherence by directing a person toward transcendence
- a set of beliefs that acts as a lens through which we seek to explain what life is all about, who we are, and how we should spend our time

- Is Christianity a religion? See James 1:27

                         is religious.

- Read Acts 17:22-31. Why is learning about other religions important?

- 1. It helps us \_\_\_\_\_ to other people.
- 2. It shows us what is \_\_\_\_\_ about Christianity.
- 3. It helps us think about and understand our own \_\_\_\_\_ better.
- 4. It gives us \_\_\_\_\_ in what we believe.
- Any others reasons you can think of?

- What distinguishes Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity from ***all other religions***?

**1. Christianity is based on objective and verifiable historical \_\_\_\_\_**

- No other religion can say this.
  - Islam - Muhammad's visions
  - Mormonism - Joseph Smith's visions
  - Jehovah's witnesses - Charles Russell's special insight into the Bible
  - Christian science - Mary Baker Eddy's miraculous healing
  - Hinduism/Buddhism – based in their personal experience of the world
  - Scientology – based on a new way of looking at the brain (not historical or verifiable)
  - Atheism – based on personal sense that God doesn't exist

**2. Belief that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_**

- No other religion says that Jesus is (the) God.
- What are some things we could believe about Jesus that would be against Christianity's belief?

**3. We are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ and not by \_\_\_\_\_**

- Every other religion says you are saved by something you must perform.
- What are some things that other religions might say you must do to be saved?

**4. God is a triune being (\_\_\_\_\_ ) > Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

(We will talk about why this is important at a later youth group)

- No other religion believes God is this way.
- What can religions believe about God's person?
  - Atheism - there is \_\_\_\_\_ god
  - Pantheism - \_\_\_\_\_ is god
  - Polytheism - there are \_\_\_\_\_ gods
  - Monotheism - there is \_\_\_\_\_ god
- Which of these is Christianity?

- As we go forward with different religions, some important questions we want to ask are:

- What does this religion believe...
  - ...about God?
  - ...about man?
  - ...is wrong with the world?
  - ...has been/is being/will be done to make it right?
  - ...is the source for knowing these things?
- How would Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity answer these questions?

Next youth group.....ATHEISM!!!

## **Study Guide**

- Is Christianity a religion? Yes

Everyone is religious.

- Read Acts 17:22-31. Why is learning about other religions important?

- 1. It helps us witness to other people.
- 2. It shows us what is vital about Christianity.
- 3. It helps us think about and understand our own beliefs better.
- 4. It gives us confidence in what we believe.

1. Christianity is based on objective and verifiable historical fact

- No other religion can say this.

- Islam - Muhammad's visions
- Mormonism - Joseph Smith's visions
- Jehovah's witnesses - Charles Russell's special insight into the Bible
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- Hinduism/Buddhism – based in their personal experience of the world
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- Atheism – based on personal sense that God doesn't exist

2. Belief that Jesus is God

- No other religion says that Jesus is (the) God.

- What are some things we could believe about Jesus that would be against Christianity's belief?

That Jesus is just a good man/prophet. That Jesus is A God rather than THE God. That Jesus didn't actually become a man. That Jesus didn't die/resurrect/live perfectly.

3. We are saved by faith and not by works

- Every other religion says you are saved by something you must perform.

- What are some things that other religions might say you must do to be saved?

4. God is a triune being (Trinity) > Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

(We will talk about why this is important at a later youth group)

- No other religion believes God is this way.

- What can religions believe about God's person?

- Atheism - there is no god
- Pantheism - Everything is god
- Polytheism - there are many gods
- Monotheism - there is one god

- Which of these is Christianity? Monotheism

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- What does this religion believe...

...about God?

...about man?

...is wrong with the world?

...has been/is being/will be done to make it right?

...is the source for knowing these things?

- How would Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity answer these questions?