

## Youth Group 10/28/20 - Hinduism

### Review

- 4 things that Christianity differs from all other religions:
  1. Christianity is based on objective and verifiable historical fact
  2. Jesus is God
  3. We are saved by faith and not by works
  4. The Trinity

### Hinduism

- Hinduism has over 1.2 billion followers with almost 1 billion living in \_\_\_\_\_
- Hinduism didn't really have a \_\_\_\_\_ but developed over time
- Hinduism is not really 1 religion but a family of religions
  - To be under the umbrella of Hinduism you must...
    1. Believe in the Vedas (their scripture)
    2. Respect the varying levels of Gods and spirits
    3. Participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ system
    4. Believe in \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. The Vedas

- The Vedas are a collection of writings written between 1500 and 1000 BC and contain teachings on spiritual knowledge that encompass all of life

- Mostly \_\_\_\_\_, arranged by verses we call mantras

- Excerpt about creation "there was neither non-existence nor existence then; there was neither the realm of space nor the sky which is beyond. What stirred? Where? In whose protection? Was there water, bottomlessly deep? There was neither death nor immortality then. There was no distinguishing sign of night nor of day. That one breathed, windless, by its own impulse. Other than that there was nothing beyond...Whence this creation has arisen – perhaps it formed itself, or perhaps it did not – the one who looks down on it, in the highest heaven, only he knows – or perhaps he does not know."

- The Vedas exert very little influence over Hinduism today

#### 2. Hindu gods

- There are 330 million gods
- These gods often have specific things they are gods of
  - For example: love, truth, oceans, winds, rain, fire, destruction, harvest, food, wealth etc.
- You can believe in any number of them
- Can have idols of them or not
- Hindus can have very impersonal or personal relationship with the gods

### 3. Caste system

- People are categorized into different groups or "castes" based on what family you were born into. You do not choose it.
- Your caste determines things such as what \_\_\_\_\_ you are able to have and who you can \_\_\_\_\_
- The 4 castes are
  1. Teachers, scholars, and priests
  2. Warriors and rulers
  3. Merchants and other landowners
  4. Laborers (viewed way lower than the top 3)
- There is another group that doesn't even get classified called the "untouchables" that include occupations such as street sweepers, latrine cleaners, etc.
- The Indian government uses this system to this day

### 4. Reincarnation

- Reincarnation is the belief that we are reborn either in a higher or lower caste depending on how good you were in the previous life. This is Karma (the belief that you get what you deserve)
  - Contrast with Psalm 103:10 "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."
  - Ecclesiastes 7:15 "There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil-doing."
  - Ecclesiastes 8:14 "there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous."
- The four goals of Hinduism are...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (especially physical)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (material prosperity)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (do what advances you spiritually)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (liberated from reincarnation cycle)

- Salvation is not from death or hell but from being reincarnated again
- Salvation is achieved by works, knowledge, and devotion
- When you are saved, you cease to exist and become part of the spiritual oneness
  - This is called \_\_\_\_\_

- 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?

### Study Guide

- Hinduism has over 1.2 billion followers with almost 1 billion living in (India)
- Hinduism didn't really have a (start) but developed over time
- Participate in the (caste) system
- Believe in (reincarnation)
- Mostly (poems), arranged by verses we call mantras
- Your caste determines things such as what (jobs) you are able to have and who you can (marry)
- 1. (Pleasure)
- 2. (Productivity)
- 3. (Duty)
- 4. (Salvation)
- This is called (nirvana)