

# Engaging World Religions

## Session 3: Engaging Different Religions

### Challenges:

- What is the faith about?
  - What do they believe?
- What causes people to adhere to it?
  - Why is it attractive?
  - Why do they believe it?
  - Why is it so hard for people to accept Christ instead of holding to their beliefs?
- How does the Gospel speak into it?
  - Not just how does it line up with the Bible
- Family-based culture rather than Individual-based
  - The Cost of Discipleship

*"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)*

History/Tradition  
Experience  
Revelation

**Where do our beliefs come from?**

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR VIEWS!

Select One

- Choice One
- Choice Two
- Choice Three
- Choice Four

### Central Passage: Acts 17:22-23

*"22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you."*

*"As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man" (Proverbs 27:19)*

**SIDE NOTE**

**CHRISTIANITY**  
The most falsifiable religion

### Considerations:

- Not every person following a religion knows or practices every part of that faith
- Often Christianity is viewed as a cultural faith (just as Hinduism is culturally connected to India)
- Be prepared for the questions that each culture and religion would have for us
- Don't be so rushed to engage everything they say with your view. Listen and hear them.
- Gain the proper Perspective:
  - Inside perspective: the view of one who practices the religion
    - Understand the expression of the religion from the person and not just what the books say about a religion
  - Outside perspective: the view of one who observes the practice (one might recognize a religious practice but not know why it is done or its importance)
    - Studying it academically is not the same as understanding it experientially/personally
- Rationalized evangelism (give evidence that requires a decision) is not as effective today as Relationship evangelism (showing/talking about your faith that leads to a decision).
  - Does not mean that Truth is not important or can be neglected.
  - We need both Gospel Doctrine and Gospel Culture.

### Connections:

- Get a spiritual GPS on the person.
  - What drives them?
  - What spiritual interests do they have?
  - Where do they get their spiritual guidance from?
- Don't be in a rush to have them question their beliefs. Instead share your faith and let them see the difference?
- Use connections with sacred texts to bring up conversation (Quran speaks about Jesus, Abraham, etc.)

### Conclusions:

- Understand the challenges
- Get the proper perspective
- Be friends/engage where there are common values
- Listen and Learn
- Present Christ positively and accurately
- Pray for them
- Prepare for discussion
- Look for opportunities of connection

### NEXT UP:

- Eastern Religions
- Islam and Judaism
- Atheism