



GOD QUESTIONS
LifeGroup Study
“Is There Really Only One Way to God?”
May 19th, 2019

The Bible is exclusive in its claim that there is only one way to God and that is through Jesus. But is that fair? What about people who have never heard of Jesus? What about all the other sincere people who believe other things and live good lives? In our study this week we'll wrestle with this question – “Is there really only one way to God?” Our goal is to be ready to give an answer that draws listeners to God's incredible salvation plan.

ICBREAKER: When is the last time you got lost, really lost, on your way to a destination? What did you do to get out of the predicament? Share your story with the group.

MEMORY VERSE: *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”* John 14:6

STUDY:

VIDEO LINK: God Questions Part 4. Ravi Zacharias – “How do you know that Christianity is the one true world view?”

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VIDEO NOTES Use the following as a reference as you watch the video.

Christians are often accused of being exclusive in our truth claims, but other world religions are also exclusive in their truth claims.

Example: Buddha rejected his Hindu background to pursue his own path.

Q - Aren't all religions fundamentally the same and superficially different?

A - There are fundamental differences between world religions. At best there are superficial similarities.

Story of woman, Buddhist monk, separated from her family. Extinguishing desire.

The 4 Questions

Origin

Meaning

Morality

Destiny

These questions must be answered in two ways.

Correspondence: Every answer has to correspond to truth.

Coherence: The answers must be coherent with the world view they propose.

Only in Christianity will you find the four questions answered with correspondence to truth and coherence with the world view.

Example: The Koran is the only historical document that claims that Jesus did not die on the cross.

Muslim cleric: "The time has come for us to stop asking *if* Jesus died on the cross and to start asking *why*."

Q – Have you studied all the religions in the world in order for you to know that your religious belief is the only true one?

A – All the worldviews in existence can be grouped into 3 categories.

Only the Universe exists. Both God and the universe exist. Only God exists.

We don't have to be an expert in every world view. We can use these three categories to place a world view and understand its basic beliefs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- As followers of Jesus we need not be intimidated by the idea that Christianity alone is exclusive in its claims. Other world religions are also exclusive in what they believe and teach as truth. Why is this important to understand?
- Many believe that all religions are fundamentally the same and superficially different. This is not true. World religions are fundamentally different and at best superficially the same. How might this truth help shape your response if someone says to you – "I believe all religions lead to God."?

- In his presentation, Ravi Zacharias said that all world views have to answer four questions, the questions of origin (where did I come from?), meaning (why am I here?), morality (how do I understand what is right and wrong?) and destiny (what happens to me when I die?). As a group, see if you can find a Scripture for each of these questions to help provide an answer.
- Toward the end of the video presentation, Ravi's colleague shared a question he is often asked: "Have you studied all the world religions in order to know that yours alone is true?" He said that all world views at a basic level can be put into one of three categories of belief: 1) only the universe exists 2) both God and the universe exist 3) only God exists. For example, Judaism, Islam and Christianity all fit in the worldview – both God and the universe exist. How might this help you better understand the position of the worldviews and religions you know of?
- In his book, "Jesus Among other Gods" on pages 89-90, Ravi Zacharias writes the following. Read these words and then discuss – "What is a key learning you are taking from this week of God Questions?"

"At the heart of every major world religion is a leading exponent. As the exponent is studied, something very significant emerges. There comes a bifurcation, or a distinction, between the person and the teaching. Mohammad, to the Koran. Buddha, to the Noble Path. Krishna, to his philosophizing. Zoroaster, to his ethics.

Whatever you make of their claims, one reality is inescapable. They are teachers who point to their teaching or show some particular way. On all of these, there emerges an instruction, a way of living. It is not Zoroaster to whom you turn. It is Zoroaster to whom you *listen*. It is not Buddha who delivers you; it is his Noble Truths that instruct you. It is not Mohammed who transforms you; it is the beauty of the Koran that woos you.

By contrast, Jesus did not only teach or expound His message. He *was identical with His message*. 'In Him,' says the Scriptures, 'dwelt the fulness of the Godhead bodily.' He did not just proclaim the truth. He said, 'I *am* the truth.' He did not just show a way. He said, 'I *am* the Way.' He did not just open up vistas. He said, 'I *am* the door.' 'I *am* the Good Shepherd.' 'I *am* the resurrection and the life.' 'I *am* the I AM.'

In Him is not just an offer of life's bread. He *is* the bread. That is why being a Christian is not just a way of feeding and living. Following Christ begins with a way of relating and being."

PRAYER

Spend time now praying for one another. Ask God to give you a growing confidence in Jesus, the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

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