

RI.C3. World Religions – Part 2

1 Corinthians 9:19-22; James 3:1-12; James 5:7-20

Learning Objectives

1. The children will examine the basic characteristics of Hinduism and Buddhism.
2. The children will recognize the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.

Memory Verse: *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you." -- Ephesians 4:32 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

(Choose One Activity)

Activity:

Give each child a piece of paper. Instruct them to do the following: "In four (4) words, describe what you believe in God." Give them time. Then share their answers.

Today we will learn about two religions that are different from Judaism, Christianity and Islam because they do not believe in God.

Make a "KWL" Chart:

For this activity, you will need 2 pieces of 8 ½ x 11" paper for each child. Have them turn their paper "sideways" so that the width is 11" and the height is 8 ½". Then have them tri-fold their paper, so that when they open their paper back up again, it will have 3 columns. Use pencils to draw lines down each column as shown below. Then add a title to each of the 2 papers as follows: Hinduism, Buddhism. (To save time, you may want to have this already completed for them. However, it may also get their attention to do the folding and setting up themselves.)

Hinduism		
<u>Know</u>	<u>Want to Know</u>	<u>Learn</u>

Once the papers are all folded and labeled, give your students a chance to fill in the "know" and "want to know" columns for each of the three papers. The "know" column is for them to write everything they already know about the topic (Hinduism for example). The "Want to Know" column is for the children to write down everything they might want to know about the topic. Leave the "Learn" column blank until later in the lesson. This will help them organize the information better as they learn about these topics.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities

Message: *Live your faith each day.*

In order to help the children organize the information, have them make a tri-fold sheet labeled as seen below. Also, on your chart paper or easel, make a similar chart. As you go through each characteristic, write (or have a volunteer write) on the chart paper. Allow the children to write on their charts as well as the discussion goes on.

(OR Have them make a Venn diagram to organize the information, drawing 2 overlapping circles. Label one circle as Hinduism, one as Buddhism, and the area where the circles overlap “Both”.)

Please Note: The **BOLD** words below are what should be written on the chart or Venn diagram. The other words are there for you, the teacher, to fill in the blanks.

Hinduism	Both	Buddhism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Religion originated in India, today also in Pakistan, Nepal, and other middle Asian countries. - Nature Religion, not based on an individual founder - Worship many gods (animals, gods, things) - The Veda – the Holy writings of the Hindus (written in Sanskrit) much of which is on the “eternal world law” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Believe in Reincarnation (animals, people, gods, etc.) - Belief that everything follows a birth to death cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law of Karma (everything comes back to you – good deeds to goodness, evil deeds to evil, either during your current or “future” life. - Believe in Nirvana – escape for reincarnation (considered the greatest freedom) - Do not believe in God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded on Indian prince Siddhartha Gautama “Buddha” - 4 Noble Truths: (all about “Misery”) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truth of misery 2. Truth of the origin of misery 3. Truth of the elimination of misery 4. Truth that the elimination is the result of a methodical way that must be followed. - Wheel of Teaching (8 spokes symbolize the path of teaching that leads to Nirvana, the goal of redemption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has Spread in Asia - Emphasis on Tolerance for everyone - Believes that one can only achieve self-redemption as a monk.

(Background Information is from God’s Ways – Book 3)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

Activity Ideas:

Note: Look up the following Bible verses together and discuss. It is not necessary that you do all of them. Do what you have time for in class. Choose which ones you feel are more important to cover, according to the understanding of your children.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

¹⁹ I am free. I don't belong to anyone. But I make myself a slave to everyone. I do it to win as many as I can to Christ. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew. That was to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one who was under the law, even though I myself am not under the law. That was to win those under the law. ²¹ To those who don't have the law I became like one who doesn't have the law. I am not free from God's law. I am under Christ's law. Now I can win those who don't have the law. ²² To those who are weak I became weak. That was to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that in all possible ways I might save some.

In this passage from the Bible, we learn that Paul tried to understand different people so that he could tell them about God and His Son. Paul is a true example of someone who lived his faith. We have learned about 5 different faiths in the last 2 lessons. We as Christians also want to **live our faith**. By doing so we are able to tell others about our faith by our actions and words. In the book of James in the New Testament we learn about some guidelines when it comes to living out our faith:

Read James 3:1-12 - Watch Your Tongue

¹ My brothers and sisters, most of you shouldn't want to be teachers. You know that those of us who teach will be held more accountable. ² All of us get tripped up in many ways. Suppose someone is never wrong in what he says. Then he is a perfect man. He is able to keep his whole body under control.

³ We put a bit in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it. ⁴ And how about ships? They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body. But it brags a lot. Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire. The tongue is the most evil part of the body. It pollutes the whole person. It sets a person's whole way of life on fire. And the tongue is set on fire by hell. ⁷ People have controlled all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea. They still control them. ⁸ But no one can control the tongue. It is an evil thing that never rests. It is full of deadly poison. ⁹ With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we call down curses on people. We do it even though they have been created to be like God. ¹⁰ Praise and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it shouldn't be that way. ¹¹ Can fresh water and salt water flow out of the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives? Can a grapevine bear figs? Of course not. And a saltwater spring can't produce fresh water either.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you were hurt by something someone said? What about a time when you hurt someone?
2. Why does it not make sense for the same person to praise God one second and hurt someone the next?
3. If someone were to judge your faith simply by listening to what comes out of your mouth, would they think you were a Christian?

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

Read James 5:7-12 - Be Patient

⁷ Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes. See how the farmer waits for the land to produce its rich crop. See how patient he is for the fall and spring rains. ⁸ You too must be patient. You must stand firm. The Lord will soon come back. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, don't find fault with one another. If you do, you will be judged. And the Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, think about the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. They are an example of how to be patient when you suffer. ¹¹ As you know, we think that people who don't give up are blessed. You have heard that Job was patient. And you have seen what the Lord finally did for him. The Lord is full of tender mercy and loving concern. ¹² My brothers and sisters, don't take an oath when you make a promise. Don't call on heaven or earth or anything else to back up what you say. Let your "Yes" be yes. And let your "No" be no. If you don't, you will be judged.

Discussion Questions:

1. How patient are you?
2. What is it we should be awaiting, according to verse 7? (the Lord's coming)
3. How does this passage speak to you directly?

Read James 5:13-20 – Prayer

¹³ Are any of you in trouble? Then you should pray. Are any of you happy? Then sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any of you sick? Then send for the elders of the church to pray over you. Ask them to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer offered by those who have faith will make you well. The Lord will heal you. If you have sinned, you will be forgiven. ¹⁶ So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen. ¹⁷ Elijah was just like us. He prayed hard that it wouldn't rain. And it didn't rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again. That time it rained. And the earth produced its crops. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, suppose one of you wanders away from the truth and someone brings you back. ²⁰ Then here is what I want everyone to remember. Anyone who turns a sinner from going down the wrong path will save him from death. God will erase many sins by forgiving him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Name different circumstances listed in this passage in which prayer is advised.
2. Do you expect results when you do pray? Why/why not?
3. How can prayer be an exercise in faith?

James is filled with practical ways to live out your faith. When you pray, ask God to help you live out your faith each day.

(Some materials used for this lesson are adapted from www.teensundayschool.com)

Application to Real Life

Look up and read the following verses together:

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵ Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ "In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 2:9-10

⁹ It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. ¹⁰ God made us. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do.

Ask the children: "What do these verses say about doing good things, being a light, or setting an example?" (*We should be one, live out our faith, do good works, etc.*) Remind the children that we are Christians, that we DO believe in God. We must do as our Heavenly Father tells us and be a light to the world and do good things to others, no matter what they believe. We do this by living our faith. (Message statement)

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse and explain it in your own words. Find it in the Bible.
2. Name the three parts of the Holy Trinity. Which one does the memory verse refer to?
3. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Journal Reflection Questions

- What one thing are you going to do today to live your faith better? Write about it.
- Think about the 5 religions you have learned about in the last few weeks. How have you changed since you have learned about what others believe? What have you learned about how to treat people of other faiths? Write about it.
- How can we show God's love to people who are different from us? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: NAC Worldwide as well as Galatians 5:13, Matthew 20:28, and 1 Peter 4:10.
- Learn the memory verse: "I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'"
--Isaiah 6:8 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith # ____.
- Ask 3 people what a missionary is and write down what they say. Then look up the word "missionary" in the dictionary and write down the definition. Bring it to class.