

World Religions World Missions

SPRING 2021 // WEEK 2

CORE

THE **passion** INSTITUTE



BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CLASS SCHEDULE		
WELCOME + INTRODUCTION TO CLASS	5 MIN	7:00PM - 7:05PM
SESSION 1 - THEOLOGY OF CULTURE	50 MIN	7:05PM – 7:55PM
BREAK	10 MIN	7:55PM – 8:05PM
SESSION 2 - HISTORY + SCOPE OF MISSIONS	45 MIN	8:05PM – 8:50PM
CONCLUSION + DISMISAL	10 MIN	8:50PM – 9:00PM

World Religions + World Missions

WEEK 2

Historical Examples of Mission Work

Paul + Barnabas (First Century)

Commissioned by the Holy Spirit, Paul and Barnabas were the Church's first missionaries, alongside Jesus' disciples. Paul and Barnabas labored for some sixty years in what is now modern day Europe, in effort to reach Jews and Gentiles with the message of Jesus.

St. Patrick (4th Century)

Saint Patrick was one of the earliest missionaries and the first missionary to Ireland. After being kidnapped by raiders in the Fourth Century, Patrick went on to develop a love for his captors and, after a seemingly miraculous escape, Patrick used his freedom to grow in his faith. Rejecting both his parents' wishes and his affluent background, Patrick went on to become a monk. He studied the scriptures and grew in his knowledge of God for years before he was commissioned by the English church to be the Bishop to Ireland. Patrick labored for the remainder of his life, establishing monasteries, schools, and some 200 churches. Over the course of his life, it is estimated that Patrick was used by God to disciple some 100,000 men and women.

Moravians (Founded: 1457)

The Moravians were initially a group of 300 Slavic men and women, led by Count Nicholas Von Zinzendorf. This group was radical about reaching people for Jesus in every tribe, tongue, and nation. Some of these men and women would sell themselves into slavery in efforts to reach people with the message of Jesus' salvation. Others would participate in what became a 100 year long, non-stop prayer intercession on behalf of the lost. While William Carey is known as the "Father of Modern Missions," it was the Moravians who greatly influenced missions efforts - prior to the reformation - and missionaries like Carey and Wesley.

William Carey (1761-1834)

William Carey was born in England and became a faithful Anglican at a young age. Out of sheer enthusiasm for the faith, Carey taught himself New Testament Greek. His enthusiasm only began with an interest in languages, however. Years later, Carey would found a missionary society and preached passionately from his platform against the lackadaisical approach many protestants had toward mission work. Carey backed his passion by moving to India in 1793. Despite losing two of his children and watching his wife progress toward insanity, Carey continued in his ministry, describing the phase as "indeed the shadow of death," trusting that God would do good through the terrible circumstances. Carey labored for seven years before his first convert was baptized. Carey went on to live in India for 41 years and, during this time, he led some 700 Indians to faith in Jesus. While 700 is a relatively low number in an Indian population, Carey's work in Bible translation and social reform proved to be groundbreaking. Countless missionaries, including Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, and David Livingstone, attribute much of their inspiration to the legacy of William Carey.

World Religions + World Missions

WEEK 2

Historical Examples of Mission Work

David Livingstone (1813-1873)

David Livingstone was born in 1813 and is remembered as a Scottish explorer, physician, and missionary to southern Africa. After being redirected at a young age from exploration in China, Livingstone made the trip to South Africa, where he would spend the majority of his life. Livingstone made multiple efforts throughout his life to bring the gospel to unreached tribes, including a 1500 mile trip up his “Missionary Highway” from Capetown to the north, a 1000 mile trek up the Zambezi river, and an expedition to discover the source of the Nile River. While on these expeditions, Livingstone gained an extraordinary distaste for the atrocities of the African slave trade and dedicated a great deal of writing toward the promotion of an ethical capitalism in place of an unethical slave trade. It was Livingstone’s love for God that propelled him to travel, assist in medicinal efforts, and combat the slave trade.

John G. Paton (1824-1907)

John Paton’s life serves as a model for going AND sending. He labored for over 40 years on the islands of the New Hebrides. He suffered illness, the death of his wife and children, as well as many years of fruitless ministry. The islands he went to were known for their cannibalism and there were many times that the islanders attempted to take his life. Still, Paton persevered by the grace of God and the Lord sustained him. Through his perseverance and proclamation of the gospel, Paton saw thousands of islanders come to know Christ. During a brief stint back home in Scotland and Australia, the stories of Paton’s missionary journeys and God’s supernatural protection over Paton also lit a flame in the hearts of many to join the mission field and win many for Christ.

Elizabeth Elliot (1926-2015)

After her husband and his friends were killed in an attempt to share the gospel with the Auca tribe, Elizabeth Elliot boldly returned to the very people who killed her husband. Just two years after Jim Elliot’s death, Elizabeth moved to live among the Auca/Waodani people with her daughter. After laboring in ministry for two years, revival broke out amongst the tribe and many came to faith in Jesus Christ. After three years ministering to the Auca/Waodani people and helping to plant churches, Elizabeth Elliot returned to the United States to work as an author, speaker, radio talk show host, and professor at Gordon-Conwell Seminary. She is known for incredible works of literature, including, *Through Gates of Splendor*, *Passion and Purity*, *Let Me Be a Woman*, and *Shadow of the Almighty*.

Hudson Taylor

Hudson Taylor was a faithful missionary to China in the early 20th Century. He left all financial support, inspired by George Mueller’s approach to fundraising, and trusted God to provide for his every need. God did provide and Taylor went on to have his needs met and meet his wife in China. While there, Taylor lost his two children and his wife to disease, losses which devastated him yet propelled him toward the only hope he had in his heavenly Father. Taylor returned home to England and eventually remarried, only to return to China again to participate in missions efforts. In 1900, there were some 100,000 Christians present but today there are over 150,000,000. Hudson Taylor is attributed a great deal of credit in being used by God to see these numbers increase in China.

World Religions + World Missions

WEEK 2

A Brief Overview of World Religions:

Understanding Major World Religions:

- 77% percent of people follow one of 5 major world religions (Pew Research)
- Understanding one's worldview is often a prerequisite to gaining one's attention (Acts 17:16-34; 19:8; 1 Cor. 9:19-23)
- Every religion answers questions regarding "Beginning," "Purpose," "Morality," and "Fate"

Beginning is a faith's creation or 'Beginning' narrative

Purpose is a faith's ideology concerning meaning

Morality is a faith's ideology concerning what makes something ethical or unethical

Fate is a faith's ideology concerning the end of time and/or the afterlife

Christianity:

Beginning // God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1)

Purpose // We are here to know God and make God known

Morality // God has laid His common moral law on the hearts of all mankind (Rom. 2:14-15)

Fate // All people are heading for judgement; the faithful will inherit a renewed creation and kingdom while the unfaithful will perish in hell (Rev.; Matt. 25:31-46).

Population // Christians make up roughly 70% of the United States' population

Islam:

Beginning // God created the heaven and the earth (like Genesis)

Purpose // Worship and obedience to Allah (like 'God the Father')

Morality // Allah has laid out morals in Quran (like Bible) and Haddith (like Gospels)

Fate // Paradise (like heaven) for obedient, punishment (like hell) for disobedient.

Going to Paradise is primarily conditional (based off merit), however forgiveness is also important

Population // Muslims make up roughly 1% of the United States' population

Point(s) of connection:

- Jesus is a prophet (however, in their eyes, not God Himself)
- Forgiveness is necessary as none are perfect (and there is no mediator between 'God' and man)
- The Bible and Torah are holy books
- 'God' is merciful and forgiving

For conversation with a neighbor or friend who is a Muslim:

- Ask about experience as a Muslim in the US
- Ask about exposure to Christians/Christianity
- Ask about how Christians might better love Muslims
- Ask about fear of God and conditional love (introduce unconditional love)

Speak respectfully of Muhammed. The version of Christianity that Mohammed rejected in the seventh century was most likely a heretical, syncretistic version of the real thing. It's doubtful that anyone ever told Muhammed the true good news of Jesus." - R. E. Cline (IMB)

World Religions + World Missions

WEEK 2

A Brief Overview of World Religions:

Hinduism:

Beginning // Vishnu takes the form of Brahma (god of creation) and creates the world from water

- The universe began as a soul, morphed into two (male and female) and then evolved into every species
- The world is repeatedly created and destroyed, over billions of years, so there are many creation narratives

Purpose // Human beings are Brahma because god exists in everyone, as all came from the same source

- All humans are called to devote themselves to a god and so fulfill their purpose.
- It does not matter if the god is Jesus, Allah, or Krishna because they are all incarnations of Brahma
- Devotion is all that is required (for Devotional Hindus)

Morality // Very accepting of diverse views (each revealing a hint of true reality)

- Adherence to four Vedas (like Scriptures) is where truth is found

Fate // Vishnu will take the form of Shiva, destroy, and recreate the universe, as has been done countless times.

Population // Hindus make up roughly 0.7% of the United States' population

Point(s) of connection:

In Hinduism, there is a trinity of sorts between Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Preserver), and Shiva (Destroyer)
The world is destroyed and recreated

Jesus is highly revered as a spiritual figure, sent from 'God'

Hindu ethics are similar to many Christian ethics (generosity, sexual purity, love toward neighbors, etc.)

Jesus is a revered spiritual leader and manifestation of 'God'

Belief in afterlife involving punishment (like hell)

"Hinduism is not organized in the way we see most religion in the world. It does not have a particular founder, savior, book, leader, or holy place. It has no specific day of the week to observe, or call to prayer, or certain ritual that everyone must observe. It is decentralized and localized in a way in which it allows anyone to observe the basic principle that are best for him or her."

Stephen Knapp (Christianity and Major World Religions)

For conversation with a neighbor or friend who is a Hindu:

- Ask about their identity (many describe themselves as 'cultural' Hindus)
- Ask about Jesus and what truths or values they appreciate in Him
- Ask about the fear of 'Karma' (principle that decisions will come back to affect people)
- Talk about relationship with God (Hindus often marvel at the idea of knowing and being loved by God)

World Religions + World Missions

WEEK 2

A Brief Overview of World Religions:

Buddhism:

Beginning // Cycle of birth, decay, and then death (reincarnation)

Purpose // Eliminate your suffering through enlightenment (called Nirvana)

Morality // Four Noble Truths

1. "Suffering" - Everyone suffers in some way
2. "Origin of Suffering" - All suffering stems from desire
3. "Cessation of Suffering" - All suffering can be stopped
4. "Path to Cessation of Suffering" - There is a Path that leads to the cessation of all suffering

Fate // Reincarnation

Population // Buddhists make up roughly 0.7% of the United States' population

Point(s) of connection:

- A desire for peace
- Jesus' teachings being admirable
- A desire to see suffering end

For conversation with a neighbor or friend who is a Buddhist:

- Discuss biblical themes corresponding to their interest (Family, God as 'Father', freedom from shame)
- Aim for non-confrontational conversation (Buddhists do not typically want to debate)
- Lead conversation toward the need for a atonement (Buddhists are merit-based in ideology)

Judaism

Beginning // God created heaven and earth according to the Genesis account

Purpose // To glorify and obey God and to embody the Torah (Law)

Morality // The Hebrew Bible and the Torah (within)

Fate // Future reward (heaven) and punishment (non-eternal hell)

Population // Jews make up roughly 2% of the United States' population

Point(s) of connection:

- Jesus did mighty works
- Monotheistic worldview
- The Old Testament is the 'Word' of God

For conversation with a neighbor or friend who is a Jewish:

- Ask about Jewish background and community (many are 'nominal' Jews)
- Ask about their adherence to the Law (if they are feeling confident in their obedience)
- Ask about the Gospel and their understanding of it's message
- Lead conversation toward the possibility of Jesus as Messiah (ask why they would not believe)
- Ask how they will recognize the Messiah when he arrives (point to Jesus' fulfillment of 300+ prophecies)