INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

Learn how various religious systems think about God

Online @ pursueGOD.org/intro-world-religions

- **Lesson #1**
  Theism

- **Lesson #2**
  Pantheism

- **Lesson #3**
  Atheism

Group Notes
Theism

Lesson #1

Step 1: Discover truth

Watch the lesson video online (see link above) and take notes below to prepare for a group conversation.

One way to understand world religions in the big picture is to look at how each religious system thinks about God.

Theism is the belief in one or more __________, __________from people or other creatures.

Varieties of theism include: __________, __________, and __________.

The Bible _______________ God’s existence.

Theism can be _______________.

The Bible calls us to believe in _______________. (James 2:19)

Group Tip: Invite someone to lead Step 1 by summarizing the talking points and adding personal insights or questions.

Step 2: Talk about it

Use these questions to get your group talking.

1. How old were you when you became convinced that God is real? How did that happen?
2. Based on the definition of theism, give some examples of different forms of theism (past or present).
3. Why do you think the Bible never tries to prove God’s existence?
4. Think of a specific example in the Old Testament where God is seen as active. What does this example demonstrate about God?
5. Think of an example in the New Testament when God takes action. What does this demonstrate about God?
6. How would you define idolatry? How are modern forms of idolatry alike or different from idolatry in Bible times?
7. Why is it important to have correct ideas about God?

Group Tip: Try adding some of your own questions.

Step 3: Live it out

Do this to apply the truth you’ve talked about.

- Write a personal action step (below) based on what you’ve learned today.
- Prep for the next lesson.

Group Tip: Follow up on this in your next meeting.

Take the Foundations series to learn about the three basic truths of the Christian faith.
PANTHEISM

LESSON #2

Online @ pursueGOD.org/intro-world-religions

Step 1: Discover truth

>> Watch the lesson video online (see link above) and take notes below to prepare for a group conversation.

One way to understand world religions in the big picture is to look at how each religious system thinks about God.

Pantheism is the belief that _____________________ in existence is of the same _____________.

The Bible teaches that God is _____________________, (Psalm 90:2; Romans 1:20)

Yet humans had a _____________________. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7)

God is essentially ________________ from humans. (John 10:31-33)

Group Tip: Invite someone to lead Step 1 by summarizing the talking points and adding personal insights or questions.

Step 2: Talk about it

>> Use these questions to get your group talking.

1. How would a pantheist define “god” differently from a theist? What are some pantheistic religions? What are some expressions of pantheism in popular spirituality?

2. What kinds of miscommunication might arise when talking about God with a pantheist? How could you overcome this problem?

3. According to the Bible, in what ways is God essentially different from human beings?

4. Why do you think some people might find pantheism to be appealing? What do you think they would say is “beneficial” about being pantheistic?

5. Why do you think it is important to maintain a distinction between God and his creation?

Group Tip: Try adding some of your own questions.

Step 3: Live it out

>> Do this to apply the truth you’ve talked about.

- Write a personal action step (below) based on what you’ve learned today.
- Prep for the next lesson.

Group Tip: Follow up on this in your next meeting.

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ATHEISM

LESSON #3

Online @ pursueGOD.org/intro-world-religions

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Step 1: Discover truth

>> Watch the lesson video online (see link above) and take notes below to prepare for a group conversation.

One way to understand world religions in the big picture is to look at how each religious system thinks about God.

Atheism is the belief that there are no ________________.

The Bible consistently affirms ________________ ________________.

The Bible teaches that not every ________________ is ________________. (Isaiah 44:9-18)

God’s existence is clear from the ________________ he has ________________. (Romans 1:19-23)

Atheism is a form of ________________ and ________________ folly. (Psalm 14:1)

Group Tip: Invite someone to lead Step 1 by summarizing the talking points and adding personal insights or questions.

Step 2: Talk about it

>> Use these questions to get your group talking.

1. When is the last time you were amazed by something you saw in nature? What was it?
2. How does creation point to the existence of God?
3. In what way can certain religions be essentially atheistic?
4. How would you define “naturalism”? Why do you think people find this philosophy attractive?
5. Why is the worship of images foolish?
6. In what way is atheism foolish?
7. How can we be respectful toward others even though we disagree with their beliefs about God?

Group Tip: Try adding some of your own questions.

Step 3: Live it out

>> Do this to apply the truth you’ve talked about.

- Write a personal action step (below) based on what you’ve learned today.
- Choose another topic or series.

Group Tip: Follow up on this in your next meeting.

Take the Foundations series to learn about the three basic truths of the Christian faith.