

Understanding and Sharing with Our Hindu Neighbors



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Timeline of Three Faith Traditions

" Abraham	2000 BC
" Hinduism	1500 (extend to 3000 BC)
" Exodus	1440 (1250) BC
" David	1000 BC
" Assyria Defeats Israel	722 BC
" Babylon Defeats Judah	586 BC
" Buddhism	563 BC
" Jesus	4 BC-30
" Islam	622
" Latter Day Saints	1830



Gospel Distinctives

- ” God is Personal, Holy, and Judge
- ” Sin Separates, is Rebellion Against God
- ” God’s Love, Forgiveness, and Salvation
- ” Historical Account of Jesus
- ” Incarnation/Divinity
- ” Abundant and Eternal Life
- ” Repentance and Faith
- ” Exclusiveness of Jesus

Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me (Isa 43:10).

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy” (Lev 19:1-2).

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23).

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God (Rom 3:10-11).

And just as it is appointed for a person to die once, and after that comes judgment (Heb 9:27).

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly
(John 10:10).*

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still
sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8)*

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the
life. No one comes to the Father except through me”
(John 14:6).*

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast (Eph 2:8-9).

General Guide for Sharing the Gospel

- ” Pray
- ” Be respectful
- ” Know basic Hindu beliefs
- ” Start with common ground
- ” Acknowledge the differences
- ” Share a clear gospel message
- ” Tell your story of coming to faith
- ” Stress the importance of family and fellowship
- ” Anticipate objections

General Guide for Sharing the Gospel

- “ Pray (Col 4:3; 1 Thes 5:17)
- “ Be respectful (1 Pet 3:15-16)
- “ Know basic Hindu beliefs

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THE COMPACT GUIDE TO
**WORLD
RELIGIONS**

Understanding and Reaching Followers of

ISLAM

BUDDHISM

HINDUISM

TAOISM

JUDAISM

SECULARISM

THE NEW AGE

and Other World Faiths

Dean C. Halverson, General Editor
World Religions Specialist for International Students Inc.

Hinduism – Size

Global Numbers on Hinduism

“ Global Hindu Population: 1.2 billion

“ Global Population, 2050: 1.4 billion

“ 15.2% of the Global Population

“ U. S. Hindu Population: 2.2 million



Hinduism – Brief History

General Beliefs of Hinduism

General Beliefs

“Brahman is Impersonal Universal Soul/Force

“Brahman-Atman Unity

“Karma

“Reincarnation (Samsara)

“Liberation (Moksha)

God

Nirguna Brahman (without attributes)

|

Saguna Brahman (with attributes)

|

Brahman (creator)

Vishnu (preserver)

Siva (destroyer)

|

Incarnations (avatars)

God

“Brahman is Everything

“False Things about Brahman are Illusions (visible world is maya)

“Universe is Extension of Brahman

Atman (Individual Soul)

“Brahman is the Universal Soul

“True Self (Atman) is an Extension of Brahman

Law of Karma

“Humanity’s Problem: Ignorance of Divine Nature

“Attached Ourselves to Desires

“Law of Cause and Effect

“Effects of Our Actions Follow Us from Lifetime to Lifetime

Reincarnation (Samsara)

- “ Cycle of Life, Death, and Rebirth
- “ Each Life Reaps Consequences of Previous Life
- “ Karma Determines Type of Body, Caste Position, etc.
- “ Each Life Lived According to Dharma

Liberation (Moksha)

“Free from Cycle of Rebirth

“Nirvana: Refers to Merging into the Impersonal Brahman

“Attained by Realizing Individual Self and Desires are an Illusion and Brahman’s Oneness (Enlightenment)

Path to Enlightenment

“Way of Action and Ritual (Karma Marga)

“Way of Knowledge and Meditation (Jnana Marga)

“Way of Devotion (Bhakti Marga)

Goal: Individual must lose separate identity in the universal Self (Brahman).

Sharing the Gospel

General Guide for Sharing the Gospel

- ” Pray
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- ” Know basic Hindu beliefs
- ” Listen well, everyone is different
- ” Start with common ground (**Acts 17:22-23**)

Common Ground as a Place to Start

“One Supreme God

“Suffering in the World is Bad

“Reap what We Sow

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Anticipate Objections

- “Cultural Barriers
- “Many Paths to God
- “Jesus is not Unique
- “We Must Pay for Our Karmic Debt
- “Crucifixion is Against Nonviolence (ahimsa)

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