

Monday: Exodus 3:1 - 15. Like most ancient peoples, the Egyptians believed in many “gods” (including, usually, the Pharaoh). God’s reply to Moses identified the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the only God, the sole reason (as philosophers might say) there is “something instead of nothing.” In this area, Hindus and Christians have some common ground, and some differences in understanding. In what ways do you share with your Hindu neighbors the conviction that there is ultimately only one true God?

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-13, 18-21. Hindus believe that spiritual knowledge set them free, and that knowledge leads us to good works. This is the fourth path - the pursuit of good deeds towards others. Christians also believe in the importance of love toward others - it grows out of our understanding of the heart of God. In what ways do you perceive and experience God as loving? Which people do you find it hardest to love as God loves them? In what ways has God’s love, and the love of other people, helped you to keep living the good life even at times of trouble, confusion, or difficulty?

Wednesday: Romans 3: 19 - 26. Hindus believe in the law of karma..we build up good karma through good thoughts and deeds. We do this, through a cycle of birth, death and rebirth until finally no bad karma remains. Christians understand that no one earns merit to deserve eternal life - it’s God’s gracious acceptance. Have you ever seen in someone else, or felt in yourself, a sense of superiority due to race, education, religious affiliation or any other force that creates division between people? How can you (and God) allow the reality of your need for God’s grace to shift your view of people of other faiths?

Thursday: John 14: 1 - 6. Unlike Hindus, Christians do not believe that when this life ends (after however many cycles), we are united with the divine Brahman like a drop of water in an ocean. When Thomas asked where Jesus was going, Jesus said he was “going to the Father” - a person, not a place. Have you ever struggled with the question of “where” you are a loved one goes after death? What has helped you learn to trust that “safe with God” is the ultimate key that Jesus taught us in order to have peace?

Friday: Activity - The major world religions value serving others as part of their faith. Could you discover and commit to some new ways of serving? Consider brainstorming some less-structured ways to serve others, such as helping others in your neighborhood or school. Choose one or two ways you (or your group) can share God’s love by serving others.

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