

## 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – What Do You Believe?

### Hi #selfiewithGod group!

We hope you are all well and that you have had a good week. If you're doing your school work at home, we hope this is going ok and if you are still going into school, we pray that you stay safe during this time. In today's session we will be reflecting on what we believe and what people from other religions believe.

### Religion word search

Have a go at completing the word search below.

H	I	D	C	A	D	D	E	P	M	Q	R
U	M	O	H	I	S	L	A	M	S	F	H
W	A	S	R	N	B	H	R	P	I	M	B
O	E	O	I	R	F	N	B	R	U	S	U
R	G	E	S	A	F	G	O	A	D	J	D
S	J	N	T	E	D	C	O	Y	N	Y	D
H	P	Q	I	V	G	U	K	E	I	W	H
I	F	L	A	H	D	W	J	R	H	E	I
P	E	A	N	J	C	N	H	U	Q	T	S
B	M	G	I	A	A	A	D	A	F	A	M
H	O	Q	T	T	F	D	E	V	B	V	C
P	D	Q	Y	K	H	T	F	T	H	V	E

Find the 6 main world religions and 6 associated words.

Christianity  
Islam  
Hinduism  
Judaism  
Sikhism  
Buddhism

Faith  
Belief  
Book  
Teaching  
Worship  
Prayer

## Same but different

Write your answers down in the space provided to the following questions.

**Question: What things do some religions have in common?**

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**Question: What things are different about them?**

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**Question: In your opinion, do you think the things that these religions have in common are more important or are the differences more important?**

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There is no right answer to the third question, but it will help you to understand your own thinking about your own faith and other faiths.

## Who is Jesus?

When we are looking at other religions, one of the main questions we should think about is 'Who is Jesus?' Most other religions recognise that Jesus is important but to Christians, Jesus is at their heart of faith.

Your task is to research one (or more if you wish!) of the 5 main faiths (Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Islam) and find out what the faith(s) has to say about Jesus. You can do this by searching online e.g. using Google, or you could speak to a friend or family member who may know about other faiths or follow one of these religions. Write down your research in the first column of the table below. In the second column, write down what you know about Jesus from Christian teaching (from church, school etc.).

<b>What other religions say about Jesus</b>	<b>What do you know about Jesus (from Christian teaching)?</b>

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Look up the following references and include them in the second column of your table above.

- John 10:30-33 – Jesus is God
- Romans 10:8-10 – Salvation comes through acknowledging that Jesus is Lord and that Jesus was raised from the dead

Although there may be similarities between Christianity and other faiths, and although other faiths may recognise Jesus, the belief in who He is, is what makes the difference. Christianity is the only faith that recognises that Jesus is God, that He was crucified and rose to life again, that He ascended into heaven.

Whilst it is right that we respect all faiths, we need to know what makes the difference with our own and be able to talk about it.

Finish by reading **Romans 10:8-13**. It doesn't matter what faith anyone is born into, if they call out to Jesus then He will answer them, if they put their trust in Him then He will give them eternal life.

## I Believe in Jesus

I want you to reflect on your own beliefs and faith. Write down a maximum of three sentences below to describe where you are on your faith journey and what you believe. You may not know exactly where you would place yourselves, or are still exploring what you think, but this is absolutely OK.

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How did you find that? Was it challenging? Being prepared and thinking about your beliefs can help prepare you for any potential future conversations with friends, family members or any other people you come across where you might end up discussing your faith.

## Prayer of St Francis

When we are thinking about other religions it's important that we follow Jesus' example in the way in which he treated other people and in the way He taught His followers about treating other people.

We are going to finish this session in prayer. Say the Prayer of St Francis (copied below) out loud and then afterwards highlight any lines in the prayer which you feel are really important in building friendships with people of other faiths.

*Dear God*

*Let me bring your peace to other people*

*Where people have given up, let me bring hope*

*Where people are in darkness let me bring light*

*And where there's sadness, let me bring joy.*

*O God, help me not to put my own needs before those of  
other people*

*So that I help more than I am helped*

*I understand people better than they understand me*

*And I love more than I am loved.*

*Amen*