



## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 August 14, 2022  
“Hinduism”



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### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, how grateful we are that you are our rock, our redeemer, our father and our friend. Thank you for our Hindu neighbors and friends. We pray that we may learn from them and that we might encourage them and be their brothers, sisters and friends. Even as we bear witness to our faith and as they bear witness to their faith. Thank you Father for your loving kindness. We offer ourselves to you this day. In your Holy name. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.*

#### Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 *August 14, 2022*

## “Christianity and World Religions: Hinduism”

### INTRODUCTION

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion with roots and customs dating back more than 4,000 years. Today, with about 900 million followers, Hinduism is the third-largest religion behind Christianity and Islam. Roughly 95 percent of the world's Hindus live in India.

Christians and Hindus share many truths in common. And yet at the heart of our two faiths are very different pictures of the human endeavor and our ultimate destination. As Christians, we are called to treat people with dignity, love, respect and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We don't have to be afraid of other people's faiths; and through listening to their stories, we might find ourselves becoming better Christians.

### QUESTIONS

1. Do you have any Hindu friends, neighbors, or co-workers. If so, have you ever had a discussion about religion with them?
2. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. Which people do you find it hardest to love as God loves them? How do you view people of other faiths?
3. How can you allow the reality of your need for God's grace to shift your view of people of other faiths?
4. How open are you to letting God continue to shape the way you live - even the “secular” parts of your life such as driving, shopping, business activities, playing and watching sports, and the like?
5. Do you believe in reincarnation? Would you want to be reincarnated if it was possible?

### FINAL APPLICATION

This week, work on gaining a better understanding of Hinduism.