



## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 August 21, 2022  
"Buddhism"



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### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for our Buddhist friends and their desire to do all the good that they can and to refrain from doing evil. Their yearning to find a way for peace in the midst of the suffering and the struggles in this world and in this life. Help us to befriend our Buddhist friends. Help us to love them well. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

*<sup>31</sup>"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

#### Romans 8:18 (NIV)

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

#### Romans 8:28 (NIV)

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

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Week 2 *August 21, 2022*

## “Christianity and World Religions: Buddhism”

### INTRODUCTION

Buddhism is one of the world's largest religions and originated 2,500 years ago in India. Buddhists believe that the human life is one of suffering, and that meditation, spiritual and physical labor, and good behavior are the ways to achieve enlightenment, or nirvana.

Christians and Buddhists share many truths in common. And yet at the heart of our two faiths are very different pictures of our response to human suffering 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 we can listen to their stories and we might find ourselves becoming better Christians.

### QUESTIONS

1. Do you have any Buddhist friends, neighbors, or co-workers? If so, have you ever had a discussion about religion with them?
2. What do you think of the Buddhist belief that suffering is caused by attachments in life?
3. Read Matthew 6:31-33 on page 1. In what ways, if any, have you sensed that your commitment to Jesus has reduced the “worry quotient” in your life?
4. Read Romans 8:28 on page 1. When in your life has God's power brought something good out of what was clearly a bad thing?
5. Based on what you learned about Buddhism this week, what is one Buddhist practice or belief that you admire the most?

### FINAL APPLICATION

This week work on gaining a better understanding of Buddhism.