



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 5 September 11, 2022
“Christianity”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son to show us the depth of your love. We thank you for his death and resurrection that always gives us hope. Father, we know that you have called us to love others as you have loved us, but we don't always get that right. Help us to grow in love. Help us to see others as you see them. So today we ask that you would give us eyes to see and ears to hear those in need of love and then give us the courage to love them like you love them. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

John 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 7:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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“Christianity and World Religions: Christianity”

INTRODUCTION

Many people believe that “all religions are the same.” After examining four of the world’s most popular religions, this week we turned our attention toward Christianity. So what is it that separates Christianity from the other four world religions?

Christianity distinguishes itself from other world religions by emphasizing God’s unconditional love and His solution to the broken human condition. Christians believe that Jesus came to show us the depth of God’s love. Jesus suffered and died so that we may be forgiven and redeemed. We can’t do anything to save ourselves. Then Jesus rose from the dead to say that there is always hope and the worst thing is never the last thing.

QUESTIONS

1. This week in worship, we took a moment to remember those who lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11. Where were you on 9/11/01? How did you feel when you heard the news? How do you feel about it today?
2. Do you think Christianity is different from other religions? Why are you a Christian?
3. Read John 3:16 on page 1. What does this verse mean to you?
4. Read Romans 7:15 and Ephesians 2:8-10 on page 1. All religions agree about the human condition. But Christianity has a different fix for our broken human nature. Christians believe that you can’t save yourself through good works. We are saved by faith in Jesus and his death on the cross for our sins. Discuss why this is different from what you learned about other religions?
5. 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 you know, helped you to keep living in love even when you face trouble, confusion, harassment or life knocking you down?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, do a small act of kindness for someone that is in need of love.