

Listening Guide

[1] List the four questions people ask their religion to answer:

[2] These are foundational questions everyone should have a clear answer to. How do you answer them?

I. The Hindu View of Sacred Scripture

[3] What do Hindus call their sacred books?

[4] When did these writings come into existence?

[5] How would you describe Dharma to a 15-year-old person?

[6] How is Hindu moral teaching different from the Judeo-Christian teaching about morality?

[7] How is the Hindu incentive to live a moral life like and unlike the Christian incentive?

II. The Buddhist View of Sacred Scriptures

[8] How are the sacred writings of Buddhism and Hinduism alike?

[9] How are they both different from the Jewish and Christian sacred writings?

[10] How do Christianity and Buddhism differ in their understanding of good and evil?

[11] As you read Buddha's four ethical laws in what ways do they agree and disagree with your own views of life?

[12] If you compare Buddha's quote about meditation in this paragraph with Psalm 1:1-3 would Buddha agree or disagree with the biblical psalmist?

[13] If you compare Buddha's quote about enemies in this paragraph with Jesus' Golden rule in Matthew 7:12 would Buddha's teaching agree or disagree with Jesus' teaching?

[14] Although most Christians would agree with many of the Buddha's teachings, name two or three ways Buddhism and Christianity are in sharp contrast.

III. The Islamic View of Sacred Scriptures

[15] What is the source of the Muslim scriptures?

[16] How is the Koran like and unlike Christian scripture?

[17] Briefly describe the process of how the “Mother of the Book” became written in the Koran.

[18] After reading or listening (slides 23 - 26) to the material about the Koran, list some ways the Bible and the Koran are similar and different.

[19] Of the differences you listed, which one is most important to you?

[20] How do Allah and God differ in their definition of right and wrong?

[21] Would you rather be judged by Allah’s standard or by God’s?

[22] Why?

IV. The Judeo-Christian View of Sacred Scripture

[23] In what two ways does this paragraph say God has revealed Himself?

[24] What is the relationship between the Masoretic text and the Dead Sea Scrolls?

[25] Why are the Dead Sea Scrolls important?

[26] Write a paragraph that would explain to a high school student why she can trust the validity of the Old Testament text she reads today.

[27] Write a paragraph to this same high school student that explains why she can trust the New Testament. Use specific evidence in both of your explanations.

[28] From the material in the final three paragraphs (slides 42-44) of this lesson, explain the meaning of the statement that God’s moral standards “are rooted not only in His will but in His nature.”

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Using the principles from Lesson 2 of this course on being “genuine,” “respectful,” “humble,” “fair,” “discerning,” and “discreet,” play the role of a Muslim and explain why you prefer Islam to Christianity. Then reverse the roles and, as a Christian, explain why you prefer Christianity to Islam.