

Bible for Life: *World Religions*

CLASS 1: JUDAISM

INTRODUCTION

~ What is the difference between a *religion* and a *denomination*?

- A denomination is a recognized subgroup _____ Christianity
- A religion is a faith _____ of Christianity
- Two key tests to determine if it's a denomination or a different religion:
 - 1) The _____
 - 2) The _____

KEY RESOURCE

What's the Big Deal about Other Religions? (John Ankerberg & Dillon Burroughs)

JUDAISM RESOURCE

Gateway to Judaism: The What, How, and Why of Jewish Life (Rabbi Mordechai Becher)

1.1 UNDERSTANDING JEWS

- Judaism claims to be the _____ religion in the world!
 - Holy Book – _____ (especially the Torah)
 - Judaism is built around the covenant relationship God established with _____.
- Genesis 12:1-3 –
- Judaism is a religion, a _____/_____, a nation, and a _____
 - Israel again became a nation in _____.
 - In about 200 AD, oral rabbinic traditions were written down, called the _____

Judaism Today: 3 Main Branches + 2 Other Branches

- 1) _____ – follows Talmud, keeps strict rules of OT
- 2) _____ – more liberal, mainly an ethical system with some holidays
- 3) _____ – in between, keeps feasts/holidays, reinterprets Law to modern day
- 4) _____ Jews – in-name-only Jews
- 5) _____ Jews – Christians who converted from Judaism or ethnic Jewish Christians

View of Jesus: Jews *don't* believe Jesus is their _____

View of Salvation: primarily _____-based (keeping the Law), some grace

View of Afterlife: Jews believe in a literal/physical _____

Holidays: Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Sabbath, Purim (Esther), Passover, Hanukkah, etc.

Other: They worship on _____ (the Sabbath) in the synagogue
 - They don't have pastors – they have _____

1.2 WITNESSING TO JEWS

- Biggest difference: Identity of the _____

- Help them to see that they fail to keep the _____ – they need a Savior

~ Ask questions: What do you think the Messiah will look like/do when he comes?
 Have you ever considered the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah?
 How do you think you'll get to Heaven?

~ What book in the Bible was written for Jewish people to believe Jesus as Messiah?
 (_____ – great book to study and read)

- Jesus's Method: **Luke 24:13-35**

- Use common ground – know your _____ Scriptures
 (Ex: Isaiah 53)

1.3 PRAYING FOR JEWS

- There are around 13-14 million Jews in the world today

- Around 5 million of them live in Israel, half live in America¹

- New York has nearly 2 million Jews, Lakewood NJ has around 60,000 Orthodox Jews
 (only NYC has a larger *Orthodox* population in America)²

- Detroit (includes Warren/Livonia area): 67,000 Jews (1.2% of the population)³

- Pray that they will accept their _____

- Pray that they will abandon a works-based idea of salvation

- Pray for _____ from the Middle Eastern enemies that seek to destroy them

- Pray for our government to also protect them

- Pray Psalm _____ over them

¹ <http://www.simpletoremember.com/vitals/world-jewish-population.htm>.

² http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/ocean/growth-of-orthodox-jew-community-causes-tensions-in-lakewood-area/article_d6ddec36-1657-11e6-ac85-2f848d1f76d1.html.

³ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/largest-jewish-populated-metropolitan-areas-united-states>.

CLASS 2: CATHOLICISM

KEY RESOURCE: *Nothing in My Hands I Bring* (Ray Galea)

2.1 UNDERSTANDING CATHOLICS

Matthew 16:18 –

- AD 440, Leo I declared himself the first _____, claiming to be Peter’s heir.
- Martin Luther, in 1517, began the _____ with the posting of 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany
 - Battle cries of Reformation:
 - 1) *Sola scriptura* – by Scripture alone
 - 2) *Sola fide* – by faith alone
 - 3) *Sola gratia* – by grace alone
 - 4) *Sola Christus* – by Christ alone
 - 5) *Soli Deo Gloria* – glory to God alone
- AD 1545-1563 – Council of _____ – the Catholic church’s response to Luther and the Reformation.
- First Vatican Council: 1869-1870: formally defined *papal* _____ and *ex cathedra*. The Pope is without mistake in all matters of faith and morals when speaking authoritatively from his chair in Rome.
- Catholics believe that church tradition is just as important as the Bible itself.
Bible + _____ = Absolute Truth
- Holy Book: Speaking of the Bible, they have 14 extra OT books known as the _____
- Salvation: Faith + _____ through seven “sacraments” (means of grace)
- Justification is a _____, not an *event* – begins with baptism, continues throughout our lives

Luther/Christianity: Justification through *faith* alone, by God’s *grace* alone

Catholics:

“If anyone says that the faith which justifies is nothing else but trust in the Divine mercy, which pardons sins because of Christ, or that it is trust alone by which we are justified, let him be anathema” (Council of Trent, Session 6, Canon 12)

Seven Sacraments:

- 1) Baptism
- 2) _____
- 3) Eucharist/Communion (Transubstantiation)
- 4) Confession/Penance
- 5) Extreme Unction
- 6) Holy Orders
- 7) Matrimony

- Sin: Mortal vs _____

- Other Doctrines:

View of Afterlife: Hell + _____ – cleanses you of venial sins

_____ : works that living Catholics can do to help people in Purgatory get out quicker (prayer, good deeds, giving)

_____ : different type of worship than Jesus

- Assumption: Mary was taken up to Heaven without dying, like Elijah

2.2 WITNESSING TO CATHOLICS

- Biggest Issue: Salvation + Works = Justification

- Note: there is a great deal of shared vocabulary among Christians/Catholics, *but most of it has a different _____!*

Ephesians 2:8-9 –

Romans 3:28 –

- It is important that they understand/realize that works can't save them.

- It's also important that they see the difference between the _____ of Catholicism and the _____ of Christianity.

- Encourage Catholics to read the Bible.

- Deal with minor theological differences over time.

2.3 PRAYING FOR CATHOLICS

- MI: 17.73% claim to be Catholic,⁴ with about 22.25% claiming Catholicism in Detroit.⁵

- Pray that they will abandon their works-based system of justification.

- Pray that they will enjoy a relationship instead of being obligated to a religion.

- Pray for Italy, USA, Brazil, Mexico, and the Philippines (largest Catholic populations).⁶

⁴ <http://www.bestplaces.net/religion/state/Michigan>.

⁵ <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/spcus1.html>.

⁶ According to Wikipedia!

CLASS 3: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

3.1 UNDERSTANDING JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

- Jehovah's Witnesses began in _____ when Charles Taze Russell started a Bible Study
 - He began to publish _____ Watchtower Magazine
- In 1916, _____ became the next president and officially changed the name to the Jehovah's Witnesses
- Holy Book: _____ + Watch Tower publications
- View of God: They firmly reject the _____
 - They believe _____ is God's true name
 - They believe Jesus is a _____ of God (Col 1:15)
 - Before and after His time on earth, Jesus is known as _____.
 - They believe the Holy Spirit is an impersonal _____ that brings about God's will.
 - They believe the Bible personifies the HS at times, but He isn't a person.
- View of Salvation: Faith + _____ = Salvation
- View of Afterlife: They believe only _____ will earn a *heavenly* salvation.
 - Other good believers will be resurrected to an _____ reward.
 - Unbelievers will be _____ (pass out of existence).
 - Charles T. Russell taught that Christ's judgment would come and usher in the Millennial Age in _____.
 - Later, this prophecy was reinterpreted to mean Jesus established God's kingdom in Heaven in 1914 spiritually.
- Other Views:
 - Against blood transfusions of any kind (because of a misreading of Lev 17:13-14).
 - Don't celebrate birthdays, holidays.
 - Very wealthy due to the publication of their tracts and magazines and books.

3.2 WITNESSING TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

- When witnessing to JW's, it's most important to _____ !

John 14:28 –

Luke 18:19 –

John 17:1 –

- Be ready to defend the _____ of Christ

John 5:17-18 –

John 8:58 –

John 20:28 –

Titus 2:13 –

Revelation 1:8 // 22:13 –

Isaiah 40:3 // Matthew 3:3 –

Isaiah 44:24 // Colossians 1:16-17 –

Recommended Resource: *Putting Jesus in His Place* (Bowman & Komoszewski)

3.3 PRAYING FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

- 8.13 million active worldwide⁷

- Less than 1% of Americans are JW's (a little over 1 million)

- 2/3 of JW's are women

- Our neighbors are JW's and there are plenty of them around here

- Pray they will believe in Jesus as their _____.

- Pray that they will open their eyes to their distorted "translation" of Scripture.

- Pray for those that frequent the Kingdom Hall next door to our church.

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses.