Evangelism Training #5

Biblical Basis

- **Understand people from the nations who have come to our community.**
  - James 1:19 "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry”
- **Hear their need for hope.**
  - 1 Pet 3:15-16 15 “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”
- **Provide that hope in the name of Jesus.**
  - Col 4:5-6 “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Five Golden Rules

1. **Listen more than you speak.**
2. **Ask questions before giving answers.**
3. **Share your story, not just doctrines.**
4. **Focus on Jesus.**
5. **Trust the Holy Spirit to change hearts.**

Building Bridges Through Understanding

	Beliefs	Ritual	Events	Culture Traditions
Buddhism	Suffering arises from desire or craving Nirvana goal (enlightenment), freedom from cycle of rebirth	Making merit by giving offerings to wandering monks Using string of 108 beads to help with meditation	Siddhartha Guatama's Birthday Hungry Ghost Festival, spirits of deceased are honored with food	Emphasis on mindfulness Monks wear saffron (orange-yellow) robes

	Beliefs	Ritual	Events	Culture Traditions
Hmong Traditional	Animism (spirits inhabit all things) Shamans are bridges between physical and spiritual realms	Spirit-calling by shamans to retrieve lost souls Funeral is the sacred guided journey to the ancestral home	Hill tribes show off colors at New Year Celebration of veterans who served with Americans in Vietnam War	Strong clan-based decision making Importance of oral story-telling to honor ancestors
Sikhism	One god, as taught by 10 gurus Do not dishonor the Creator by cutting the hair	Celebrating the martyrdom of founders of the faith Celebrating birth of gurus	Communal vegetarian meal served to all comers, promotes equality Repeating God's name to focus the mind on the divine Waheguru	Ceremonial sword symbol of the duty to protect Turbans often worn by men and some women
Hinduism	Caste system is pervasive in this religion Many deities representing one ultimate reality (Brahman)	Reciting the Veda texts Yoga as a spiritual discipline to realize the true self	Diwali Festival of Lights (Light over Darkness) Holi Festival (throwing colored powders and water at each other)	Cows are sacred, so beef is taboo Often women wear a red dot on forehead
Islam	One God (Allah) Muhammad as the final prophet	Five daily prayers toward Mecca Daylight fasting during Ramadan	Eid al-Fitr (feast that ends month of fasting) Feast honoring Abraham sacrificing his son	Halal (e.g., non-pork) dietary rules Modest dress practices

Buddhism

Gospel Bridges

- Human suffering
- Search for inner peace
- Desire for compassion

Helpful Questions

- What do you think causes suffering?
- Have you found lasting peace?
- What gives life meaning?

Avoid

- Criticizing Buddhist culture
- Assuming all Buddhists believe the same thing

Testimony

- Former Buddhist Gives His Life to Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkKUz9YU8CE

Hmong Traditional Religion

Gospel Bridges

- Spiritual reality
- Respect for family
- Community
- Deliverance from fear

Helpful Questions

- What role do spirits play in daily life?
- How does your family approach spiritual protection?
- What gives you peace when facing fear?

Avoid

- Mocking spiritual beliefs
- Criticizing ancestors

Testimony

- Ger Vang: Encounter with Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O8LzvXJnoQ

Sikhism

Gospel Bridges

- Belief in one God
- Service to others
- Respect for prayer

Helpful Questions

- How do you know God personally?
- What does forgiveness mean to you?
- Can someone be certain of salvation?

Avoid

- Comparing Gurus and Jesus disrespectfully

Testimony

- Kam Kaur: Sikh Encounters Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4rrlJz-58M

Hinduism

Gospel Bridges

- Desire for freedom from karma
- Search for peace
- Respect for spiritual matters
- Interest in holy people

Helpful Questions

- What gives you hope?
- How do you know if your karma is good enough?
- What does forgiveness mean in your beliefs?

Avoid

- Attacking Hindu gods
- Insulting family traditions

Testimony

- Dr. Sarma Velamuri: "Why This Man Left Hinduism to Follow Jesus" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1rOXzwNyYo

Islam

Gospel Bridges

- Reverence for God
- Belief in prayer
- Respect for Jesus as a prophet

Helpful Questions

- What do you most appreciate about your faith?
- Who do you believe Jesus is?
- How do you know your sins are forgiven?

Avoid

- Political discussions
- Debates about terrorism
- Attacking Muhammad

Testimony

- Saudi Arabian Muslim Shares His Testimony Becoming Christian https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX1M5AO0RRM