

## Sharing Your Faith

- As Hindus settle throughout the Western world, God is providing opportunities for the body of Christ in the West to join in His work of transforming least-reached communities through the gospel.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ from South Asia flood into universities each year, eager to explore Western culture.
  - Men and women travel to the West for business \_\_\_\_\_, often bringing their families with them.
- As Hindus become classmates, colleagues and neighbors, Christians in the West have the opportunity to share Jesus with those who may have never heard the good news.

## Sharing Your Faith (Cont.)

- Because of their belief in \_\_\_\_\_ universal supreme being, most Hindus can relate to the singular God of the Bible; but believing that Jesus is the only way to salvation is a more difficult matter.
- Hindus believe in many different manifestations of god and paths to salvation, so it is not a stretch for many Hindus to include Jesus in their worship.
- As followers of Jesus, we can demonstrate that He is a personal, loving God, who desires to draw us into a relationship with Himself and offers salvation that liberates us from endless attempts to achieve it on our own.
  - This is where we can use that Jesus is our Guru. Of course, one of Jesus' teachings is that he says he is the \_\_\_\_\_ way to salvation.

## Start with Prayer

- Remember that nothing you do or say will be effective \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit working in the life of your Hindu friend. Commit to regularly lift up the Hindus you know in prayer, asking the Lord to open their hearts and minds.
- Ask for \_\_\_\_\_ to share with them.
- If you get to pray with a Hindu, remember to use " \_\_\_\_\_ "

## The Role of Relationship

- Hindu culture is \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, as we seek to effectively communicate the good news to Hindus in our communities, we need to do so through relationships, loving them as Christ does and showing interest in their lives.
- Hindus place great value upon \_\_\_\_\_ and their culture, so learn about their traditions and be prepared to befriend entire families. If possible, include all of them when you present the gospel.
- Share through \_\_\_\_\_, inviting them into your home and life.

## The Role of Relationship (Cont.)

- While Westerners may feel uncomfortable discussing religion, spiritual matters are a part of daily life for the majority of Hindus. They need to see that our faith is \_\_\_\_\_ to our lives as well, and we shouldn't hesitate to share how we've experienced God at work in us.
- However, author H.L. Richard, regarded for his experience in Hindu ministry, cautions:
  - "Care must be taken that our sharing is appropriate. To shout on a street corner, or share at every seeming opportunity is \_\_\_\_\_. What God does in our lives is holy and private, only to be shared in intimacy."
- A genuine friendship is an effective conduit for sharing life and faith.

## Living Faith

- Many Hindus \_\_\_\_\_ offers to pray with them about their needs and concerns.
- Unlike Westerners, who evaluate truth based upon logical arguments and evidence, Hindus evaluate truth based upon \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Occurrences, such as specific answers to prayer and evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, will likely be more persuasive than words.
- Both Hindu and biblical traditions value simplicity, self-sacrifice and humility. As we \_\_\_\_\_ by these principles, our faith will become more attractive.

## Sharing Through Story

- Those who practice ritual Hinduism may be \_\_\_\_\_ to testimonies and biblical stories that portray the freedom found in Christ. They need to see that Jesus does not demand impersonal adherence to ritual; rather, He wants us to know and love Him.
- As we interact with secular Hindus, it's helpful to share \_\_\_\_\_ about people in the Bible (such as Nicodemus or the rich young ruler) who found that their deepest spiritual needs were not met through worldly wealth and success. In contrast, those who left all to follow Jesus (like the apostle Paul) found that all their needs were satisfied.

## Sharing Through Story (Cont.)

- Folk Hindus are often receptive to the \_\_\_\_\_ of love and spiritual power found in stories about Jesus healing or delivering people from demons.
- We should also show them that because Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for all people, each of us can go \_\_\_\_\_ to God with our needs. We do not need objects or priests as mediators.
- "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." —2 Corinthians 4:6

## Sharing the Gospel with Understanding

- Most Hindus' knowledge of their sacred texts comes from oral tradition and dramatic presentations of their epic tales. Presenting the gospel using \_\_\_\_\_ forms, such as stories, and then following up with literature and portions of Scripture in their heart language may be more effective than beginning with written material.

## Sharing the Gospel with Understanding (Cont.)

- If our Hindu friends have a working knowledge of their sacred texts, we can also use topics from these writings as bridges to discuss biblical concepts and Christ.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the Bhagavad Gita or watching presentations of the Ramayana can help start spiritual conversations.
  - However, a lack of knowledge or training in Hindu apologetics shouldn't stop you from sharing your faith!
- The top suggestion for sharing Christ with a Hindu—except of course to pray—is to utilize accounts of Jesus from the Gospels and share examples of Jesus' active presence in your life, relaying them like \_\_\_\_\_ instead of theological treatises.
  - Jesus can speak for Himself—pray that He will do so in the hearts of your Hindu friends as you share.

## Tips for Sharing

- The terms “Christian” and “Christianity” may carry a \_\_\_\_\_ connotation for Hindus because of their association with former colonial rule. Many Hindus see Christianity as a foreign religion:
  - Westerners are Christians from birth, as Indians are born into Hinduism. By sharing testimonies, we can demonstrate that \_\_\_\_\_ is born into Christianity. It may also be helpful to introduce Hindu friends to other internationals who are believers.
- Rather than saying “Christians believe ...,” we can demonstrate that God is our authority by **telling** what Jesus and God have said (as we see through His Word).

## Tips for Sharing (Cont.)

- Hindus do not view conversion as spiritual change. “Converting” to Christianity implies \_\_\_\_\_ cultures, turning their backs on their family and heritage. Instead, talk about becoming a \_\_\_\_\_, disciple or follower of Jesus, a change that can take place within any cultural context.
- Hindus need to see that we experience ordinary, everyday struggles with sin just as they do. Rather than delving into vivid details of a sinful past, share about your \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ walk with the Lord.

## **Tips for Sharing (Cont.)**

- It's unlikely that we'll win Hindu friends to Christ if we exalt Christianity, criticize their beliefs or condemn their cultural practices. Instead, focus on \_\_\_\_\_ truth.
- Avoid putting your Hindu friends in situations in which they feel that not accepting the gospel message means not accepting you. They may feel \_\_\_\_\_ to tell you what you want to hear to avoid offending you.
- Be sensitive to the cost of believing. Remember that in South Asian culture, an individual's identity stems from his or her caste, culture and family group. A step toward Christ could result in being \_\_\_\_\_ by close family and friends.