

## Hindu Practices

- The \_\_\_\_\_ in Hindu practice could be compared to the offerings in a cafeteria, with each person choosing which elements they will embrace. Many choose similar practices, but very few select exactly the same set.
  - Some individuals offer \_\_\_\_\_ and prayers to one or more specific deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, Lakshmi or Durga.
  - Others may present daily offerings of fruit or flowers to an idol in a small shrine in their home.
  - Still others recite prescribed mantras for hours in \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - Most Hindus participate in a cycle of lavish festivals throughout the year
- In Hindu temples, priests awaken the “gods” (idols), bathing, clothing and \_\_\_\_\_ them each day.

## Lack of Peace

- Peace is hard to come by in Hinduism, with its multiplicity of gods, rituals and duties, and no \_\_\_\_\_ of a better life to come.
- For Hindus who believe they can make themselves clean and strive to maintain their purity through rituals and rites, Jesus offers true cleansing from the pollution of sin and eternal assurance of His saving power by grace through faith alone. His promise of peace is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

## Five General Classifications

- While most Hindus could fit into multiple categories to varying degrees, some general classifications can help us share with understanding as we reach out to Hindus.
  - Ritual
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Folk
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Militant

## Ritual Hinduism

- Ritual Hindus believe that their \_\_\_\_\_ to prescribed customs and ceremonies will propel them toward salvation.
- Covering all aspects of life from birth to death, rituals are associated with worshiping a chosen deity or are connected with rites of passage and social traditions.

## Ritual Hinduism (Cont.)

- Strict ritual Hindus firmly believe that these \_\_\_\_\_ acts of devotion hold the cosmos together. If the rituals aren't performed, the universe will begin to unravel. Each must be addressed with precision and care lest any mistake sabotage the desired result.
- Though performing these rites may be full of emotion, the purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ to cultivate a personal relationship with the god but an act to gain the god's favor and accomplish one's own goals.

## Intellectual Hinduism

- Intellectual Hindus concentrate on \_\_\_\_\_, spiritual pursuits through the study of the sacred Hindu texts, particularly the Upanishads.
- Since many from the lower castes are \_\_\_\_\_, intellectual Hindus are found primarily among the upper and middle castes. They emphasize jnana marg (the path of knowledge), in which the individual pursues salvation through meditation and the realization that the soul and god are one: "atman is Brahman."

## Folk Hinduism

- Folk Hinduism, motivated by \_\_\_\_\_, is practiced in some form by the majority of Hindus.
- Manifestations of folk Hinduism include belief in \_\_\_\_\_ (good, evil or indifferent) and the use of offerings, animal sacrifices, charms, talismans, witchcraft and sorcery to manipulate these spirits.
- Folk Hindus may enlist the services of astrologers, \_\_\_\_\_, priests or shamans, and are often obsessed with superstitions, taboos and omens.

## Secular Hinduism

- Secular Hindus \_\_\_\_\_ themselves as Hindus in a cultural sense, and even continue some practices, but are more concerned with humanistic interests, such as social and economic well-being.
- However, as making money is an element of many Hindus' dharma (duty), it's difficult to label any Hindu as specifically "secular."
- Same concept as "Cultural Christians" or "Cultural Muslims", these are the "\_\_\_\_\_ Hindus".

## Militant Hinduism

- Militant Hinduism is driven by a \_\_\_\_\_ movement that aims to make Hinduism India's official religion.
- Called Hindutva, which means "Hindu-ness," this philosophy has gained significant following in recent years, \_\_\_\_\_ hostility toward religious minorities, including Christians.
  - The pacifistic religion is becoming increasingly hostile.
- The Church in India needs urgent prayer that believers will stand firm and keep shining the light of Christ in this challenging environment, enabled by Him to extend His love to all people.