

C. Understanding Other Religious Beliefs.¹

(Suggested Teaching Time: 20 Min)

To effectively share Christ with people who hold other religious beliefs, it is helpful to understand their history and key tenets, as well as their similarities and differences from Christianity. The diagram below references most of the common religious beliefs.

Name	Type	Founder	Date	Description
1. Islam	Non-Christian Religion	Muhammad	Around 610 AD	See Appendix 7A
2. Judaism	Non-Christian Religion	Abraham	Around 2,000 BC	See Appendix 7B
3. Hinduism	Non-Christian Religion	No known founder; 4,000 year evolution	No exact date of origin is known	See Appendix 7C
4. Buddhism	Non-Christian Religion	Siddhartha Gautama	Between 563 & 483 BC	See Appendix 7D
5. Taoism	Non-Christian Religion	Lao-tzu, a peer of Confucius	Between 604 & 517 BC	See Appendix 7E
6. Confucianism	Non-Christian Religion	Confucius	Between 550 and 479 BC	See Appendix 7F
7. Shintoism	Non-Christian Religion	No known founder; ancient in Japan	No exact date of origin is known	See Appendix 7G
8. Secular Humanism	Secular Religion	No known founder	1933 (<i>Humanist Manifesto I</i>)	See Appendix 7H
9. Marxism	Secular Religion	Karl Marx	1867	See Appendix 7I
10. Mormonism	Religious Cult	Joseph Smith	April 6, 1830	See Appendix 7J
11. Jehovah's Witnesses	Religious Cult	Charles Taze Russell	1879	See Appendix 7K

See Appendix 7L:

For a brief overview of the common characteristics found in religious cults.

¹ Adapted from *Larson's New Book of Cults*, by Bob Larson. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1982, and from *Handbook of Today's Religions* by Josh McDowell and Don Stewart. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers. Inc.. 1983.