



WORLDVIEWS: WORLD RELIGIONS

Lesson 3: Sikhism



Lesson Introduction

Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and the youngest of these four. Sikhism arose in the Punjab region of India, which is directly adjacent to Pakistan. It arose in reaction to both Hinduism and Islam which existed in the area.

Sikhism is contemplative and practical, with a focus on cleanliness and hospitality.



Big Picture

Sikhism believes in one God and that our goal is to merge with him and thus escape the illusion of the physical world and the trap of constant reincarnation.



Key Truths

- There is only one God. All religions seek to worship this one God, but only Sikhism truly reveals him. God has no form or shape and can not take a form or a shape.
- Reality is an illusion; ultimate reality is God.
- The soul goes through cycles of rebirth until it reaches its human form, in which form its goal is to merge with God.
- We remerge with God by remembering God, focusing upon him and his name(s) and living virtuously as a community member. Release from the cycle of reincarnation is granted by grace (upon evidence of remembrance of God and the right life).
- Grace is the experience of the divine that helps attune one to God.



Key Truths (cont)

- Humanity struggles with five weaknesses, the 'Five thieves' - lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. They rob us of God consciousness.
- The authority of truth in Sikhism is in the succession of ten Gurus, now represented by the perpetual Guru Granth Sahib (their collection of holy scriptures).



Explore Worldview

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|
| Enter | What is their mission? | We need to escape this endless cycle of rebirth and merge with the one true God. |
| | Who are the bad guys? | We are trapped in the seduction of the physical world and the five thieves. We are trapped because we have forgotten God, who is beyond knowing. |
| | Who are the good guys? | The Gurus have revealed God to us by grace. They help us remember God, avoid sin, be devoted to the name, and live honestly. |
| | Why attractive? | Sikhism provides a coherent body of beliefs that explain our world. It promises to reconnect us to God. It also seems accepting of other beliefs - which just aren't as enlightened as the Gurus are. Sikhs emphasise right living. |
| Challenge | What's missing? | Sikhism offers no certainty. How do I know I have lived a good enough life? How can I be sure the Gurus are right about God? |
| | What's clashing? | If a Sikh makes a mistake and needs to be reborn is this a chance to get it right next time, or is it a disaster? How does this motivate me to change my life? |
| Fulfill | How is Jesus the answer? | Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:27-28 |



Application

The point of growing our understanding of Sikhism, is to enter their worldview, help them find a point of challenge, and to suggest how Jesus is the answer to their deepest yearning. And to seek an opportunity to invite them to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

So, what questions could you ask a Sikh to explore their worldview?



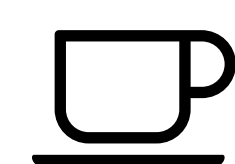
Prayer

Pray for a deeper understanding of Sikhism so we can go deeper with our Sikh friends and colleagues.

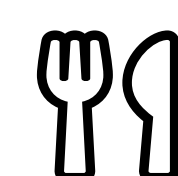
Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus with a Sikh friend or colleague.

Remember

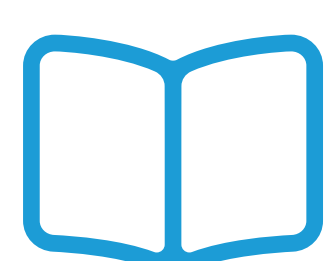
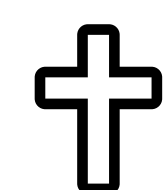
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL



Further Reading

Sikhs.org website



City Bible Forum ©2021

Photo by Laurentiu Morariu on Unsplash

New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.