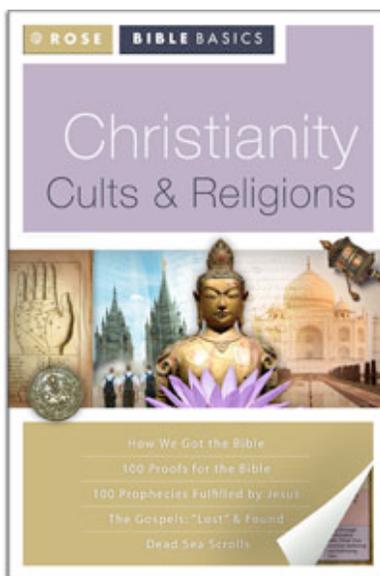


Leader's Guide



Rose Bible Basics:
Christianity, Cults & Religions
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Leader's Guide

Christianity, Cults & Religions

This six-week group study plan covers all seven chapters of *Christianity, Cults & Religions* and includes a reproducible worksheet for each week.

What participants will gain from this study:

- Learn basic Bible teachings on God, Jesus, salvation, death, life after death, etc.
- Identify the differences and similarities between Christianity and other religions
- Know how to talk with and witness to people of other religions
- Learn key facts, dates, writings, and basic beliefs of cults and religions

Week 1	Christianity, Cults & Religions
Chapter 1	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce participants to the purposes of this study (see above and p. 6) • Because this chapter has so many groups it may be helpful to highlight the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The groups on pp. 7–12 all use the Bible, but they believe different things about the Bible. (Not reliable or only reliable in their “translation;” Not fully God’s Word; Other writings are superior.) These groups do not believe in the Trinity. (See Rose-publishing.com for available comparison charts of groups that do believe in the Trinity.) - Point out how salvation in Christianity is different than in Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormonism. Grace vs. works. - Discuss the relationship of Judaism with Christianity. (Both use the Old Testament; One personal God; Practice prayer and repentance; Jewish messiah prophesied in the OT.) - The groups on pp. 20–24 are eastern religions. Notice their similar beliefs about reincarnation, meditation, and who they say Jesus was. • For terms used in this chapter, see <i>Terms and Definitions</i> on pp. 39, 55, 67, 81, 95. <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) False <i>p. 7</i> (2) True <i>p. 9</i> (3) e. All of the above <i>p. 11</i> (4) b. Engrams <i>p. 13</i> (a. is Unification Church; c. is Bahá’í; d. is Soka Gakkai) (5) c. Nation of Islam <i>p. 17</i></p>

Week 2	Christianity, Cults & the Occult
Chapter 2	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce participants to the purposes of studying the occult (see pp. 39–40) • Before discussing the particular groups, cover the definitions on p. 39 to familiarize participants with the terms used (especially <i>occult, divination, reincarnation, syncretism, and sorcery</i>). • Point out how Christian practices differ from occult practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Magick is an attempt to manipulate reality according to what you want; Following Jesus involves submitting your will to God’s will, and miracles are God’s doing. - Divination is putting your trust in inanimate objects; Seeking God’s will is trusting in the Creator of all things. - Channeling is opening yourself to evil spirits through secret methods and powers; Prayer is communicating with a loving God, and anyone can speak to God in prayer. <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) a. Kabbalah <i>p. 29</i> (2) d. Santería <i>p. 33</i> (3) a. Freemasonry <i>p. 27</i> (4) c. Another name <i>p. 38</i> (5) c. Spiritualism <i>p. 32</i></p>

Week 3	Christianity & Eastern Religions
Chapter 3	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because this chapter contains so much information, it may be helpful to focus the teaching time on the <i>Key Beliefs</i> sections to compare each religion's core teachings. • For <i>Hinduism in the West</i> also see pp. 15, 21, 22; <i>Buddhism in the West</i> also see p. 24. <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) b. All is God p. 42 (2) c. Escaping reincarnation p. 42 (3) b. Irrelevant p. 48 (4) a. Hinduism p. 44 (5) d. All of the above p. 49</p>

Week 4	Islam & Christianity
Chapter 4	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To open the discussion ask participants to think of some movies, TV shows, books, and magazine articles that depict Muslims. Ask: How were Muslims portrayed? If Christians were also depicted, how were they portrayed? • Have participants brainstorm some things Islam and Christianity have in common. Then list some the differences. Compare side by side. <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) False p. 59 (2) True p. 58 (3) c. Idolatry p.59 (4) c. Both p. 62 (5) d. Both p. 63</p>

Week 5	10 Q & A on Jehovah's Witnesses; Mormonism
Chapters 5 & 6	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If going through all 20 Q & A individually is too lengthy, try comparing how Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, and Christianity answer these questions: 1. <i>Who is God?</i> 2. <i>Who is Jesus?</i> 3. <i>Who or what is the Holy Spirit?</i> 4. <i>Is the Bible reliable?</i> 5. <i>Where (or to whom) should people look for truth?</i> 6. <i>What does it mean to be "saved"?</i> 7. <i>How is someone saved? Is Jesus capable of saving or does salvation depend on a person earning it through good works?</i> <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) c. Same person p. 72 (2) True p. 75 (3) d. Evidence p. 76 (4) b. Preserved sufficiently p. 77, 87 (5) False p.90</p>

Week 6	10 Keys to Witnessing to Cults
Chapter 7	<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because this chapter uses many Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon examples it may be helpful to briefly review with participants the material covered in week 5. • This chapter focuses mostly on cults of Christianity, but some keys (such as 7 and 10) can be applied when witnessing to someone of any religion. • However some keys (such as 8 and 3) that are useful when talking with cults of Christianity, may not be as helpful when talking with a person of another religion (like an eastern religion). • To improve future studies, be sure to get feedback from the group about teaching style, meeting location, discussion time, material covered, length of study, and group size. Choose a method that best suits your group: Anonymous evaluation sheet, e-mail response or questionnaire, open discussion. <p><u>Worksheet Key</u></p> <p>(1) c. Trinity, Jesus Christ, Salvation p. 99 (2) e. All of the above p. 102 (3) False ("Cults always get...") p. 106 (4) d. God's grace p. 107 (5) False p. 109</p>



Chapter 1 Christianity, Cults & Religions

Worksheet

1. True or False? Biblical Christianity teaches that those who will live with Jesus in Heaven are saved by their individual good works.
2. True or False? Mormonism teaches that those who will be exalted to godhood are saved by their Mormon membership and works, such as baptism and tithing.
3. Christian Science teaches that Jesus:
 - a. Displayed the “Christ” idea
 - b. Did not die on the cross
 - c. Is not literally coming again
 - d. (a) and (b)
 - e. All of the above
4. Followers of Scientology:
 - a. Obey the “True Parents”
 - b. Try to get clear of engrams (hang-ups)
 - c. Have faith in Bahá'u'lláh
 - d. Worship the Gohonzon scroll
5. Of the following groups which one does not include a belief in reincarnation?
 - a. New Age
 - b. Hare Krishna
 - c. Nation of Islam
 - d. Buddhism
 - e. Scientology

Discussion Questions

1. What would you like to gain from this study of different religions?
2. When reading this chapter, what differences and similarities did you notice between Christianity and the other faiths about who they say Jesus is?
3. What differences and similarities did you notice between Christianity and the other faiths about what “salvation” is, and what it takes to be “saved”?

Chapter 2 Christianity, Cults & the Occult

Worksheet

1. Which group is a form of Jewish mysticism and extrabiblical revelation?
 - a. Kabbalah Centre
 - b. Freemasonry
 - c. Wicca
 - d. Santería

2. Which animistic religion's followers must appease many unpredictable spirits—including the spirits of the dead?
 - a. Satanism
 - b. Theosophy
 - c. Eckankar
 - d. Santería

3. Which group was started in London as a lodge and omits references to Jesus when quoting the Bible?
 - a. Freemasonry
 - b. Rosicrucianism
 - c. Anthroposophy
 - d. Theosophy

4. Which of the following is not true about astrology?
 - a. It is condemned in the Bible
 - b. It is a form of divination
 - c. It is another name for astronomy
 - d. It seems to offer people an explanation for their troubles

5. Which group is known for conducting séances to contact the dead and using the Ouija board?
 - a. Wicca
 - b. Astrology
 - c. Spiritualism
 - d. Rosicrucianism

Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 8:9–24. How is the power of the Holy Spirit through Philip, Peter, and John different from the sorcery of Simon?

2. Occult practices are condemned many times in the Bible. What do you think are some reasons why God so strongly forbids his people from practicing the occult?

3. How is the gospel of Jesus good news for people involved in the occult?

Chapter 3 Eastern Religions

Worksheet

1. *Pantheism*, a bedrock of eastern religious philosophy, literally means:
 - a. Many gods
 - b. All is God
 - c. No God
 - d. None of the above

2. Salvation in eastern religions is:
 - a. Having one's sins forgiven by God
 - b. Going to a heavenly paradise after death
 - c. Escaping the cycles of reincarnation
 - d. Attaining physical health

3. In Buddha's teachings the idea of pursuing or knowing "God" is considered:
 - a. A means of salvation
 - b. Irrelevant and can hinder enlightenment
 - c. A valuable source of comfort
 - d. The way to immortality

4. Which religion is said to have as many as 33 million gods?
 - a. Hinduism
 - b. Sikhism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Confucianism

5. The Dalai Lama of Tibetan Buddhism said that Jesus:
 - a. Lived previous lives
 - b. Used Buddhist practices
 - c. Was an enlightened person (or bodhisattva)
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe Jesus of Christianity to someone who believes Jesus was a guru or an enlightened person (or bodhisattva)?

2. How would you respond to someone who said, "Eastern religions and Christianity are just different paths to eventually escape pain and get to 'God.' They are basically the same."

3. What difficulties and challenges do you think someone who is a follower of an eastern religion would face if he or she became a Christian?

Chapter 4

Islam & Christianity

Worksheet

1. True or False? Muslims also call Allah (God) “Our Father.”
2. True or False? Muslims believe Jesus was a prophet appointed by Allah.
3. The greatest sin in Islam is *shirk* which means:
 - a. To lie (bear false witness)
 - b. To disrespect the Quran
 - c. To associate any partner with Allah (idolatry)
 - d. To lose honor
4. *Jihad* which means “holy struggle” can be:
 - a. A struggle in the soul to do the right thing
 - b. An effort against the enemies of Islam
 - c. Both (a) and (b)
 - d. None of the above
5. Which of the following do Muslims believe they must do to be saved?
 - a. Do good deeds
 - b. Practice the five pillars
 - c. Trust Muhammad as savior
 - d. (a) and (b)
 - e. All of the above

Discussion Questions

1. After reading this chapter what did you learn about Muslims that you previously didn't know or misunderstood?
2. How is salvation in Islamic teaching different than what Jesus taught about how to be saved?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23. How can you apply these verses in your own conversations and interactions with Muslims?

Chapters 5 & 6
10 Q & A on Jehovah's Witnesses; Mormonism

Worksheet

1. Which of the following is not true about the doctrine of the Trinity?
 - a. The Trinity is the historic Christian view
 - b. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons revealed in one God
 - c. Jesus and the Father are the same person in different forms
 - d. Each of the persons in the Trinity are called "God" in Scripture

2. True or False? Scripture teaches that *everyone* who puts their faith in Christ is "born again" and has Jesus as their mediator.

3. The good works that people do:
 - a. Help earn salvation in addition to faith
 - b. Can guarantee forgiveness of sin
 - c. Are the root cause of a saved relationship with God
 - d. Are evidence of a saved relationship with God
 - e. None of the above

4. God's Word (the Bible):
 - a. Is most accurate in the New World Translation
 - b. Is preserved sufficiently to convey God's revealed truth
 - c. Has variations that support very different religious ideas
 - d. Has lost many important parts because of poor transmission
 - e. Both (a) and (b)

5. True or False? Jesus is called the firstborn Son of God because he is the first among many children of God, and the first to become a God himself.

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a conversation you have had with a Jehovah's Witness or Mormon. What things were discussed? Was it easy or difficult to discuss different beliefs?

2. What do you think are some reasons for why people join the Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormon Church?

3. Do you feel ready to discuss your beliefs with Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons? Why or why not? What would help you feel ready?

Chapter 7
10 Keys to Witnessing to Cults

Worksheet

1. Which three key biblical doctrines do cults often deny or distort?
 - a. Trinity, Baptism, and Second Coming
 - b. Creation, Jesus' deity, and Salvation
 - c. Trinity, Jesus Christ, and Salvation
 - d. Trinity, Jesus Christ, and Lord's Supper

2. When interpreting Scripture remember to:
 - a. Always examine the context
 - b. Examine a verse in light of clear passages
 - c. Draw meaning out of the verses
 - d. (a) and (b)
 - e. All of the above

3. True or False? Cult groups sometimes get the identity of Jesus wrong.

4. What do cultists need to hear about more than anything else?
 - a. Their sinfulness
 - b. The Bible's authority
 - c. Christian history
 - d. God's grace
 - e. Spiritual deception

5. True or False? Because ex-cultists are hungry for something to believe in and belong to, you should make sure that they immediately join and attend your church.

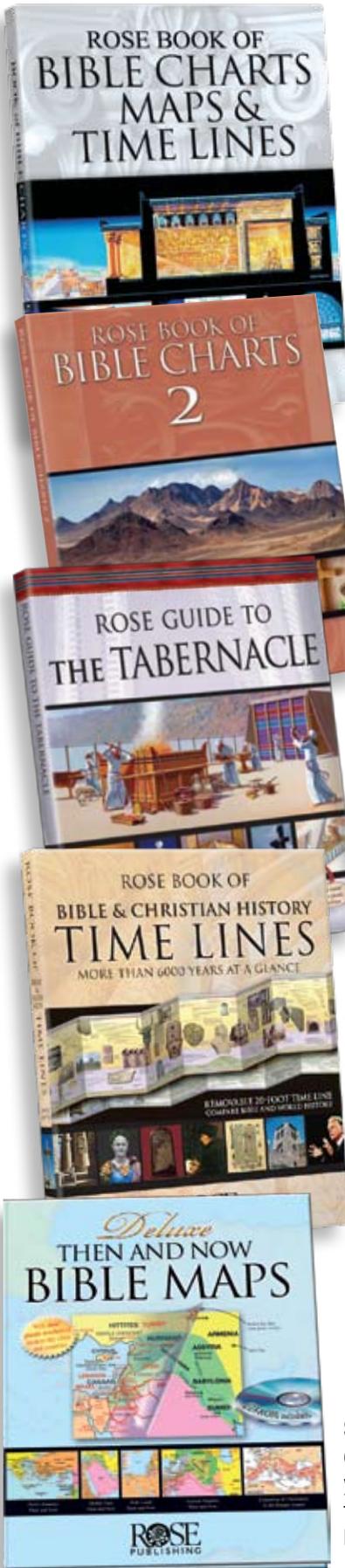
Discussion Questions

1. Before reading this chapter, did you think of Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormonism as a "cult"? Do you think it's helpful to tell people they are in a "cult"?

2. Have you given your testimony to someone in a cult or to a non-Christian? What was easy or difficult about it? What was the person's response?

3. What did you find interesting and/or helpful about this study of *Christianity, Cults & Religions*? What would you like to learn more about?

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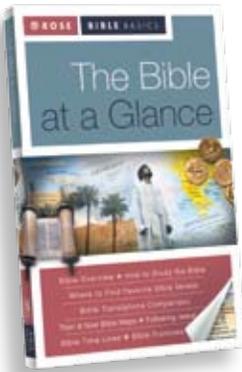
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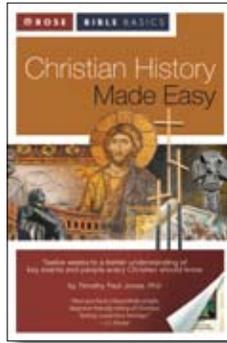
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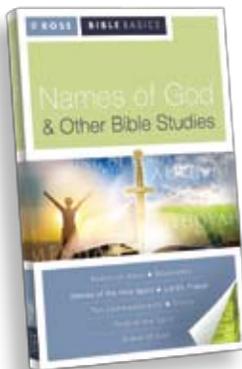
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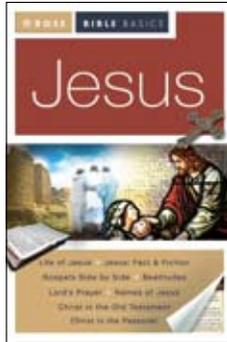
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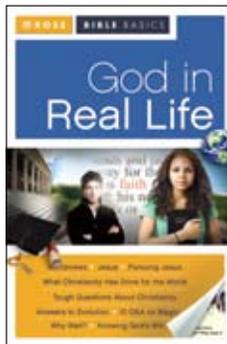
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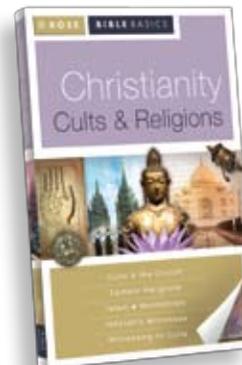
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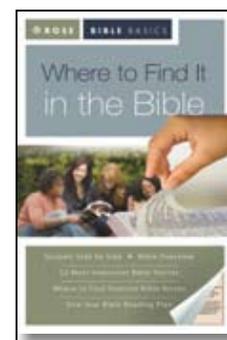
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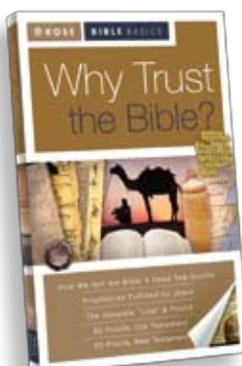
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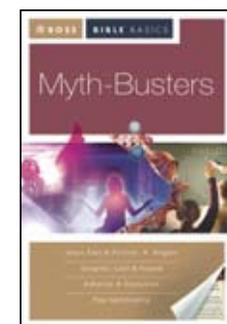
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