



into
LIFE
Study guide



Which Religion is True
For Individuals and Life Groups
April 17, 2016

Introduction:

Are we alone in a purposeless universe or is there some kind of creator – some kind of higher power out there? Why do bad things happen to good people? These are questions that many of us have asked.

Are all religions the same? Do all religions point to the same God? Can't they all be right? These are questions that have been raised throughout history in response to the exclusive claims made in some of the world's religions, including Christianity. The problem is that not all religions can be true at the same time. To insist that this is the case is intolerance. To say that all religions are the same is to create a super religion that is above all of them. It is the pinnacle of exclusivism.

In exploring this question from a biblical perspective it is important to remember, "Individuals are equal, beliefs are not." In Christianity there are three main beliefs that are not found in any other religion:

1. God in human form (Historical Jesus)
2. Forgiveness based on grace not forms or works
3. Resurrection. The reality that Jesus is alive right now and we will share in his life.

How do we figure out which religion is true? Through four questions:

1. Is it internally consistent?
2. Is it externally coherent?
3. Does it work in real life?
4. Is it open and accessible?

As you work through this study, ask these questions about Christianity (There are links at the back that flesh these points out in detail).

Into the scriptures



Read: Isaiah 45

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points...)

What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity? About other gods?

What are the bold / exclusive claims made by God?



Into my life



Keeping Isaiah 45 in mind, read John 14:6. What are the implications of Jesus making this statement in relation to other religions.

Read Philippians 2:1-12. How does this passage relate to the one found in Isaiah 45? What does this reveal about Christ?

Christianity makes the exclusive claim to be the only way to God through Jesus Christ? What difference should this make in the Christian life?

How will you be different today because of what you have just read?



Into the world



How can this passage be an encouragement to you to bring Jesus into your world? What will you do about it? (See also: Hebrews 12:1-3)(Pray for each other in this)



Prayer List



Challenge for the week:

From Nehemiah my challenge this week is to:



More Resources for personal and group use:



- Thinking? Answering Life's Five Biggest Questions, by Andy Steiger
- <http://www.apologeticscanada.com/2012/09/07/do-all-religions-lead-to-god-2/>
- burningquestions.ca
- <https://bible.org/article/how-i-know-christianity-truth>
- Book: A World of Difference by Kenneth Richard Samples
- <http://www.kenboa.org/shop/im-glad-you-asked/>



• A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



GO

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world