

For further study:

Interfaith Resources

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Northern Illinois Conference **Media Resource Center**

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Comparative Religion - Multi-part Series

"Religions of the World" Series

Transcend into a world where spiritual beliefs know no limits. Travel to exotic locations around the world and see how such religions as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Protestantism and Catholicism have shaped cultures, changed history and left their mark on humanity. Learn fascinating facts about the striking similarities and differences. Explore what makes up the core of our very existence. Narrated by Ben Kingsley. 6 DVDs - 50 minutes each D143

"World Religions" Series

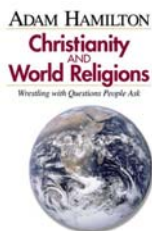
Discover the history, thought, practices and contributions of five of the world's great religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism. These videos are produced on location around the world, where each religion is dominant and in the holy places, these videos will give viewers insight and understanding. Used as a series, they will give your group a short course in comparative religion. 5 VHS tapes - 25 minutes each V2012

"Wisdom of Faith" Series

Huston Smith is a pilgrim who experiences the religions that he studies. He is a Methodist, but practices yoga, prays five times daily as Muslims do, has endured the rigors of a Zen monastery, and joined his daughter and her Jewish husband at a Seder. In the first four programs Smith talks with Bill Moyers about his experiences with the world's great religions - Christianity, Judaism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam. In the final episode, Smith discusses his philosophy of religion, and shows how all "wisdom traditions" share fundamental truths. 5 VHS tapes - 60 minutes each V1989

"Places of Worship: Expressions of Faith" Series

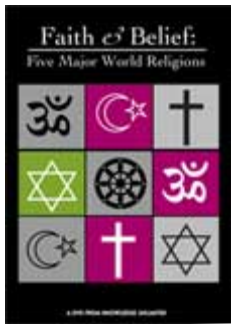
Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Unitarianism and Zoroastrianism are presented in this series of videos. They are the result of eight months of working with consultants of the many faiths in order to bring information which each felt was an acceptable expression of the faiths represented in this series. 9 VHS tapes - 30 minutes each V1386



"Christianity and World Religions" Series

Rev. Adam Hamilton leads a six week study exploring the five major world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism, and Christianity. This comparative religion study deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions and compares beliefs. Features an interview with a religious leader from each faith tradition. 17 minutes each session. Leader and Participant Guides available. D145

Comparative Religion - Short Treatments and Overviews



"Faith & Belief: Five Major World Religions"

This video presents an overview of the nature and origins of five world religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. It begins with philosophical questions that all religions seem to address in one way or another: Why are we here? What happens to us after death? The video then looks at the way the five religions seek to explain some of the mysteries and hardships of human existence. It discusses similarities and differences between the five religions, and concludes by stressing the importance and continuing value of religion in the modern world. Leader's Guide 21 minutes V554

"The World Religions: 600 BC - AD 500"

Traces the great world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, and Taoism which developed in Asia within a thousand year period. 30 minutes V2011

"Three Faiths, One God"

This documentary compares similarities and differences in religious beliefs and practices between Islam, Christianity and Judaism. It examines how people of goodwill in the Abrahamic faith communities are coming to terms with historical conflicts that impact their lives today. 60 minutes D224

"A History of God"

In the beginning, there was God, the cause of all things. But how has humankind come to know God? Based on Karen Armstrong's best-selling book, this video tells the story of how the three dominant monotheistic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - shaped and altered the conception of God from the time of Abraham and Ishmael down through the ages. 100 minutes V2497

"Holy Places and Pilgrimages"

Judaism, Christianity, Islam: though these religions have much in common, each has its own special history, rituals, holy places, and personal interpretations. This program explores the meaning of holiness, examining how holiness is born of people, places, and events within each of these three religions. The video also explores the importance of pilgrimages to believers who seek to be closer to God. 29 minutes V2562

"Amish, The: A People of Preservation"

In this intimate documentary, once shown on '60 Minutes,' viewers are taken inside the world of the Amish. The program features authentic vignettes of Amish origins, farm life, childhood, school, worship, recreation, barn-raising, horse transportation, and the impact of tourism. It conveys an understanding of the philosophy of the Amish. 54 minutes V2853

"African and African-American Religions"

Learn about the cultural diversity of Africa through its many religions - traditional and neo-traditional African, Christianity and Islam. See how shared elements of various customs serve as unifying threads across tribes, centuries and even continents. Observe the strong traces of African religious spirituality that exist today in cultures that have survived slavery. By examining the oral traditions, myths, music and ceremonies, viewers will discover how African-American Christianity, Haitian Voodoo and Cuban Santeria have been influenced by Christianity and traditional African religions. Guide 50 minutes V2388

"Native American Spirituality"

Through archival footage, artifacts and interviews, viewers will gain a broad understanding of Native American Spirituality. Discover traditions with an ancient history that date as far back as 9000 B.C.E. Learn about the Amerinds, who came from Asia to North America. Viewers will also discover the many factors that changed Native American spirituality as they explore specific customs and rituals from the diverse cultures of the Eskimo, Iroquois, Maya, Aztec and other tribes. Guide 50 minutes V2681

Christianity

"The Christian Story"

Martin Marty, a world-renowned authority on religion, talks about the "story" that Christians have in common with one another. This six-part series begins with Jesus in Galilee, continues with a 20-century tour of Christianity, and ends with Dr. Marty telling us that the Christian story is not yet finished, and that we are part of the story. The programs include: What's Your Story?; The Middle Ages; The Reformation; The Church in America; The Enlightenment; and The Church Around the World. 30 minutes each session Guide

"History of Christianity"

This series will introduce you to the perplexing history of the Christian Church, providing glimpses of some of the pivotal events in the spread of Christianity and sketches of great Christian figures. The six parts include: 1. The Early Church, AD 65 - 430; 2. The Church in the Middle Ages, 410 - 1483; 3. The Reformation, 1483 - 1564; 4. The Age of Reason and Piety, 1543 - 1738; 5. Christianity in the New World, 1492 - 1770; and 6. Christian Movement in an Age of Uncertainty, 1789 - 1989. This curriculum package includes six 30-minute programs on two tapes, guide, student workbook, and program scripts. Guide

"Dry Bones: Christianity in Transition"

Christianity's relevance is often questioned in many parts of our society. As we live in the 21st century, we ask whether Christianity is dying, or if it is undergoing a transition that could lead to a new understanding of the relationship between God and humankind. Why was the twentieth century so barbaric? Are thinking and faith opposed? These questions and others are raised in this groundbreaking look at Christianity. Our despair and our questions have a purpose, and can connect us to God in a new way. V2431

“From Christ to Constantine”

Through these six programs Christians can learn how the Church not only survived, but how it became the foundation of Western civilization. The first three centuries were decisive for Christianity. The very existence of the Church was threatened at times. Narrating this journey through the past is Steven Bell, television journalist. Filming is done at actual Early Church locations. There are three sessions on each of the two tapes. Guide. 30 minutes

“Beginnings”

This video curriculum is designed for seekers and explorers who desire an intentional walk with God that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The 12 sessions explore some of life's deepest questions that deal with Jesus, sin and the cross, death and the resurrection, providence and suffering, the Bible, salvation and conversion, forgiveness and wholeness, prayer, church membership, etc. The materials provide the tools congregations need to create a welcoming place for both people interested in a life of faith and those already engaged in discipleship. Group members can bring questions, gain knowledge, and form or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ as they discuss their Christian faith and study of the Bible. Guide



“From Jesus to Christ”

FRONTLINE explores the life of Jesus and the movement he started, challenging familiar assumptions and conventional notions about the origins of Christianity. Drawing upon new and sometimes controversial historical evidence and interviews with the nation's leading New Testament scholars, the series transports the viewer back 2,000 years to the time and place where Jesus once lived and preached. The videos trace Jesus's life, events that occurred after he died and on his first followers. Guide. 4 sessions - 60 minutes each V667

Islam

"Islam"

Explores the Judeo-Christian roots of this monotheistic world religion, its phenomenal expansion in the centuries after the prophet Mohammad's rise in the 7th century A. D., and its achievement in art, architecture, medicine, astronomy and philosophy. Islam claims one-fifth of the world's population as followers. The video also examines the foundations of the Islamic faith through its historical roots, religious principles, and sociopolitical ties. (From the 'Smithsonian World' series shown on PBS.) 58 minutes V928

"Islam: An Introduction"

A basic introduction to the tenets, history, and practices of Islam. Includes sections on the life of Muhammad, the Five Pillars of Islam, the distribution of Muslims in the world, Muslim social institutions, and the Islamic heritage in the arts and sciences. (Video format has been made from slides.) Guide 23 minutes V929

"A Tale of Two Mosques"

Portrays the life and evolution of the Muslim community of Edmonton and focuses upon its search for a redefined sense of Islamic identity in Canada. Depicted is the common problem of all immigrant groups: how does one participate fully in the larger North American life and at the same time preserve one's heritage, values, and life-style? The viewer will meet a wide spectrum of Muslims: orthodox traditionalists, who try to maintain inherited values and roles within the Muslim family, to self-critical liberals who cut through the layers of customs and look for the essentials of Islam. All are searching for a life that builds upon past roots and integrates with the culture around them.

Guide 30 minutes V1744

"Behind the Veil: Afghan Women Under Fundamentalism"

For women living in Afghanistan under repressive Taliban rule, beatings, rape, and enslavement are commonplace occurrences. This gripping program describes the massive human rights abuses that have been escalating since the withdrawal of Soviet forces, as seen through the eyes of women who have survived years of rampant gender and religious intolerance. Resistance activities carried out by women's groups inside the country are also documented, as they fight for freedom and democracy.

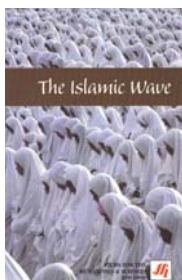
Contains graphic material, including an execution in a Kabul stadium. 26 minutes V2463

"Mosque"

Islam is a religion that remains a mystery to most Westerners, yet it is a way of life for 900 million people. This video provides an introduction to Islam that begins with a tour of a Muslim mosque in Cairo, Egypt - an ancient city known for its tolerance and hospitality. The common roots of Christianity, Judaism and Islam are also presented in the video. 28 minutes V2467

"Women and Islam"

Leila Ahmed, professor of women's studies at Amherst, argues the case for revision of the widely-held views in the Islamic world about the role of women, using examples from history and the role played by women in the contemporary world. She explains the origin of the veil, and discusses the issue of marriage and women's rights within marriage. 30 minutes V2470



"The Islamic Wave"

This program surveys the sociopolitical landscape of Islamic hotspots in the Middle East, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sudan, and elsewhere. Featuring commentary by General Pervez Musharraf, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, and other key figures, the balanced documentary provides background on the world's second-largest religion, examines Islam's increasing popularity, and considers the use of violence by Muslim extremists to attain their goals. 50 minutes V2474

"Islam: Empire of Faith"

This three-part documentary respectfully presents Islam's contributions to world civilization. It tells the spectacular story of the great sweep of Islamic power and faith during its first 1,000 years - from the birth of Prophet Muhammad to the peak of the Ottoman Empire under the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent. Evocative re-enactments and a remarkable display of Islamic art, artifacts and architecture are combined with interviews with scholars from around the world to recount the rise and glory of early Islamic civilization. It is the epic story of a cultural empire that dominated a millennium, encompassed half the world and shaped history. 180 minutes V2484

"Islam: A Closer Look"

This thought provoking exploration of Islam features well-known personalities such as Imam Hamza Yusuf, Nancy Ali, Dr. John Esposito, Shaikh Abdullah Hakim, and basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon. They share their understanding of this beautiful faith, and help others appreciate the beauty and peace of Islam. Comprehensive in its scope, this video touches upon many concepts ranging from the fundamental tenants to issues such as the role of the mosque, Islamic family values and the importance of knowledge. 30 minutes V2509

"Muhammad: The Voice of God"

This program narrates the biography of Muhammad, a merchant from Mecca, reportedly called by Allah to be his prophet and spread the Muslim faith. Why is Islam so readily accepted by so many? What is the secret of Islam's appeal? And why do many non-Muslims fear the religion's spread? The answers to these and other questions are powerfully illustrated by footage of holy sites and rituals, as well as modern desert life in Saudi Arabia. 43 minutes V2521

"The Message: The Story of Islam"

It is the 7th century in Mecca, where powerful leaders are in conflict with Mohammad who attacks their way of life and the injustice it produces. After seeing a vision of the Angel Gabriel, Mohammad calls the people of Mecca to cast aside the idols of the Kaaba and worship only one God. The leaders respond with persecution, forcing the Moslems to take sanctuary in Medina. After a revelation from God, Mohammad agrees to take arms against Mecca until more people are converted to the emerging religion. Then, the idols of Kaaba are destroyed and the holy place is dedicated to the worship of one God. 220 minutes V2553

"Islam and War"

Seen as the spiritual head of the Hezbollah, Sayed Fadlallah - a leading political figure in the Lebanese Islamic Movement - gives his views of Jihad or Holy War, its rules, its origins, and the role of terror in such a war. The program also examines how Muslim thinkers see the role of war and violence in the contemporary world, and why some feel the need to wage a Holy War. 30 minutes V2616

Exploring Issues Confronting Religions

"America's New Religious Landscape"

America's new religious landscape is mirrored in virtually every major city. 'We the people' of the United States include people of many religious traditions, all of them challenged to come to terms with the new pluralism that now accompanies America's historic commitment to religious freedom. These selected segments from 'Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly,' feature stories about various religions, beliefs, and practices in the U.S. today. The guide will help churches explore the many facets of American religious life and the new diversity to American Christianity and Judaism. Guide 60 minutes V2412

"Women Serving Religion"

One of the most visible issues facing Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is the role of women serving religion. Because of religious and cultural conditioning in the past, women in all three religions have experienced limited roles. This program traces women's roles in religious traditions and what it means to be a woman in the three great religions today. The video also explores the cultural influences of feminism upon religious tradition and the beliefs regarding the ordination of women. 29 minutes V2563

"The Great Religions and the Poor"

As the number of people living in poverty worldwide continues to swell, the issue of the world's poor occupies an important place in today's religious communities. This program explores the beliefs of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam regarding the poor, taking a comparative look at the traditional concept of the poor. The program also explains what the theological basis is for identifying the poor, as well as the modern means for the world's religions to provide relief. 29 minutes V2564

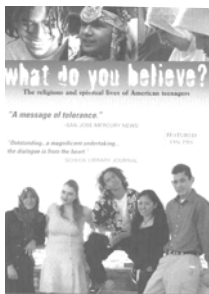
"Fundamentalism and Violence"

This dialogue features Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center as they explore the political and religious roots of fundamentalism and violence in the three Abrahamic traditions. Moderated by Karen Armstrong, author of 'A History of God,' this program features Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the Sufi Muslim Association, Dr. Susannah Heschel, author and Dartmouth College professor, and the Rev. Jim Wallis, founder and editor in chief of Sojourners Magazine. A written transcript is included. Guide 120 minutes V2597

Resources for Youth/Teens

"What Do You Believe?"

This film profiles diverse group of teenagers as they share their most personal beliefs about God, the purpose of life, morality, suffering, prayer, death and religious freedom in the United States. Weaving in-depth profiles with fast-moving commentary from scores of young people, this lively and highly acclaimed film paints a broad picture of the religious and spiritual lives of American youth as it delves deeply into the issues that are at the heart of humanity. What Do You Believe? features Buddhist, Catholic, Muslim, Native American, Jewish, Pagan as well as Christian teens. D102



"Teens on Faith: The Religious Youth of America"

Teenagers have largely been ignored in the ongoing national dialogue over morality and values, yet millions of high school students are involved in a profound spiritual search of which even their parents might be unaware. This discussion presents teenagers from a wide variety of religious backgrounds (Protestant-United Methodist, Jewish, Hindu, Quaker, Roman Catholic) talking frankly about their beliefs. 28 minutes V2565