

Description: The cultural mix of modern America is both exciting and challenging. How can I understand the basic thinking of people of other world religions (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist) well enough to reach into their lives with the Gospel? How do I speak about Jesus to my Atheist friends? This is part of our mission: to love and understand others well enough to reach out effectively for Jesus.

Prompt: Play a quick round of “Other Religion Trivia” where you ask students to engage with facts from diverse religions. Ask about key texts, peoples, and beliefs. Tell the students that all religions, in spite of major differences, have key points of connection.

Play: Video of Randy Smith, “Other Religions” www.buildmomentum.org/resources.html

Process: Select from the following questions to help students remember, rekindle and reengage.

- ◀◀ The “starting point” Randy suggested for connecting with other world religions is curiosity. “Lost people don’t reach us. We have to reach them.” **How curious are you about other world religions? Which ones are you most curious about and why?**
- ◀◀ Every worldview answers several fundamental questions. **What are three Randy addressed?**
- ◀◀ Randy sketched **four** major beliefs in God spread across all religions. **What are these four beliefs (Atheists, Deist/Agnostic, Pantheist, Theist) and how do they differ in their view of God?**
- ◀◀ **What did Randy expose about the global percentage of Atheists? Why is this important? What were his three arguments to challenge Atheism.**
- ◀◀ Randy discussed a “Divine Chess Match,” noting the rise of world religions as each new phase of Biblical revelation came out. Discuss this theory. **What does it say about Satan (2 Cor. 4:4)?**
- ◀◀ Randy raced through five major world religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Shinto, Confucius, Islam) not including Christianity and Judaism. **Which of these religions do you have contact with? What information peaked your curiosity?**
- ◀◀ Randy articulated a “cultural” approach when engaging people from other religions. He said to ask: “What are your culture’s ultimate concerns? Its view of reality? Are there gods and what are they like? What are people like? How do you view the world?” **How might the cultural approach be more helpful than directly asking questions about religious beliefs?**
- ◀◀ “Address people as people, not labels... We do not argue people into the kingdom,” Randy concluded. Then he presented five ways to reach lost people: eyes, ears, mouth, hands, arms. **How do his five ways of reaching people help to reach them effectively?**

Pray: Read Psalm 96. Remind your students how God wants to draw all peoples to Himself. Ask them to think of someone from another religion they know and pray aloud for them.