

Table Talk

The World

Line It Up!

How to Play:

Complete the definitions below by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the "Word Bank". Once you've matched each word with the correct symbol, fill in the flow activity by drawing a line from the first letter of each word to its corresponding symbol. Each space must be used, with no lines overlapping. Pencils are recommended. Answers and printables are available online at: vomcanada.com/TableTalkWorld

Word Bank:

- W Worldview
- K Karma
- S Secularism
- N Nirvana
- C Christianity
- U Utopia
- H Hinduism
- I Islam

							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							

Definitions:



Buddhists seek _____; their believed final state.



_____ is a compilation of many traditions and philosophies.



Communists attempt to achieve _____ through complete control of citizens and government.



_____ legislates that each adherent performs five ritualistic prayers each day.



The cause-and-effect relationship of the universe, called _____, is a belief held by both Buddhists and Hindus.



Adherents of _____ rely solely on the natural world for meaning and purpose.



The belief that Jesus is fully God and fully man is unique to _____.



A person's _____ is the lens through which they see and interpret the world.

Wander around The World

Weigh In

1. Secularism is experientially living for the natural world, not for any god or afterlife. All energy and focus must be directed towards this life and self-gratification, since it's believed that this tangible life is all that exists.
2. Eastern religions like Buddhism and Hinduism place a large emphasis on the state of mind in order to reach a perfect state of being – Nirvana, meaning to overcome difficulty. This is achieved by losing the sense of self through meditation, spiritual and physical labour, and good works.
3. Communism's overarching goal is to create paradise, or "utopia," on earth. However, over the past 100 years, more than two dozen countries have tried to implement Communist ideology into their nation with varying degrees of failure. "Utopia" has never been reached to this day.
4. "Dharma" is the code of living which governs behaviour and social order, and is essential to the Hindu faith. Considered to be the foundation of the universe, adherents follow this code meticulously to ensure a supremely happy and prosperous life.
5. The Muslim world is daily filled with prayer, rituals, and an awareness of the Muslim god, Allah. These practices must be constantly and accurately completed for a chance to earn salvation. There is no assurance of salvation until the "Day of Judgement."

1. Read what 1 John 2:15-17 says about living apart from the world and then compare secularism with Christianity. Are these two beliefs diametrically opposed? If so, are there persecution implications for disciples of Jesus facing a largely secularist society? Why?
2. Adherents of Buddhism and Hinduism believe that evil and suffering are illusions created by our own minds. How does this statement measure up in the real world? Hint: Can an individual truly cause evil and suffering to disappear by altering their state of mind?
3. Communism strives to fix the problems in society through radical reforms; ultimately resulting in another futile attempt of humankind to be its own saviour. Why do you think Communism failed so many times in history? Are there things within the human heart that could contribute to this? Support your answer with Scripture.
4. The Dharmic code has ten rules that adherents follow to achieve salvation and prosperity. There's a notable distinction between these rules and the fruit of the Spirit – the evidence of salvation freely provided by Christ. Why does this distinction make a difference?
5. Muslims seek salvation through spiritual practices. Read Romans 10:10-11. For Christians, the Bible clearly states that salvation is earned through faith in Christ, not through spiritual practices. Imagine having no assurance of salvation, though believing in Jesus as a human prophet. How would your behaviour change with this thinking? What feelings would arise if salvation wasn't certain?

One Way

How to Play:

Match each symbol of the major religions and worldviews with the corresponding definition that answers the question: How does God relate to humanity, if at all?



God relates personally to humans. He revealed this by His proclaimed name: "Emmanuel," meaning "God with us."



Receiving revelation from God isn't the key idea; understanding identity in the universe through deep meditation to reach enlightenment is.



God, the Supreme Being, is unknowable, but various gods and goddesses reveal His characteristics.



God relates to humanity only through prophets and authoritative teaching.



There is no God. Rather, each person essentially becomes "god" by living their own way.

Way Out

VOMC facilitates many projects that each fulfill a unique need around the globe. These projects have been a huge blessing to numerous communities of persecuted believers. One such project is the *Christmas Blessing* distribution, which will be taking place in Colombia this year. To see the full scope of VOMC's international projects, see page 6 of this December issue. For more information on the ministry, visit vomcanada.com.

Line It Up Answers: 1. Nirvana 2. Hinduism 3. Utopia 4. Islam 5. Karma 6. Secularism 7. Christianity 8. Worldview

Recommended Reads

So What's the Difference? by Fritz Ridenour - Adult
World Religions in a Nutshell by Ray Comfort - Adult
101 Questions: Volume 9 by Art Ayris - Teen

Sources:

<https://www.learnreligions.com/what-is-dharma-1770048>
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/buddhism/>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rainerzittelmann/2020/03/16/socialism-the-failed-idea-that-never-dies/?sh=3b925dde23cc>
Understanding the Times – A Survey of Competing Worldviews by Dr. Jeff Myers and Dr. David A. Noebel.