

Evangelism Tools

Engaging Other Worldviews

ALISHA THE AGNOSTIC

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Alisha calls herself an agnostic because she believes there is no proof for the existence of God, so you could say that Alisha doesn't believe or disbelieve in God. In other words, in Alisha's mind, God could exist, but no one can currently prove that.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- Have you had any sort of religious background?
- How did you arrive at the spiritual place you find yourself now?
- Do you ever secretly wish you could know for sure that there was a God who loved you?
- What would "proof" for God's existence look like to you?
- Are there things you believe in that have not been proven to you?
- Do you think people are basically good? How do you explain the presence of evil in the world?
- Have you ever thought about the possibility that you might be wrong about what you believe about God? (Be ready to answer this question yourself!)

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Alisha's willingness to ask honest questions about life and God.
- Alisha's belief that much truth can be discovered.
- Alisha's belief that people should treat each other with fairness and justice.
- Alisha's desire to be a good person.

What Alisha Believes

ABOUT AGNOSTICISM:

Alisha believes that agnosticism is the most rational and reasonable worldview, sometimes because of the 'damage' done by religion throughout the centuries, but mainly because it seems to be the most consistent with the observable world according to the scientific method. Alisha is open to the idea that God could possibly exist.

ABOUT GOD:

Alisha believes that agnosticism is the most rational and reasonable worldview, sometimes because of the 'damage' done by religion throughout the centuries, but mainly because it seems to be the most consistent with the observable world according to the scientific method. Alisha is open to the idea that God could possibly exist.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Like God, the reality of the Trinity would be a possibility.

ABOUT JESUS:

Alisha believes Jesus was either just an ordinary person, or never existed at all. She will oftentimes refer to the 'Jesus-Myth', or when she is being really sarcastic, refers to 'Jebus' (a sarcastic reference to Christ).

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Alisha believes the Bible is a collection of myths, half-truths, and lies designed to lead ignorant people astray and give power to religious leaders over the masses.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Alisha believes the reality of the afterlife is a possibility, because it can't be proven or disproven.

ABOUT SALVATION:

In Alisha's mind, there is no need for salvation from sin and hell.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (had no beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is not just an enlightened man. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20). It backs up its claim as the word of God with accuracy, historical correctness, and fulfilled prophecy.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Every person born on this planet is born into sin, is destined for hell and needs a Savior. Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29, 47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell. (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Don't argue over whether or not God can be 'proven', because that usually puts you on the defensive, and the bottom line is you can't really 'prove' God in the scientific method sense.
- Focus on the observable evidence of God that is built in to creation like how 'fine tuned' the universe is to support life, otherwise we wouldn't even exist. This fine tuning simply could not have happened by accident. For example, the earth is the perfect distance from the sun. If it were just a few miles closer, we'd all burn up. A few miles further out, and we'd all freeze to death!
- Try to work what is called 'Pascal's Wager' into the conversation – which goes something like this:
 - It makes more sense to believe in God than to not believe. If you believe, and God exists, you will be rewarded in the afterlife. If you do not believe, and He exists, you will be punished for your disbelief. If He does not exist, you have lost nothing either way.
- If they ask questions like: "how do you know which God?" – focus on the claims of Christ as being the only way and proving it by coming back from the dead. Remember to bring this up as a conversation starter, and not as an intimidating threat.
- Bottom line with an agnostic: remember you cannot argue someone to faith in Christ, but you can (and should) live such a Christlike life that those around you sense something different, which opens the door for you to explain the 'evidence'.

ANDY THE ATHEIST

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Atheism is defined as “not having a ‘god belief’.” This is important to remember, because it’s not that an atheist doesn’t believe in god, because that statement opens the possibility that god or a supreme being exists. The atheist’s worldview is driven by pure rationality, reason, and the scientific method. The result of this is that most atheists hold the theory of evolution to be true, and they reject the possibility of the spiritual world and an afterlife. Most surveys show that around 15% of Americans call themselves atheist.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What makes you most excited about being an atheist?
- Do you ever feel judged by others for rejecting the existence of God? If so, how does that make you feel?
- Have you ever been mocked or rejected for being an atheist by those who claimed to be Christians?
- Why have you chosen to not believe in the existence of God?
- Are you willing to go wherever the evidence leads, whether or not it supports your worldview that there is no God?
- Some in the scientific world have concluded that evidence like the specified complexity of DNA and the fine-tuned universe point toward an intelligent designer. Do you think it’s theoretically possible that there was a Designer behind the universe we inhabit?
- Have you ever considered the possibility that you could be wrong about the existence of God? What might the consequences be if you are wrong?
- Do you think there is a difference between “religion” and a “relationship” with God? Why or why not?
- Has anyone ever explained the gospel to you?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Andy’s commitment to reason and logic.
- Andy’s willingness to wrestle with tough questions.
- Andy’s belief that no one person has all the answers.
- Andy’s courage in facing life and all of its hardships without a belief in a loving and all-powerful God or an afterlife.

What Andy Believes

ABOUT ATHEISM:

Andy believes that atheism is the most rational and reasonable worldview, sometimes because of the ‘damage’ done by religion throughout the centuries, but mainly because it seems to be the most consistent with the observable world according to the scientific method.

ABOUT GOD:

Andy lacks a ‘god belief’.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Since Andy lacks a 'god belief', the concept of the Trinity is totally irrelevant.

ABOUT JESUS:

Andy believes Jesus was either just an ordinary person, or never existed at all. He will oftentimes refer to the 'Jesus-Myth', or when he is being really sarcastic, refers to 'Jebus' (a sarcastic reference to Christ).

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Andy believes the Bible is a collection of myths, half-truths, and lies designed to lead ignorant people astray and give power to religious leaders over the masses.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Andy does not believe in an afterlife.

ABOUT SALVATION:

In Andy's mind, there is no need for salvation from sin and hell. He doesn't believe in sin, and he doesn't believe in hell, so why does anyone need to be 'saved'?

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (has no beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is not just an enlightened man. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20). It backs up its claim as the word of God with accuracy, historical correctness, and fulfilled prophecy.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell. (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Every person born on this planet is born into sin, is destined for hell and needs a Savior. Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29, 47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The first thing you need to ask an atheist is “do you really seek to discover the truth – even if it costs you your reputation, and even your friends?” If the answer is no, then realize that he/she is not willing to go where the evidence leads; you won’t be having an honest intellectual dialogue, but your conversation may still have a spiritual impact.
- Don’t talk about sin with an atheist. In their worldview, morality is generally dependent on the situation and neutral, so there is no reference point in their minds for a concept of breaking God’s universal laws.
- Don’t get dragged into arguments about what God did or didn’t do. Focus on the evidence that Christ existed, died on the cross, and came back from the dead. As well, your personal testimony can be a powerful tool, because it’s very difficult to ‘disprove’ the real and lasting change that Christ has brought to your life.
- Bottom line with an atheist (or anyone else for that matter) – you cannot argue someone to faith in Christ, but you can (and should) live such a Christlike life that those around you sense something different, which opens the door for you to explain the ‘evidence’.

BAILEY THE BUDDHIST

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Buddhism is an Eastern religion which revolves primarily around suffering. Its founder is named Siddhartha Guatama (later called the 'Buddha' – where we get Buddhism from). He was born nearly 600 years before Christ. At some point in his young life he decided to travel the country, and when he did he became troubled by all the suffering of the common people. He desperately wanted to do something about all the pain he saw, so he studied the Hindu scriptures under their priests, but decided that was not the way to help. Eventually he stopped praying to the Hindu 'gods' and decided to become a homeless person and survive essentially by begging. During the years that followed, he dove completely into self-denial and meditation, and decided that this practice would lead to peace and help with suffering. He also believed that through self-denial and meditation, a person could eventually achieve a god-like state of 'Nirvana'. He then decided that his mission in life was to spread his message wherever he went, at which point he became known as the 'enlightened one' or the 'Buddha'. There are an estimated 613 million Buddhists worldwide; and 1 million in the United States.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What's your spiritual background?
- Buddhism is exploding in America as a belief system. Why do you think that is?
- What are the parts of Buddhism that you are most excited about?
- Explain to me what it's like to be a Buddhist when it comes to your specific spiritual disciplines and practices?
- Why do you think there is evil and suffering in the world?
- What do you believe about what happens after death?
- Who or what set the law of karma in motion?
- Have you ever felt the need to be forgiven?
- How would you feel if you discovered that someone suffered in your place so that you wouldn't have to?
- Have you ever heard of the path to inner peace apart from ridding yourself of all your desires and attachments?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Bailey's desire for peace.
- Bailey's desire to be in tune with her inner self.
- Bailey's belief in life after death.
- Bailey's concerns about evil, suffering and conflict in the world.

What Bailey Believes

ABOUT BUDDHIST:

What Bailey believes about Buddhism can be summed up in what are called the 'Four Noble Truths'

- There is pain and suffering in the world.
- Attachment to people and things causes suffering.

- The suffering will stop when a person can rid him/her self of all desires.
- There is a path to the extinguishing of all desires.

Note: It is important to remember that the Buddha never considered himself to be a god, or a divine being of any type. He basically viewed himself as a person showing others 'the way' to enlightenment. Bailey doesn't consider Buddha to be a god either.

ABOUT GOD:

Bailey does not believe in the personal, Sovereign God of the universe revealed in the Bible.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Bailey does not believe in the Trinity.

ABOUT JESUS:

Bailey believes that Jesus Christ was a good teacher, though less important than Buddha.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Bailey does not believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, because she doesn't believe in a personal God in the first place. Bailey also rejects the notion of rigid commands.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Bailey believes in reincarnation through the cycles of Karma, which is an afterlife driven by the law of cause and effect. This means what Bailey does in this lifetime, either good or bad, determines what will happen to her in another lifetime, on and on through time, until she has gone through enough suffering and purification to reach Nirvana, which is a state characterized by freedom from pain, worry and the external world.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Bailey believes salvation is by self-effort only through the Four Noble Truths. Remember that 'salvation' to Bailey is ultimately complete extinction at death, in other words freedom from the cycle of Karma.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (has no beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is not just an enlightened man. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20).

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven. Those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell. (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15). The Bible denies the concept of reincarnation (Hebrews 9:27-28).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29,47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Remember that Bailey is coming from an extremely different worldview, so totally avoid 'Christianese' terms such as 'new birth', or even 'born again'. Some good alternatives that they could better relate to would be terms like 'endless freedom from suffering, guilt, and sin', and 'gift of eternal good life without suffering'. Also, focus on the uniqueness and unique claims of Jesus – especially His resurrection and teaching that He was the only way to God (John 14:6). Ultimately, you want to get the conversation to the point of sharing the gospel, so don't get too sidetracked with confusing Buddhist beliefs. Try to work your own gospel journey story, especially as it relates to your freedom from guilt and assurance of heaven in the midst of suffering.

As always, remember that you are in a spiritual battle, so put on your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6) and pray without stopping!

HARI THE HINDU

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Hari's worldview called Hinduism is a religion that actually originated in Europe over 3000 years ago with a group of people called Aryans who migrated to India and spread their religion there. Since then, it has grown to over 800 million worldwide, with over one million in the United States. While there is no 'official' statement of beliefs in Hinduism, Hari and other Hindus have a core of common beliefs that revolve around the impersonal nature of the universe and what impact that should have on our lives. Basically, Hari believes in a supreme but impersonal god called Brahman, and all the other gods in Hinduism are extensions of the god Brahma. Hari also believes that the universe and all things in it (including all people) are extensions of Brahman, which is why he also calls the universe Brahman. Because of this, the goal of existence is to eventually get to the point where you lose your 'self' (because that is just an illusion) and become one with Brahman.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What's your spiritual background?
- Do you ever feel stereotyped in America because you are a Hindu? How does that make you feel?
- Would you tell me what you love about Hinduism and why you are excited to be a Hindu?
- What parts of Hinduism are the most difficult for you to accept or practice?
- What do you base your view of God on?
- Do you believe all religions/paths lead to God? Why or why not?
- What purpose does good and evil serve based on Hindu beliefs?
- What do you think happens after we die?
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
- Do you think there's a difference between a "religion" and the "relationship" with God that Jesus talked about?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Hari's belief that the spiritual realm is important.
- Hari's belief that Jesus Christ existed.
- Hari's desire to seek salvation in the afterlife.
- Hari's desire to please God.

What Hari Believes

ABOUT HINDUISM:

Hari believes Hinduism is the only true religion, and his beliefs affect every part of his life from how he spends his time, what he eats, and even the types of friends he chooses. Hari is also motivated to share his 'faith' with others because he firmly believes Hinduism is the only true path to peace. Hari believes all people are trapped in a cycle of reincarnation and karma, which means once you die, you are born again as a plant, animal, or person, depending on how good or evil you were in the previous life. Hari believes there are three ways to break this cycle:

The first 'way of works' is the attempt to purify one's soul by the careful devotion/obedience to all the laws and obligations of the Hindu scriptures (called "Vedas").

The second way is called the 'way of knowledge'. It is the opposite of the way of works and teaches the total rejection and denial of one's individual life and instead seeks salvation in a mystical realization of identity with Brahman.

The third way is by far the most popular; it is the 'way of devotion'. According to this point of view, if one commits oneself totally to the worship of a particular god or goddess, that deity will then take care of all the details as far as releasing you from the reincarnation/karma cycle. The way that works is if I devote myself completely to Krishna, then Krishna will take care of my karma problems and usher me into oneness with him when I die.

So Hari believes one is saved from karma and reincarnation by following one of the three ways, and the result will be a state of bliss in union with 'god'.

ABOUT GOD:

Hari does not believe in the God of the universe revealed in the Bible as Yahweh.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Hari does not believe in the Trinity revealed in the Bible, although Brahman is a 'three in one' type of god.

ABOUT JESUS:

Hari believes that Jesus was just one manifestation or 'appearance' of his supreme god of the universe.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Hari does not believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, especially since he believes the Vedas (basically the equivalent of a Hindu Bible) are the only sacred scriptures.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Hari believes in reincarnation through the cycles of Karma, which is an afterlife driven by the law of cause and effect. This means what Hari does in this lifetime, either good or bad, determines what will happen to him in the next lifetime, on and on through time, until he successfully completes one of the three 'ways of salvation' and loses his individual identity to Brahman.

ABOUT SALVATION:

To Hari, 'salvation' is breaking free of the reincarnation/Karma cycle and becoming one with Brahman.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as “I Am” (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (never had a beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19), and He is not the same as the god of the Hindus.

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and not a manifestation or appearance of the Hindu god Brahman. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30 . Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20). The Vedas are not sacred scripture because their ‘inspiration’ comes from a false god.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell. (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15). The Bible denies the concept of reincarnation (Hebrews 9:27-28).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29, 47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), nor can a false deity get you into heaven.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Hari is coming from a radically different way of looking at the world, so your early witnessing efforts should consist of mainly listening and getting a feel for where he is coming from. Don’t assume all Hindus believe the same thing, because they don’t. Also, it is key that you figure out which ‘way of salvation’ they have chosen, because this will help you customize your witnessing efforts.
- Focus on Jesus being the only way to heaven, and be sure you define your terms clearly so Hari doesn’t just think of a Hindu equivalent to what you are saying (like ‘salvation’, ‘God’, etc.)
- One thing that Hari has in common with all other Hindus is a need for peace. Since Hari believes he is stuck in a seemingly endless cycle of death and rebirth, peace seems almost impossible. A good verse to use in this area is Matthew 11:28 where Jesus makes this promise: ” Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Use your own salvation story as a way to show how it is possible to have a personal relationship with the personal God of the universe.

JENNA THE JEW

BASIC DESCRIPTION

As a Jew, Jenna's worldview is a religion called Judaism. Judaism is over 3500 years old and has approximately 15 million followers worldwide. It is one of the oldest religions on earth, and was started by the Biblical character Moses when he gave them the law God revealed to him. Jenna believes that the God who created the world established a covenant (a binding agreement – sort of like a contract) with the Jewish people. She believes God revealed his laws and commandments to the Jews in what they call the Torah – which is the same as the first five books of the Bible (Genesis-Deuteronomy). Jenna is devoted to studying and obeying the laws and commandments written in these books.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What's your spiritual background?
- What is it like to be a part of your religion? The traditions I've heard about sound pretty interesting!
- Do you follow Judaism because of your own choice, or because it is your family tradition?
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
- Have you ever considered the possibility that Jesus really is the Messiah? Why or why not?
- Would you be interested in talking about Old Testament passages that seem to point to Jesus as the Messiah?
- Do you think there's a difference between a "religion" and the "relationship" with God that Jesus talked about?
- Do you believe that entrance into heaven is dependent on keeping the law? If so, how well have you obeyed the Ten Commandments?
- How would your friends and family in Judaism react if you converted to Christianity? How does that make you feel? Would you be willing to pay the price of being rejected if you were convinced that what I shared with you was true?
- Has anyone ever explained the gospel to you?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Jenna's belief in one God.
- Jenna's belief that Jesus Christ existed.
- Jenna's respect for the Old Testament.
- Jenna's long, rich religious heritage that's been passed down generation to generation for thousands of years.

What Jenna Believes

ABOUT JUDAISM:

Jenna believes that Judaism is the one true religion because God personally spoke to Moses and gave him the law and commandments that people in Judaism follow. Although there are differences of opinions about the exact way Judaism should be followed, a leader in Judaism known as "Rambam" (who lived over 1000 years ago) summed up Judaism in 13 beliefs:

- God exists.
- God is one and unique.
- God doesn't have a body.
- God is eternal.
- Prayer is to be directed to God alone.
- The words of the prophets are true.
- Moses was the greatest prophet, and his prophecies are true.
- The Torah was given to Moses.
- There will be no other Torah.
- God knows the thoughts and deeds of men.
- God will reward the good and punish the wicked.
- The Messiah will come.
- The dead will be resurrected.

ABOUT GOD:

Jenna believes in the same God of the universe that Christians do – the One revealed in the Bible as Yahweh.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Jenna does not believe in the Trinity revealed in the Bible.

ABOUT JESUS:

Jenna believes Jesus was a teacher, but no more than that.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Jenna believes only the Old Testament is the inspired word of God, so she rejects the New Testament as God's word.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Jenna believes that there is an afterlife where God rewards the good people and punishes the evil people, but beyond that she is not sure how it all plays out. There is definitely a heaven, but she does not view hell as a place of eternal torment.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Jenna believes salvation is achieved by keeping the Law of the Torah.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (never had a beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20). All 66 books of the Bible are inspired, not just the first five.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or keeping the law have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29,47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Jenna does not like to be stereotyped with others from her religion, so ask a ton of questions to learn where she is coming from like:
 - Does she attend synagogue?
 - What happens at Passover?
 - Why doesn't she offer sacrifices today?
 - How does she find forgiveness since the destruction of the temple?
 - What does she believe about the coming of Messiah?
 - How will she recognize him when he comes?
- Jenna has been raised with little knowledge about Jesus Christ, so when you feel it could be appropriate, talk about how Jesus literally and perfectly fulfilled over 300 prophecies made about the coming Messiah. Ask Jenna to read Isaiah 53 and ask her who she believes that Bible passage is describing. Here is a link that goes through all the prophecies:
 - http://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues/13_6/isaiah53
- Whenever possible, use Scripture to answer Jenna's questions. If you get asked something you don't know the answer to, ask Jenna for some time and then do some research.
- Your main goal initially should not be to persuade Jenna that Jesus is the Messiah – it is a means to an end, and that end is that she needs to see that she fails to keep God's Law. It is not good enough for her to do her best; God requires perfection, so you need to get Jenna to the point where she knows that God will not overlook her failures or forgive her on the basis of their mitzvot (good deeds). Show her that God requires

the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin (Leviticus 17:11; cf. 16:15-17, 27, 30), which was why the Messiah (Jesus) came to earth 2000 years ago.

- Remember that Christianity as we know it is built on Judaism as revealed in the Old Testament. It is, in many ways, the foundation of the Christian faith. Speak respectfully about Judaism because many of its practices are based on Old Testament customs that pointed to the coming of Jesus as Messiah.

JORDAN THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

BASIC DESCRIPTION

The Jehovah's Witnesses were started in the early 1870's, by a man named Charles Taze Russell. Jehovah's Witnesses identify themselves as Christian and number over six million. Their name comes from their belief that God's personal name is Jehovah (which is an inaccurate name for God. It is properly translated 'Yahweh').

They are also called The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, mainly because one of their primary missions is to go door-to-door and hand out millions of Jehovah's Witnesses versions of the Bible and various informational tracts.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What's your spiritual background?
- What are the core beliefs of the Watchtower?
- Have you ever been mocked for your door-to-door work as you spread the message of the Watchtower?
- Do you feel marginalized by the rest of society because of some of your practices and beliefs? How does that make you feel?
- Is your faith a result of your own choice, or based on what your parents believe?
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
- What do you think of Jesus' claim that He was God and the way back to God?
- How would your friends and family in the Watchtower react if you converted to Christianity? How does that make you feel?
- Would you be willing to pay the price of being rejected if you were convinced that what I shared with you was true?
- Do you think there's a difference between a "religion" and the "relationship" with God that Jesus talked about?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Jordan's belief that there is one true God.
- Jordan's belief that Jesus Christ existed.
- Jordan's belief in a Judgment Day.
- Jordan's dedication to knowing what she believes and sharing those beliefs with others.

What Jordan Believes

ABOUT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:

Like Marty the Mormon, Jordan believes her religion (Jehovah's Witnesses) is the only true religion, and all other religions and Protestant denominations (Baptist, Lutheran, etc.) are false. This is why they are so aggressive and go door-to-door trying to convert others to their view of God.

ABOUT GOD:

Jordan believes there is one God Almighty – a Spirit Being with a body, but not a human body.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Jordan believes there is no Trinity, because she believes that Jesus Christ is a god, but not the God of the Bible, and that the Holy Spirit is an active force (rather than a real Person).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jordan believes that Jesus Christ is not ‘Jehovah’ God, but the first son that ‘Jehovah’ brought forth. He is a god, but inferior to the only Father God.

Note: John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” The translators of the New World Translation misinterprets the end of this verse by adding an “a” as in “the Word was a god.” According to the vast majority of Greek language scholars, this is a poor translation.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Jordan generally prefers to use the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ version of the Bible, New World Translation, because it more consistently incorporates the Hebrew translation of God’s divine name, “Jehovah” (in English).

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Jordan believes that no soul remains after death. At some point in the future, Jesus Christ will return to resurrect the dead, restoring soul and body. There will then be a judgment day, and those judged righteous will be given everlasting life on a paradise earth (not in heaven). Those judged unrighteous will not be tormented, but will die and cease to exist (i.e. annihilated).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Jordan believes that salvation is granted to those who had a combination of faith and good works (as defined by the Watchtower organization).

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as “I Am” (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (has no beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is not a god. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58 ; 10:30 . Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20).

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29,47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Remember that you are not trying to convert Jordan to a different belief system or even defending your own. Rather, you are trying to help her understand that salvation comes through a relationship with Jesus, not through a religion. Ask Jordan questions that will introduce doubt in her mind about her knowledge of Christianity and the integrity of her church's leadership like:
 - Can someone be saved without being a Jehovah Witness? If so, then how were people saved before the organization was formed?
 - If I were examining Mormonism or another belief, would it be a good idea to read testimonies from ex-members? (This puts them in a quandary, because if they say, "No," show how easy it is to be deceived by a cult that you haven't fully examined. If they say, "Yes," then ask them why they haven't read books by ex-members of the Watchtower).
- Remember when asking questions about her beliefs, it's better to leave the questions 'third person' (or hypothetically apply them to yourself) rather than applying them directly to Jordan, or her organization. Instead of saying, "Does your organization...?" you might say, "What if an organization...?" or "What if I...?" This approach may help her be less defensive.
- Remember that while God opposes Jordan's belief system, He loves her, so be gentle and respectful at all times. Jordan may be deeply entrenched in her false beliefs, so be open to developing a long term relationship if you want to be effective.

MALIK THE MUSLIM

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Malik the Muslim belongs to the religion called Islam (which means ‘way of submission’). His beliefs are based on the teachings of a book called the Koran (Quran), which the prophet Mohammed (the founder of Islam) claimed was dictated supernaturally to him in 610 A.D. by the angel Gabriel. Malik’s religion is the second largest in the world and claims to have one billion followers. Malik goes to ‘church’ (called a Mosque) every Friday to pray to God. In a Mosque during prayer time, Malik and all the other Muslims face east towards the city of Mecca, the birthplace of Islam, where Mohammed had his vision from Gabriel.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What is it like to be a part of your religion? The traditions I’ve heard about sound pretty interesting!
- Have you ever been to Mecca or do you plan to go?
- Which parts of Islam do you wish people understood better?
- Do you follow Islam because of your own choice, or because it is your family tradition?
- What do you think happens after we die?
- Do you believe that entrance into heaven is dependent on living by the Five Pillars of Islam?
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
- Do you think there’s a difference between a “religion” and the “relationship” with God that Jesus talked about?
- Have you ever considered the possibility that Jesus really could be the Son of God? Why or why not?
- How would your Muslim friends and family react if you converted to Christianity? How does that make you feel?
- What do you think of Jesus’ claim that He was God and the way back to God?
- Has anyone ever explained the gospel to you?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Malik’s belief in one true God.
- Malik’s commitment to prayer.
- Malik’s commitment to leading a devout life that pleases God.
- Malik’s belief in a heaven and a hell.

What Malik Believes

ABOUT ISLAM:

Malik believes Islam is the only true religion, and he is radically committed to his faith. At the core of Islam are seven fundamental beliefs that Malik and every Muslim must accept as a part of his/her religion. The seven are:

- Belief in God (who, in Arabic, is named ‘Allah’).
- Belief in the angels (both good and evil).
- Belief in the revealed Books of God.
- Belief in God’s many prophets (including Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and other Christians and Jews are familiar with).

- Accepting that there will be a Last Day/Final Judgment.
- Belief in the divine measurement of human affairs.
- Belief in life after death.

Just like Hari the Hindu, Malik's beliefs affect every part of his life including how he spends his time, what he eats, and even the types of friends he chooses.

ABOUT GOD:

Malik does not believe in the God of the universe revealed in the Bible as Yahweh, rather his 'god' is called 'Allah'.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Malik wholeheartedly rejects the Biblical teachings about the Trinity. He believes that there is only one true God and his name is Allah.

ABOUT JESUS:

Malik believes that Jesus was one of Allah's prophets. He rejects the notion that Jesus is God. Even on a human level he believe that Mohammed was a greater man and prophet than Jesus.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Malik recognizes only the Koran as truly and completely divine in origin. He recognizes only part of the Bible as God's word, but he believes even that part is badly corrupted and inaccurate.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Malik believes that there is life after death, where faithful Muslims are rewarded according to their faithfulness, and unbelievers (called infidels) suffer for eternity.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Malik believes that salvation (in his mind reward in the afterlife) is only achieved through absolute obedience to Allah, the Koran, and the Five Pillars of Islam. The Five Pillars of Islam are:

- Affirmation (Shahada) – Consistent recitation of and belief in the creed that “there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger.”
- Prayer (As-Salah) – Praying toward Mecca (their holy city) five times a day.
- Almsgiving (Zakah): Giving 2.5% of their income to the poor.
- The fast (Siyam) – Fasting from dawn till dusk every day during Ramadan (the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar).
- The Pilgrimage (Al-Hajji) – Traveling to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as “I Am” (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (never had a beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe. He is not the same as Allah, because Allah doesn’t exist.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and not a prophet of Allah. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30). Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21, and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20). The Koran is not sacred because it was not sent from God.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29, 47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Obedience to Allah has nothing to do with your destiny in the afterlife.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Like Hari the Hindu, Malik is coming from a radically different way of looking at the world, so your early witnessing efforts should consist of mainly listening and getting a feel for where he is coming from. So first, be a friend. Muslim cultures place a high value on friendships and time spent visiting with friends. Many Muslims have not had the opportunity to develop a close friendship with a Christian. One way to do this is to invite him to your home. Malik places a high value on hospitality, and you would not leave his home without being offered something to drink, no matter how short the visit. Do the same with him, and be sure and ask beforehand about any dietary restrictions.
- Malik’s religion is inseparably tied to his family and culture, so be sensitive to the fact that if he rejects Islam, his family and culture will reject and perhaps even plot to kill him. What this means is that Malik has to carefully weigh all the consequences of trusting Christ, so give him time and make sure you don’t make trusting Christ sound flippant.
- Stick to the common themes where Islam and Christianity meet, like Jesus and the Bible. Use those themes to introduce Malik to the truth about them, like the claims of Christ, his death and resurrection, and the Bible being the inspired word of God.
- Malik’s view of God (Allah) is one of anger and demand. Use your own testimony as a way to show how it is possible to have a personal relationship with the personal God of the universe (Yahweh) who loves and forgives unconditionally on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection.

MARTY THE MORMON

BASIC DESCRIPTION

The official name of the Mormon Church today is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Joseph Smith founded the Mormon Church when he was 24 years old, in the state of New York on April 6, 1830. It was originally named the Church of Christ, but the name was changed in 1834 to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In 1838 it received its current name (Doctrine and Covenants , Sec.115:4).

The official LDS web site lists the December 31, 2004 worldwide church membership at 12,275,822. At the beginning of 2005, there were approximately 5,599,177 LDS members in the United States and approximately 6,676,645 members outside of the USA. Most of those outside of the USA are in Latin American countries.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What is your spiritual background?
- What is it like to be a Mormon? (religious practices, going to church, missionary work, etc.)
- What gets you most excited about being a Mormon?
- What scares you the most about being a Mormon?
- Is your Mormon faith based on your own decisions and spiritual experiences, or is it something that was handed down to you by your family?
- Why do you think that many Christians view Mormonism as falling outside of “Biblical Christianity”?
- Why do you believe the Book of Mormon is “another testament of Jesus Christ”?
- How can a person know for sure that he or she is going to heaven?
- Do you think there’s a difference between a “religion” and the “relationship” with God that Jesus talked about?
- How would your friends and family in the Church of Jesus Christ react if you converted to Christianity? How does that make you feel?
- Would you be willing to pay the price of being rejected if you were convinced the message I’m about to share with you was true?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Marty’s belief that there is a God.
- Marty’s desire to be a nice, sincere, hardworking person.
- Marty’s commitment to family values.
- Marty’s commitment to sharing his beliefs with others.

What Marty Believes

ABOUT MORMONISM:

Marty believes that the Church of Latter Day Saints is the one and only true church on earth. He believes that the church became utterly corrupt soon after the Apostles, so God decided to restore the true church through Joseph Smith. Because of this, Marty believes all other denominations (Baptist, Lutheran, etc.) are false churches (in other words, not following God).

ABOUT GOD:

Marty believes God was once a man, but became God. God has a physical body as does His wife (Heavenly Mother).

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Marty does not believe in the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate gods.

ABOUT JESUS:

Marty believes that Jesus is a separate God from the Father (Elohim). He was created as spirit by the Father and Mother in heaven, and is the 'elder brother' of all people and spirit beings. His body was created as a result of a sexual union between God the Father and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not pay for the sins of all people, but does provide everyone with resurrection.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Marty believes what the eighth LDS Article of Faith states: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly" – which means Joseph Smith's interpretation or selected portions from the King James. The Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and the teachings of Mormon Prophets are on the same level of authority as the Bible.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Marty believes that eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three levels of heaven. Only apostates and murderers go to 'outer darkness'.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Marty believes salvation is defined as being physically resurrected and exalted to godhood (i.e. becoming a god). People are saved by trusting in Christ and doing good works.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (has no beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He was placed in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit of God. It was not by sexual union, but by a supernatural act (Luke 1:35 ; John 1:1,14, 18; 10:30).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ on the basis of His death on the cross. Good works have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:47; Romans 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20).

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven, those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Marty may not be aware of the Mormon church's official doctrine, so many of the above mentioned facts might come as surprise to him. If this happens, don't get distracted with trying to prove you are right unless you believe it will help get Marty closer to trusting Christ.
- Marty may use the words and phrases that sound Biblically true (Jesus Christ, Son of God, salvation by faith, etc.), but actually mean something entirely different. Because of this, it is critical that you make sure you mean the same thing. For instance, if Marty says, "I am trusting in Christ for my salvation," you can ask these questions:
 - "What do you mean by salvation?"
 - "How do you define Jesus?"
 - "Are you trusting in Christ alone for your salvation?"

RYAN THE RELIGIOUS

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Ryan has a religious view of the world, which means he has a strong built-in sense of right and wrong, and strictly follows a set of standards that he believes will earn him spiritual reward here on earth and heaven when he dies. Ryan also tends to carry around an “I’m spiritually superior to you” attitude because he believes that good works are the key to religion.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

- What’s your spiritual background?
- What do you believe about God?
- What aspect of your religious beliefs brings you the most satisfaction? What makes you the most uncomfortable?
- What do you think happens after we die?
- Do you believe that entrance into heaven is dependent on obeying certain rules?
- On a scale from 0-100%, how sure are you that when you die you will go to heaven?
- Are your beliefs based on your own spiritual choices, or have them been handed down to you by your family?
- Who do you think Jesus was?
- Do you think there’s a difference between a “religion” and the “relationship” with God that Jesus talked about?
- What do you think of Jesus’ claim that He was God and the way back to God?

AREAS YOU CAN ADMIRE

- Ryan’s commitment to going to church
- Ryan’s belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Ryan’s belief that Jesus died on the cross and rose again.
- Ryan’s desire to be a good person and do things that please God.

What Ryan Believes

ABOUT RELIGION:

Ryan believes that by believing in certain creeds or statements of beliefs, and by strictly engaging in certain religious behaviors, he will be on God’s ‘nice’ list, while those who aren’t religious are on God’s ‘naughty’ list. He has been raised with this since day one, which is why religion and good works are such a key part of his life. Ryan also believes that religion is a combination of faith and good works that will one day get him into heaven.

ABOUT GOD:

Ryan believes in God.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

Ryan believes in the Trinity.

ABOUT JESUS:

Ryan believes in Jesus.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Ryan believes the Bible is God's word.

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Ryan believes in an afterlife where there is a heaven and hell, and that which place you end up is determined by how religious you were here on earth.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Ryan believes that salvation is 'earned' by believing and behaving the right way. Ryan is not absolutely sure he'll make it into heaven, but he hopes that his good deeds will outweigh his bad deeds.

What the Bible Teaches

ABOUT GOD:

God identified Himself as "I Am" (Exodus 20:2) – meaning He is the self-existent (never had a beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe.

ABOUT THE TRINITY:

There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

ABOUT JESUS:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and His death on the cross completely paid for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2).

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible alone is the word of God and is absolute truth. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20), and it is also the ultimate authority on spiritual matters (i.e. no man made church teachings or traditions are equal with it).

ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE:

Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ spend an eternity in hell. (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is by faith in Christ ALONE on the basis of His death on the cross. (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29,47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5) Good works are a natural result of our salvation, but they have nothing to do with our salvation.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Ryan carries around a pretty strong dose of pride and self-righteousness, so focus on the 10 commandments and how all of us have broken them. One good illustration of this is to use the example of the religious person who only sinned a mere 3 times per day. While that seems good, when you add it up it becomes very bad. Three sins a day is over a thousand sins a year, and if he lives to be in his 80's, he will have sinned over 80,000 times!

Talk about how one lie will keep us out of heaven (Revelation 21:8), so the standard for getting into heaven is absolute perfection. Deep down Ryan knows he is not perfect, so talk about how Jesus lived a perfect life, which is why he is the only one who could pay the price for our sin.

In Philippians 3:4-12, Paul goes into detail about how he once depended on his 'religion' to please God, but after he trusted Christ, he saw all those things as trash. If Paul saw religion in that light, what should that teach us? Also, talk about what Jesus meant when he said "it is finished" on the cross. That phrase actually means 'paid in full'.

Selected text from Dare2Share Ministries,