

CM204 Teaching Children of Other Religions

**Religion:** Buddhism (evolved in different forms in Singapore which include cultural beliefs, superstition, Confucianism; but the essence is similar.

**Origins:**

Gautama Siddhartha, (563-483 AD), also known as the “Enlightened one” (Buddha) founded Buddhism in modern-day Nepal and India. Their writings include the Mahavastu (Great story, a chaotic collection covering the Buddha’s life story), Jataka Tales (550 stories of the former lives of the Buddha), the Tripitaka (Three Baskets) and the Tantras (as recorded in Tibetan Buddhism.)

**Teaching of Buddhism (TOB), Biblical Teaching (BT), Practical Approach (PA)**

**TOB:** Salvation by good works and performing rituals. Bad people will go to Hell and good people to Heaven.

**BT:** Salvation is in Christ alone

- a. Eph. 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...not of works so no one can boast.”
- b. Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other...no other name under heaven, whereby we must be saved.”

**PA:** Salvation through Christ

- Jesus My Savior Flashcard series
- Heaven How to Get There, Lesson, tract
- Wordless Book, Visualized lesson 1, 3
- Emphasize the “want to” to sin because most Buddhists believe they are born good and think they are not sinning as long as they don’t harm others. Assurance of salvation is important because receiving something without working for it is foreign to Buddhist children.

**TOB:** Jesus is not God, but a good and respected man, just like Confucius.

**BT:** Jesus is God.

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**PA:**

- Life of Christ Vol. 1 Lessons 1, 4, 5, 6
- Our Awesome God
- God Speaks to Me: Jesus

- Little Kids Can Know God through His Son

**TOB:** God is to be appeased continually with sacrifices for protection and blessings.

**BT:** God loves us and gave His Son for our sins

- Romans 5:8 – God demonstrated his own love for us in this: while we were still sinner, Christ died for us.
- 1 Cor. 15:3-5 – Christ died for our sins...

**PA:** Emphasize God’s Love and Work of Christ

- Object lesson: Soiled dollar note – show their worth to God
- Sculpturing balloon – Ps. 139
- Beginnings – Creation
- Shawn’s Search for True Love
- Life of David – emphasize his relationship to God and God’s protection
- Explain that reading the Bible and prayers are not rituals to be performed to be saved or just to appease God
- Songs: Nothing But the Blood, One Way

**TOB:** The goal of life is nirvana; to eliminate all desires or cravings and in this way escape suffering. This is the eightfold plan.

**BT:** Because we live in a fallen world, even Christians will suffer...but with purpose.

- Phil. 3:10 “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death
- James 1:2,3 Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet troubles of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness”

**PA:**

- Stoning of Stephen
- Paul, God’s Servant lessons 3-5
- Peter in Prison (Acts 12)
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**TOB:** Reincarnation – people do not have their own individual souls or spirits, but one’s desires and feelings may be reincarnated into another person or animals – good people will reincarnate to better life, while bad people will be reincarnated to animals or trees.

**BT:** The Bible says individuals have both a spirit and soul

- Matt. 10:28 – Man can kill the body but not the soul
- Matt. 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind.
- Heb. 4:12 – Piercing to the soul and spirit

**PA:**

- Teach verses like those in previous section or verses that teach what happens when we die like: Hebrews 9:27, 1 Thes. 4:16-17
- Beginnings – Creation

- Little Kids can know God through Creation

**TOB:** Humans are born without sin – they are essentially good

**BT:** All people are born sinners

- Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned
- Romans 5:12 – Sin passed to all men
- Ps. 51:5 – Shapen in iniquity

**PA:**

- Wordless Book Visualized – lesson 2
- Beginnings – lesson 2
- Verses as listed above in BT

**TOB:** The Chinese believe in many gods – influenced by mythology and folklore

**BT:** There is One True God

- Jeremiah 10:10 – One true God
- John 14:6 – I am THE way...no one comes to the Father, but by me

**PA:**

- Awesome God
- Beginnings – lesson 1
- Life of Christ lessons 1-5
- Elijah, Prophets of Baal
- Judges lessons 1-6
- Songs: One Way, I Can Know God, God made Me

Other practical helps:

- Clarify terms such as prayer – Prayer is not chanting or performing a ritual. The Bible is not a “good luck charm” to keep away the evil spirits. Model to the children what and how to pray. Establish the authority of the Bible – verses, teaching, songs
- Pray for the children – Don’t pressure them to believe or participate in memorizing verses or Bible lessons. Allow God to work in their hearts by being at GNC – it may take a year or more for the children to believe
- Start a memory verse booklet so they can record verses and songs learned, as a Bible might be allowed in their homes
- Pray, encourage and support the newly converted child – opposition and ridicule from family members can be tough on them
- Work with the parents – it is important to build relationships with them and to show concern and love for the child apart from GNC – show concern about child by visiting homes, being interested in child’s education, etc.