



World Religions - Jehovah's Witnesses

Why we are doing this study?

- Jesus is the only way to heaven
- If we better understand others we can better communicate Jesus love to them

JW and Mormonism are Christianity based cults

- Have some elements of Biblical truth but a lot of distortions
- Force members to isolate themselves only to the cult

Jehovah's Witness

- Founded in 1872 by Charles T Russell, who preached that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom in 1914
- Leaders that followed brought new prophecies and teachings to supersede the old one's that didn't come true
- They publish their prophecies and teachings in the watchtower magazine and awake magazine
- Also, have their own translation of the Bible, The New World Translation

What they believe about God and Jesus?

- One God - Jehovah
- Jesus is actually the angel Michael and not the son of God
- The Holy Spirit is just an active force not a personal being

-Some major practices

- no giving or receiving blood transfusions
- no tobacco use, though alcohol is ok
- no birthdays or Christmas or Thanksgiving
- no saluting or pledging allegiance to the flag
- no military service
- give large amount of time to serving, especially door to door
- 100 hours a month is a Pioneer
- 150 hours a month is a Special Pioneer

*We can be challenged by the commitment they have to spreading their message

Salvation

- 144,000 elites get to go to heaven
- The rest that are good enough will live on the earth
- Everyone else goes out of existence

What's different from our belief?

-Freedom

-Jehovah's witnesses face isolation, rules, and guilt

-Jesus offers us freedom

-Galatians 5

-ver 1

-Jesus death sets us free from sin and free from trying to earn our way to God

-ver 2-6

- some people in Paul's day tried to set a bunch of rules to be a Christian
- Paul says to not get caught up in rules and trying to earn salvation
- what really matters is faith and love

-ver 13-14

- this doesn't mean we just do whatever
- we are free from the trap of sin and it's lies
- we are not caught in selfishness or rules any longer
- we have been given the opportunity to do something great in loving others as Jesus has loved us

Small Group Questions

- 1) Why are Jehovah's Witnesses so committed to serving their religion and going door to door? How do you feel about going door to door?
- 2) Why do we seek to serve God and do good?
- 3) Sin promises freedom but in what way is it a trap?

youth lesson