

DO ALL PATHS LEAD TO GOD?



THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

If Jesus is the only way to heaven, are all other religions wrong?

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the only way to heaven. He claimed it, and proved it by His death and resurrection. All other religions are based on works—doing something to earn salvation, paradise, nirvana or whatever. Only Christianity is based on grace—trusting in Someone to receive salvation and experience a restored relationship with God both now and for all eternity.

SCRIPTURE USED

John 14:6: *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

John 8:24: *"That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be you will die in your sins."*

John 3:18: *"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son."*

Acts 4:12: *"There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."*

OPENER

Blind Tag

For the opener you will need:

- Something with a circumference of about 20 feet (Options: Two tables pushed together, or a rope wrapped around four chairs)
- Two blindfolds
- Two helmets for safety

Blindfold two people and put helmets on them for safety. Position them out on opposite sides of the large object you've constructed. Explain that they must both ALWAYS be touching it. Designate one to be "it." The objective is for "it" to

tag the other contestant. Have your other students shout advice to their favorite contestant about which way to go to catch or avoid being caught by the other. Beware of high-speed collisions.

Optional Variations: Stealthily remove one of the two contestants—unbeknownst to the other blindfolded individual—and let the audience shout directions to the unsuspecting victim about how to catch the other now “non-existent” person. Another variation could be to have everyone remain silent and let the blindfolded players listen for each other.

TRANSITION

EXPLAIN

In some ways, this game reminds me of the world of religion. People are seeking that “something” that will bring spiritual fulfillment and lead to eternal life. But there are so many voices telling them where to go to find the spiritual “truth” they’re looking for, that it can get really confusing. Plus, since none of us have died and come back from the dead, some people just throw up their hands and give up because it can feel like a blind search.

Today, we’re going to talk about how to take the blindfold off, and about which voice to listen to when it comes to spiritual truth and eternal life. We’re going to look at an important and challenging question: If Jesus is the only way to eternal life, does that mean that all other religions are wrong?

But first, let’s open in prayer.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, please guide us into Your spiritual truth as we discuss this challenging topic. Help us understand your Word, and help us leave today as changed people who seek to know and serve You better. We want to live each day yielded to You. May our lives overflow with the power of Your Holy Spirit at work in and through us. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASK

- **Do you think spiritual “absolutes” exist? If so, what would be an example of one? (i.e., there is a God, rape is evil, murder is wrong, etc.). If not, why do you think that?**
- **Do you think most people believe there are spiritual absolutes that are true?**