



BUDDHISM

MAJOR BELIEFS

God

- Non-theistic and emphasizes individual enlightenment.

Jesus Christ

- He is accepted as a gifted spiritual teacher, but his divinity is denied.

Source of Authority

- Pali Canon (“Three Baskets”), Mahvastu, Sutras, and Tantras are held as the foundational texts.

Human Nature

- We do not have an enduring self or soul. Persons are aggregates of matter, feeling, and awareness.

Basic Human Problem

- Attachment to the things in the world results in suffering and disappointment.

Solution to Basic Human Problem

- Suffering is the result of selfish desire, and selfish desire can only be overcome through the Eight-Fold Path.

Afterlife

- Nirvana comes about through the annihilation of the illusion of self and through absorption into reality.

WHEN YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL

- 1 Be in it for the long haul.
- 2 Share your story with them.
- 3 Focus on the family and point to the church as the body of Christ.

STATISTICS

Population

250 Million

Countries

62

People Groups

354

Unreached Groups

296

QUICK FACTS

- Siddhartha Gautama founded Buddhism as a response to the suffering he saw around him.
- In Theravada Buddhism (38%), Enlightenment is available to the few and Buddha is an earthly sage.
- In Mahayana Buddhism (56%), Enlightenment is available to many and Buddha is a savior.
- The Four Noble Truths of Buddhism are focused on the universality, cause, cure, and key of suffering.

READING

Ravi Zacharias, *The Lotus and the Cross*