

J E S U S
&
B U D D H A

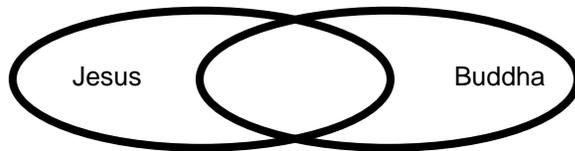
Week 1: *Jesus & Buddha Basics*

Week 2: *Digging Deeper into Dharma*

Week 3: *Ask a Buddhist Sunday*

APPETIZER: Conversation with Peter Timmerman

Comparison is the mother of all clarity.
~ Os Guinness



Some questions for Peter...

1. Can you help us understand the differences between some types of Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana, Zen, Tibetan, and Pure Land)?
2. If Buddhism includes, among other things, the goal of eliminating desire, is that not ultimately the negation of personhood? What are we without desire?
3. How do Buddhists prevent the idea of karma (we get what we deserve) from revictimizing the victim?
4. If the actual elements of personhood do not carry over from one life to the next, but only our karma, how is this process not completely depersonalizing? (Or is that the point?)
5. We talk a lot around here about the core message of Jesus, called the "gospel": Jesus leads us back into (re)union or reconciliation with God and his love life for all eternity, and that beautiful existence can start right here and now. What is the core message (the "gospel") of Buddhism?

DINE IN: Grace, Peace, and Union with God

2 Peter 1:1-4

"THEOSIS" =
KOINONOS THEOS PHYSIS
Partnership (with) God's Nature

**You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.**
~ King David (Psalm 16:11)

TAKE OUT: Learning from Bodhisattvas

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have
received to serve others, as faithful stewards of
God's grace in its various forms.**
~ The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 4:10)

NEXT WEEK...
Michael Messenger,
President of World Vision Canada

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What has been your biggest take away from this series?
2. Review Sunday's sermon and talk about what most interested you and/or lingering questions that remain.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **2 Peter 1:1-9**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. In **verse 3**, Peter states that His divine power has given us everything we need to live a godly life. How true has this been in your experience? Have you grown in living a godly life the longer you've had access to his divine power?
 - c. Is **verse 4** describing a future experience or a present experience? (Also see **John 14:20, 23; 17:26; Romans 8:11; Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:27; 3:3; Revelation 21:22.**)
 - d. **Verses 5-9** contain a lot of struggle. How is this different than other religious struggles to attain salvation? Where is grace in all of this?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Take time to review the list of qualities in **verses 5-7**. For each quality listed, which are you weakest/strongest in? How are you tapping into God's grace?