

KNOWING & DOING

C · S · LEWIS INSTITUTE



A Teaching Quarterly for Discipleship of Heart and Mind

From the Spring 2015 issue of Knowing & Doing:



How To Speak To Your Hindu Neighbor

by Michael Suderman, M.A.

Fellow with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

Here are five guidelines on how best to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with your Hindu friends and neighbors.

1. Be prepared to listen and ask questions.

As in any evangelistic conversation always remember that you are speaking to a person. Be prepared to ask questions when talking to a Hindu and respectfully listen as they explain. Do not hesitate to take notes, as this will show keen interest.

2. Use stories to explain grace and forgiveness.

It is important to remember that the Hindu religion has come through stories, not creeds. When sharing the gospel with Hindus we need to be prepared to enter into their stories and then retell them from a Christian perspective. For example: Discuss the differences between Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7) and Krishna's advice to Arjuna in the Bhagavad-Gita, or to use a parable like the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) to explain forgiveness.

3. Keep in mind the personal and relational nature of God.

Explain that God is not an impersonal entity, but a holy, loving, just, and forgiving God who intentionally created each human being for relationship with himself. God did not reveal himself in a philosophy, but chose to reveal himself most fully in the person of Jesus Christ.

4. Carefully emphasize the uniqueness and exclusivity of Jesus

Help the Hindu understand that their salvation is not found by amassing knowledge that is one with the divine, nor attained by way of devotion, nor earned by good works; rather, it is found through faith in Jesus Christ with whom we can have a personal relationship (John 14:6).

5. Pray and be patient.

Prayer is essential to evangelism. Pray for your Hindu friends and neighbors and journey alongside them as you share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember that a great cost comes with their decision to leave the religion of their family and culture.





Michael Suderman is a fellow with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries serving in the Washington, D.C. area. He has earned degrees in Philosophy and Religious & Biblical Studies from Tabor College. He is currently completing his Masters of Theology at the University of Oxford alongside two years of study at the Oxford Center for Christian Apologetics. Prior to studying at Oxford, Michael was involved with youth and university ministries and participated in educational and volunteer work across India, including the Missionaries of Charity. He enjoys reading and research in topics relating to world religions, Christianity and culture, philosophy of religion, and science and faith. In his free time, Michael enjoys hiking, traveling, athletics, and watching films.

Knowing & Doing is published by C.S. Lewis Institute; 8001 Braddock Road, Suite 301; Springfield, VA 22151 | www.cslewisinstitute.org. Electronic copies of this PDF file may be duplicated and transmitted via e-mail for personal or ministry use. Articles may not be modified without prior written permission of the Institute. For questions, you may call us at 703.914.5602 or email us at staff@cslewisinstitute.org.

2015 C.S. LEWIS INSTITUTE, *Discipleship of Heart and Mind*

In the legacy of C.S. Lewis, the Institute endeavors to develop disciples who can articulate, defend, and live faith in Christ through personal and public life.