

Basic Beliefs Across Eight Worldviews in the Belonging and Believing Series



The following provides some basic beliefs of the worldviews as featured in the Belonging and Believing series of books and resources and has been written mainly from those perspectives. More detailed notes can be found within the Belonging and Believing books. In order to take account of the diversity and plurality of beliefs that may be held within a particular religion or non-religious worldview, it is always advisable to modify speech by using terms such as “many ... believe”, or “some ... believe”.

For an ‘in a nutshell’ child’s perspective and overview of each worldview, please see page 26 of the Belonging and Believing books.

Child:	Vesper	Wilf	Nia	Yusuf	Krishan	Nyal	Margalit	Caitlin
Worldview	Christian	Humanist	Baha’i’	Muslim	Sikh	Hindu	Jewish	Buddhist
Key beliefs:	Christians believe that there is only one God who is the creator. Jesus is believed to be the divine son of God who lived in human form on Earth, and was born c4BCE. Following his death and resurrection, Jesus now resides with God in heaven. God is now present in the world through the Holy Spirit. Christians aim to follow Jesus’ example and teaching to love God and all	Humanists believe that human beings evolved naturally and that they will go on evolving, as will the other species on the planet Earth. They are agnostic or atheist, relying on evidence and science to inform and influence decisions. Moral and ethical decision-making is based on reason, empathy and compassion for others. Being	Baha’i’s believe in one God who is creator. He reveals His purpose to humanity through a succession of chosen Messengers throughout the ages, according to the needs of the human race at that time. The main goal is the uniting of all peoples in one ‘universal Cause, one common Faith’ as embodied in teachings such as equality of men and women,	Muslims believe that there is only one God (Allah) who is creator. Muhammad (PBUH), born 570CE, is believed by many Muslims to be the last of Allah’s prophets. The Qur’an contains Allah’s word exactly as it was revealed to Muhammad (PBUH). Muslims aim to follow the teachings of the Qur’an and also the example of Muhammad’s (PBUH), life. By submitting to	Sikhs believe in one God (Waheguru) who is creator and reveals himself in creation whilst at the same time being without form. God is eternal truth, without fear, without hatred, was not born and will not die. In about 1500CE, Guru Nanak was called by God to spread His message - ‘brotherhood of humanity’, that all people are equal and may receive enlightenment. An awareness	Hindus believe there is one God who is present in everything in the world. For many, this supreme being is known as Brahman. Everything is an expression of Brahman which may be manifest and worshipped in many forms - often referred to as deities or gods and goddesses. God can also incarnate to live on earth in human form eg as Rama, Krisna and Swaminarayan.	Jews believe that there is only one G-d who is creator of the universe. G-d’s message was first given to Avram (Abraham) c1800 BCE and later His Law (the Torah) was revealed to the prophet Moses at Mount Sinai. To follow the Law, one must love G-d and love, respect and care for others. Jews believe they have been chosen by G-d to live in a way that is an example to others. G-d	Buddhists believe in showing compassion for all sentient beings. Prince Siddhartha Gautama born around 563BCE achieved enlightenment and perfected the human state – became a Buddha. The Buddha’s teaching, or the dharma (the right path) is to follow the ‘middle way’; a path between the extremes of self indulgence and self denial. Two main teachings, the

	<p>others. They believe that eternal life with God in Heaven after death can be achieved through God's grace - accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God, following his teachings and being repentant for any wrong doings in their life.</p>	<p>proactive in creating one's own happiness and that of others is important through values or virtues such as kindness, honesty and fairness. This is the one and only life and world and as a result, people should make the most of their lives while on Earth.</p>	<p>abolition of prejudice and extremes of poverty and wealth, education for all based on spirituality and morality. Virtues are important such as generosity, honesty and kindness. Most important part of human beings is the soul which, nurtured in life, will continue to progress and live in spiritual worlds after physical death.</p>	<p>the will of Allah humans can find peace within themselves and with the rest of creation. Allah has capacity for forgiveness for those who seek it. One's actions in life become accountable on a Day of Judgement and assignment to a place in either Paradise or Hell will be made accordingly.</p>	<p>of God within oneself in everyday life needs to be sought in order to achieve enlightenment. By living a useful existence as a householder, serving God through worship, honest hard work, and being generous to the poor and needy, union with God and the release from samsara (the cycle of life, death and reincarnation), can be achieved.</p>	<p>Swaminarayan Hindus believe Brahman has a higher source known as Parbrahman. Through following one's correct dharma – one's duty to behave righteously and fulfil obligations to family, society and God, the ultimate aim of release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth (samsara) to become one with Brahman can be achieved.</p>	<p>forgives those who repent for wrong doings. For many Jews, thinking about present life is more important than speculating about the hereafter, however, Jews believe that the soul lives on after death and receives reward according to one's actions on earth.</p>	<p>Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path are concerned with morality, spirituality and insight. Buddhists try to use the wisdom developed via meditation to solve the problems of daily life. The ultimate aim is to achieve Nirvana (a state of perfection) by being released from samsara - a state or repeating negative patterns over and over again.</p>
<p>Term used for 'God'</p>	<p>God (English)</p>		<p>God (English)</p>	<p>Allah (Arabic)</p>	<p>Waheguru (Punjabi root)</p>	<p>Bhagwan (Hindi)</p>	<p>Hashem is used to refer to G-d but is not the name of G-d. Other than in religious activity, many Jews refrain from using the actual scriptural names of G-d.</p>	

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