"Questions People Ask About Christianity and Other World Religions"
Matthew 2:1-11   January 5, 2016
***Please register your ATTENDANCE
Sign up for **REFRESHMENTS.** *Thank you!*

Prayer Requests & Opening Prayer

Discussion Starter: How would you answer the following questions?

1. Why are there so many different religions in the world?
2. How should Christians view other religions?
3. How is God at work in other religions?
4. What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

--Read Matthew 2:1-6.

1. Of the 3 following Christian views toward other religions, which best fits your belief system?

- **The Pluralist Perspective**—All religions are equally valid paths to ultimate reality. Different religions are saying the same thing in different ways with a different vocabulary.

- **The Exclusivist Perspective**—All who do not accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be condemned to eternal separation from God. A moderate version of this view would be that grace applies for those who have not ever heard of Jesus.
  (Consider John 3:16-18 and John 14:6-7.)

- **The Inclusivist Perspective**—God is at work among all people everywhere even where there is no Christian influence. Jesus Christ is the definitive revelation of God, so all other religious truth claims must be measured in the light of Jesus' life and teachings.

  - **(Consider Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 3:27-4:6; Romans 4:9-10, 18-25; Galatians 3:5-6; James 2:20-24)**

2. How does **Matthew 22:1-14** shed light on the three Christian perspectives?

3. What would be your view on the eternal destiny of children or those who are mentally challenged dying without ever consciously accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior?

--Read Matthew 2:7-11.

Closing Prayer: God, teach us that your reach is always further than we know. We thank you for the distinct revelation you have given us of Yourself through Jesus Christ. We pray that you will help us to see all Your children across the earth through the eyes and the sacrifice of Jesus, in whose Name we pray. Amen.