Different religions have different beliefs about God

KS4 RELIGIOUS STUDIES Ages 11-16 ⏰ 4 min read

What do religions believe about God?

Across the world, billions of people follow different **religions**, and each religion has its own unique beliefs about **God**. Some religions believe in one God, while others believe in many gods. Some religions don't focus on God at all. Understanding these different beliefs helps us respect and appreciate the diversity of human spirituality.

Monotheistic religions: One God

Christianity, **Islam**, and **Judaism** are all **monotheistic** religions, which means they believe in just one God. However, they describe and understand God differently. Christians believe in the **Holy Trinity**—that God exists as three parts: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit, yet they are one God. Muslims believe in **Allah**, the one and only God, and that **Muhammad** was God's final prophet. Jewish people believe in one God and follow the teachings given to **Moses** in the **Torah**.

Think of it like three different descriptions of the same person: one person might say "he's a great teacher," another might say "he's my father," and another might say "he's a brilliant musician." They're all describing the same person, but from different perspectives—like how different religions understand the one God differently.

Polytheistic religions: Many gods

Hinduism is a **polytheistic** religion, meaning followers believe in many gods—roughly **330 million** of them! However, many Hindu scholars explain that these gods are all expressions of one ultimate reality called **Brahman**. Each god represents different qualities and powers. The most popular gods include **Brahma**, **Vishnu**, and **Shiva**.

Religions without a God focus

Buddhism is different from most religions because it doesn't center on belief in a God. Instead, **Buddhists** focus on following the teachings of **Buddha** to reduce

suffering and reach spiritual enlightenment. **Buddha** was a human teacher, not a god.

Think of it like the difference between following a recipe book and worshipping the recipe book. Buddhists follow Buddha's teachings like following a recipe, but they don't worship Buddha as a god.

What unites these beliefs?

Despite their differences, most religions share common values: compassion, kindness, justice, and searching for meaning and truth. People of all faiths often pray, meditate, or reflect on big life questions. Respecting different religious beliefs means understanding that people find purpose and guidance in different ways.

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