GUIA DE ESTUDO

Do all paths lead to the same God?

1 de agosto de 2026

BIG IDEA

Christianity is unique because God moved toward us through Jesus, grace, and the resurrection.

A Question People Keep Asking

Mike opens with the big question, “Aren’t all religions basically the same?” He notes why that idea sounds reasonable: many religions have holy books, worship places, prayers, sacred days, moral teachings, and even uncomfortable seating. But he insists that the real issue is whether those religions actually teach the same truth about God, salvation, and the human problem.

> *the the various religions are like different roads converging on the same point.*
>
> — Gandhi’s Comparison

They Disagree About Almost Everything

Mike argues that Gandhi’s comparison only works if the roads really lead to the same destination, but the religions he mentions disagree on almost everything: what God is like, whether there is a God, what happens after death, why suffering exists, how forgiveness works, and whether reincarnation is real. He contrasts nirvana, paradise, heaven, enlightenment, and nothingness to show that the destinations are radically different.

PARA REFLEXÃO

Discussion Questions

Why does the idea that all religions are basically the same seem attractive to many people?
What differences between religions did Mike say matter most?
Why is vague spirituality easier to accept than clear truth claims?
How does the ladder idea shape the way people think about God?
Why does the resurrection matter so much to Christianity?

REFLEXÃO

Personal Reflection

Where have you been tempted to think religion is mostly a matter of preference?
Do you tend to approach God like someone climbing a ladder, or like someone receiving a gift?
Which sounds harder for you to accept: being told you must earn your way, or being told grace is freely given?

Truth Has Edges

He challenges statements like “there is no such thing as truth,” “all truth is relative,” and “there are no absolutes,” saying they sound clever but collapse under scrutiny. For him, truth makes claims that can be examined, while vague religious language like “I’m not religious, I’m just spiritual” can hide from challenge because it means almost anything and therefore requires almost nothing.

> *Christianity doesn't begin with people climbing toward God. It begins with God moving toward people.*
>
> — Christianity's Starting Point

The Ladder vs. Grace

Mike says most religions begin with the assumption that something is wrong with people and that the solution is climbing toward God by doing more—praying more, meditating more, learning more, being more disciplined. He connects this to everyday life: studying for good grades, working harder for a promotion, lifting more weight to get stronger, saving money for retirement. Because life often works on merit and reward, people assume God does too, creating an "invisible scorecard" where they think they are not perfect, but not that bad either.

> *God loved the world so much, so much that he gave his one and only son.*
>
> — John 3:16

> *God didn't send me, didn't send his son into this world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*
>
> — John 3:17

God Made the First Move

Using John's account of Jesus speaking to a religious Jewish leader, Mike says Christianity is different because it begins with God's initiative. John 3:16 shows that God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:17 clarifies that Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it. Mike then turns to Paul, whose dramatic conversion from persecutor of Christians to follower of Jesus becomes evidence of God's grace and the first move of God toward sinners.

> *God shows he proves his own great love for us in this way, that Christ that Jesus died for*

> *us while we were still sinners.*
>
> — Grace in Romans

Grace Offends Pride

Mike says grace runs against human pride because we would rather contribute, earn, deserve, and get credit. But Paul's message is that God's love was shown while we were still sinners. Paul then says everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard, and the result of sin is death. Mike connects this to real life: mess-ups cost people jobs, family, school, money, and dreams. Sin also creates distance from God and brokenness all around us.

> "
>
> *the payment, the wages, what we earn for sin is death.*
>
> — The Wages of Sin

> "
>
> *But God gives us the free gift of life forever, eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
>
> — The Gift of God

The Resurrection Is the Difference

Mike says Christianity stands or falls on one historic event: the resurrection of Jesus. If Jesus rose, everything changes; if he did not, Christianity is worthless. He cites Paul's summary in 1 Corinthians: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. Paul says Jesus appeared to Peter, the twelve, more than 500 believers at once, James, the apostles, and finally Paul himself. Mike emphasizes that this is not a vague idea but a fact-checkable claim grounded in eyewitness testimony.

> "
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> *If Christ has not been raised, if Jesus does not come back to life, then our preaching is worth nothing.*
>
> — If Christ Has Not Been Raised

Right With God Through Christ

Mike closes by saying every other religious leader died, but Jesus came back to life. That is the decisive difference. He also quotes Paul's statement that God made the one who had no sin to become sin for us, so that in him we could become right

with God. The point is not that humans climb to God, but that God bridges the gap through Jesus, giving a finished work instead of an endless search.

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

How to Respond

Stop treating faith like a personal preference, such as choosing the best chicken sandwich; Christianity is about truth, not taste.

Lay down the invisible scorecard and admit that you cannot make yourself right with God by doing a little more good than bad.

Trust the specific claims Mike highlighted: Jesus died for sins, was buried, rose on the third day, and was seen by Peter, the twelve, more than 500 believers, James, the apostles, and Paul.

Replace the endless search for more achievement, more experiences, more relationships, more career success, more purchases, and more distractions with confidence in the grace God already offers.

Receive Christ as the one who moved toward you first, rather than trying to climb a ladder to reach him.

PARA REFLEXÃO

Group Conversation

What parts of Mike's argument challenge the common idea that religion is mainly about personal preference?

Why do people prefer the ladder approach to God?

What does it mean that God made the first move?

How does the resurrection function as the foundation of Christianity?

Where do you see the "invisible scorecard" showing up in your own life?

REFLEXÃO

Heart Check

What would it look like for you to stop trying to earn what God gives as a gift?

In what area of life are you still searching for something to make you finally feel satisfied?

Do you really believe God knows your failures, faults, regrets, and doubts—and loves you anyway?

ORAÇÃO

Response to God

Lord, thank you that Christianity is not about climbing toward you, but about you moving toward us in Jesus. Help us trust your grace, not our own effort. Teach us to believe that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Free us from pride, from the need to earn your love, and from endless searching. Let us rest in the finished work of Jesus, who brings us right with God. Amen.