



# God Across Cultures: Our Buddhist Friends



We interact with our neighbors, even across the world. We support other religions in their ministry. All together, we make a difference in the world.

## Welcome: This is the Day

Leader: This is the day

**All: This is the day**

Leader: That the Lord has made.

**All: That the Lord has made.**

Leader: Let us rejoice

**All: Let us rejoice**

Leader: And be glad in it.

**All: And be glad in it.**

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made.**

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it. REPEAT**



## Greeting: Hello or Peace

Hallo "Ha low" (German) \_\_\_\_\_  
CIAO "Chow" CHOW (Italian) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hello (English) \_\_\_\_\_  
Ni hao "Nee how" (Chinese) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hola "Oh la" (Spanish) \_\_\_\_\_

Kamusta "Ka moose tah" (Filipino) \_\_\_\_\_  
Shalom! "Sha LOME" (Hebrew) \_\_\_\_\_  
Salvete! "Sal veh tay" (Latin) \_\_\_\_\_  
Habari "Ha bar ee" (Swahili) \_\_\_\_\_  
American Sign Language see above \_\_\_\_\_  
Boozhoo Boo ZHOO (Ojibwe)



## Scripture: Mark 12: 30-31

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

## Explore:

Watch a video about the Lunar (moon) New Year-option 1

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4jRLf0\\_3E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4jRLf0_3E)

Sing – Pass it On | United Methodist Hymn 572-option 2

Some participants could ring bells or chimes at song's start and end.



Discuss: Buddhism is a major religion in Asia. It started in India. After the time of Abraham and Moses and before Jesus, Siddhartha Gautama sat under a tree. He was enlightened. People followed him because he was wise. He was the first Buddha. Buddhists want to be like Buddha as Christians want to be like Jesus. Our religions are different. Buddhists do not believe in the God of Abraham. They go to temples to pray. They learn Buddha's teachings. They celebrate gods. Like Christians, Jews, and Muslims, they show compassion and are kind to neighbors.

- On a globe or map, find India and Asia. When it is almost spring, with a full moon, it is time to celebrate Lunar New Year (TET in Viet Nam). How would you celebrate Easter, Christmas, and New Year's on the same day?
- On Lunar New Year's Day, Buddhists go to a temple. Many Christians go to church. Why do we remember God on holidays?
- Buddha reached a spiritual enlightenment. What does it mean to be enlightened? Have you tried to solve a riddle or had a new phone or TV? You try and try to learn and Ta Da! You get it! You want to tell others.
- What Ta Da did Moses share? [*10 Commandments*] What Ta Da did Jesus share? [*Love God, your neighbor*] What Ta Da can you share about life?
- TaDa could be that praying every day brings us closer to God. May it also be to love people, even ones who disagree with us? Or who are not nice?
- Bonus: Which Instagram, Twitter or Facebook celebrities follow Jesus?



## Pray:

Dear God, May I be healthy, happy and peaceful

May my parents be healthy, happy and peaceful

May my family be healthy, happy and peaceful

May my teachers be healthy, happy and peaceful

May my friends be healthy, happy and peaceful

May uncaring people be healthy, happy and peaceful

May unfriendly people be healthy, happy and peaceful

May everyone be healthy, happy and peaceful. Amen.



## Song: Pass It On | United Methodist Hymn 572

It only takes a spark

To get a fire going.

And soon all those around

Can warm up in its glowing.

That's how it is with God's love.

Once you've experienced it,

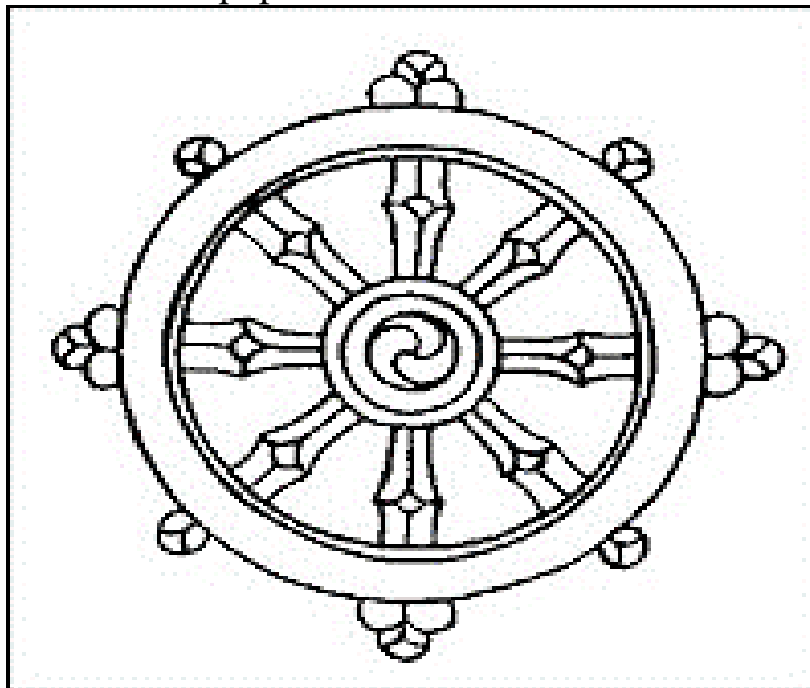
You spread the love to everyone.

You want to pass it on.

## Activity:

**Materials: (Crayons or markers, scissors and contact paper)**

Color this Dharma wheel. It has eight paths to show Buddha's teachings. Cut it out and cover it with clear contact paper. Use it as a coaster.



## **Before Next Time:**

**Meditate.** Breathe 3 times. Say “Be still and know that I am God.” Breathe 3 times. Say “Be still and know.” Breathe. Say “Be still.” Breathe. Say “Be.” Next, meditate the same words with your eyes shut.

**Learn more.** Buddhists believe life is full of suffering because people want too many things. To stop wanting things, people must follow the 8-part path of Dharma. 1) Understand things clearly. 2) Have good values and thoughts. 3) Be truthful and kind. 4) Do not lie. 5) Do not hurt others. 6) Try to be better. 7) No alcohol or drugs. 8) Practice giving attention and being better.