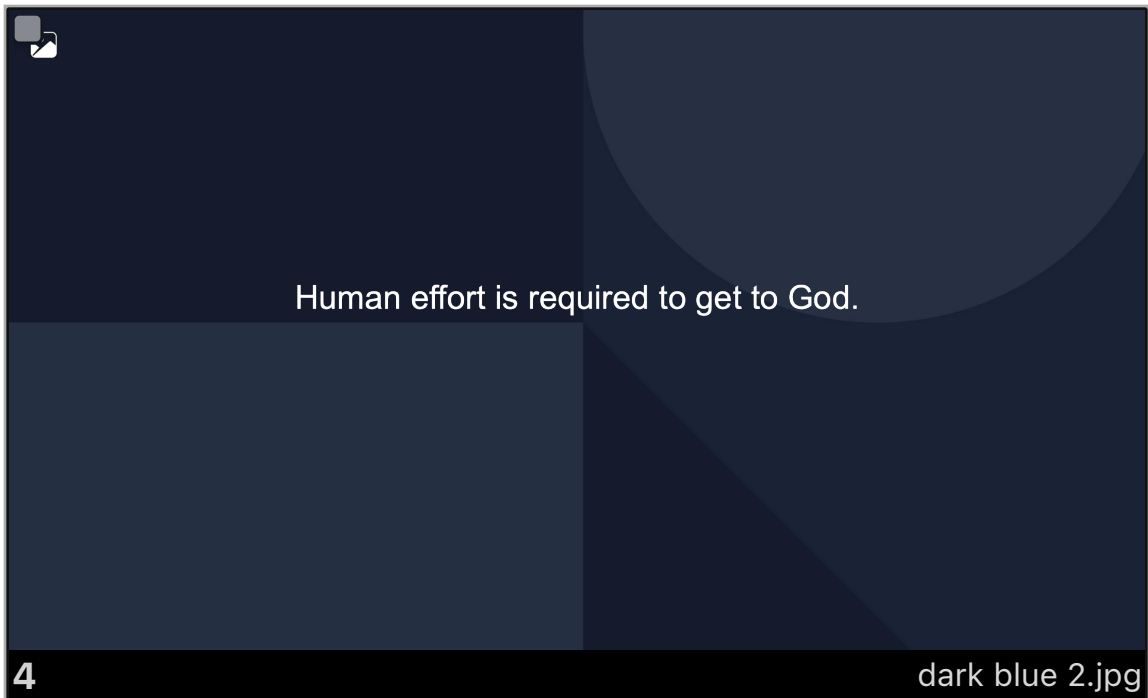
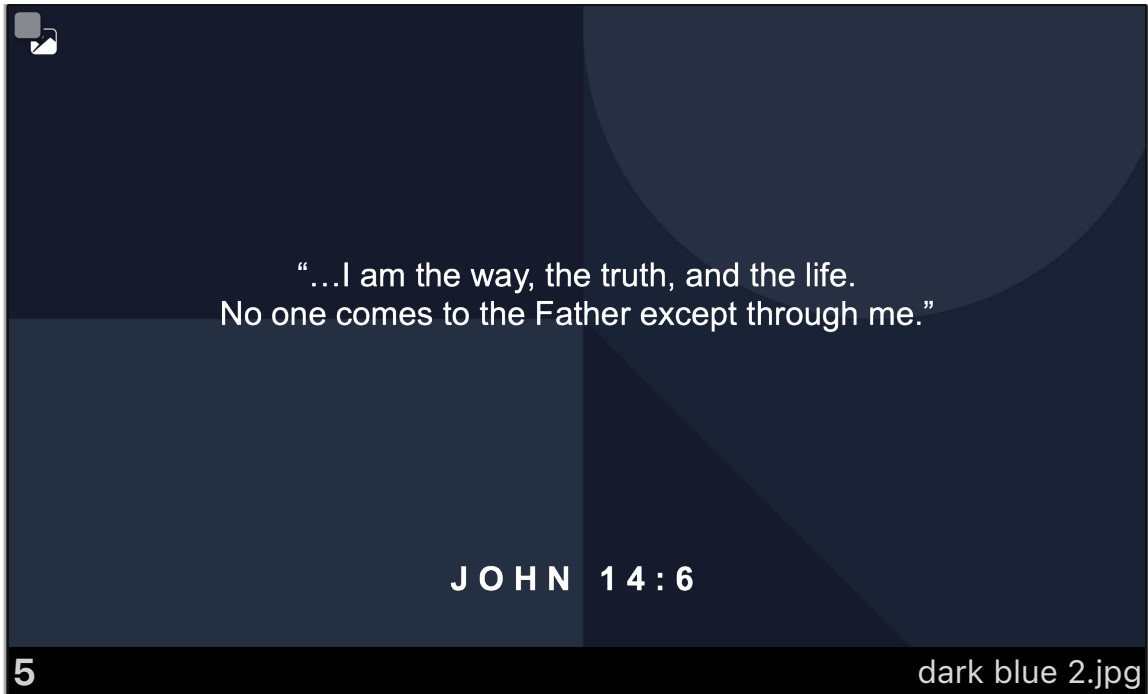
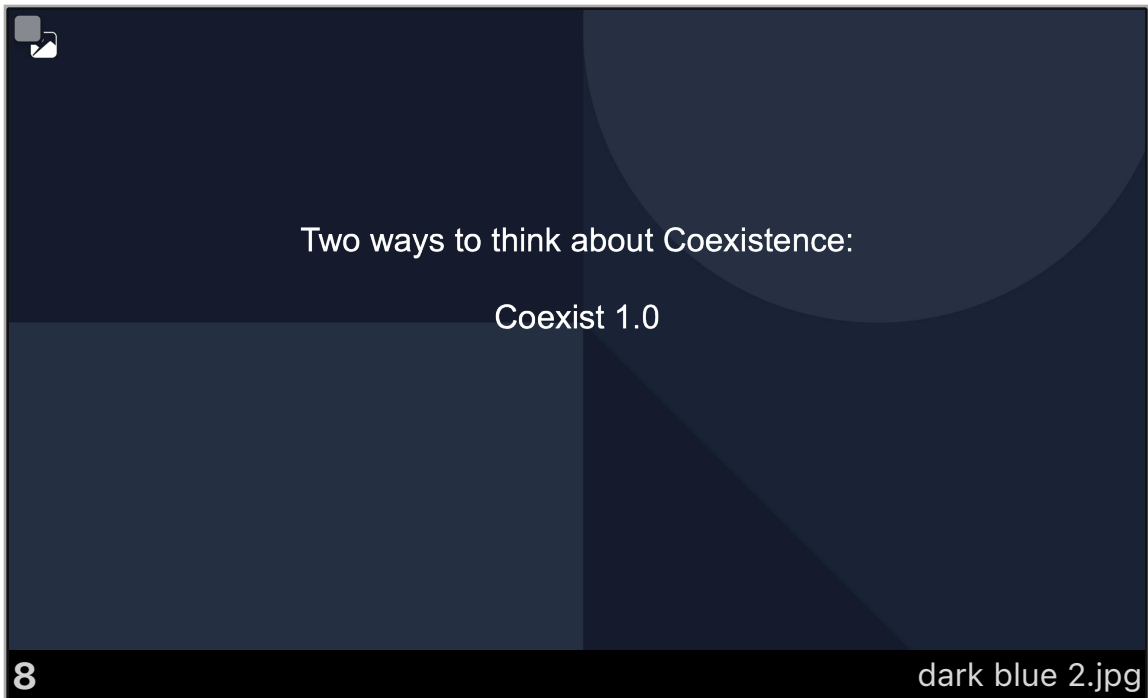


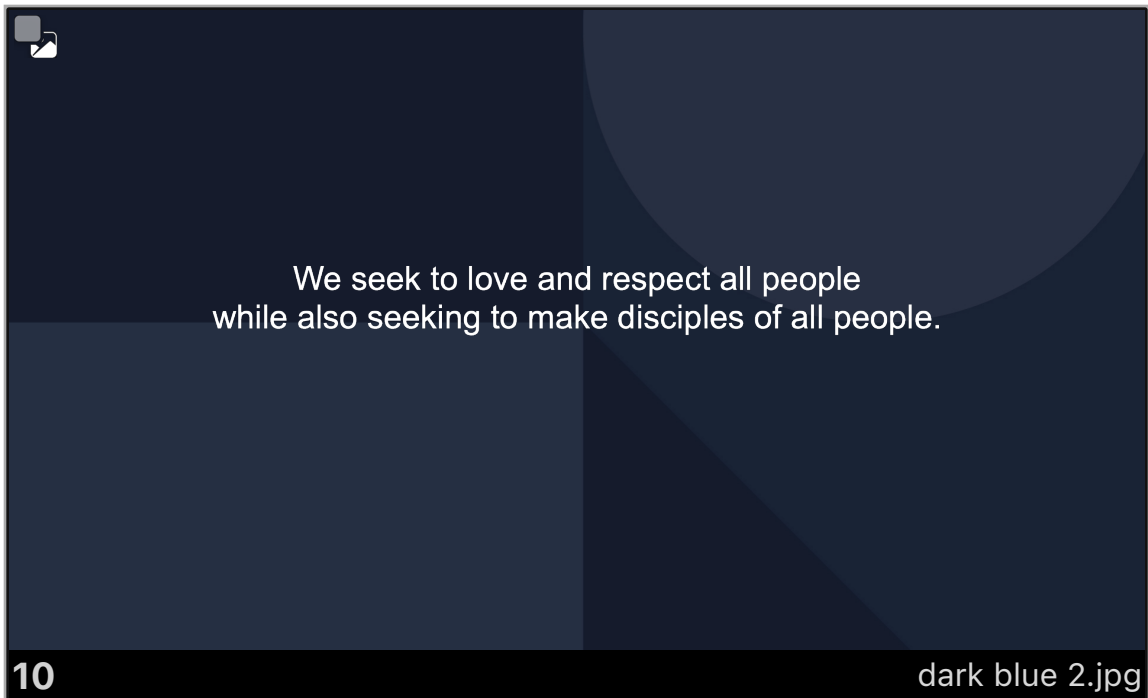
25_coexist_week 1













"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything
I have commanded you. And remember,
I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28 : 19 - 20

11

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Coexist 1.0:

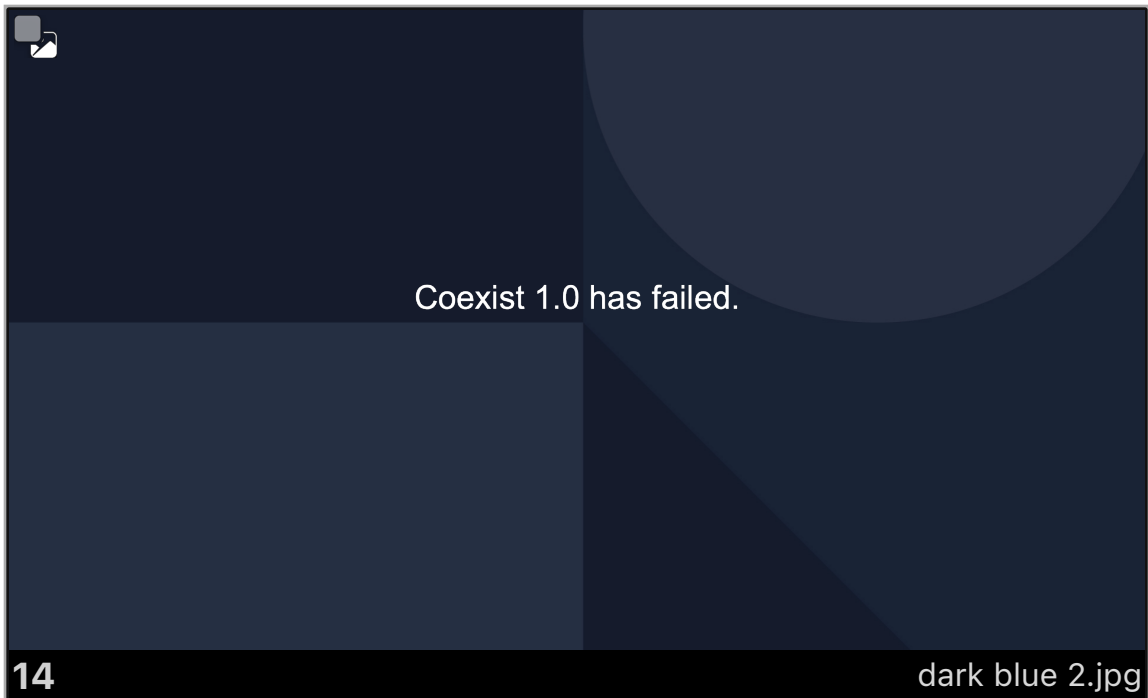
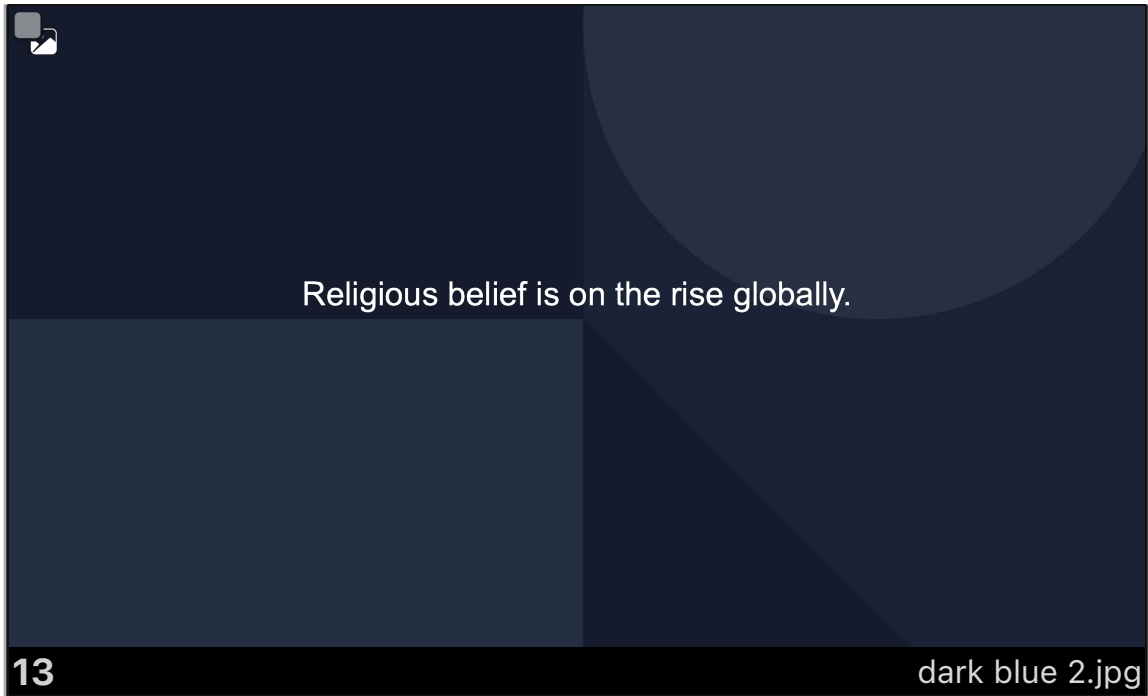
All religions are the same, love means ignoring differences.

Coexist 2.0:

Jesus is the hope of the world, and His followers love and respect
all people while also seeking to make disciples of all people.

12

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As believers we do not adopt a version of Coexist 1.0 that ignores the real differences between faith. We can't adopt an idea of "coexist" as a "live and let live" approach that blunts evangelism and discourages conviction.

Major belief systems do not agree.

15

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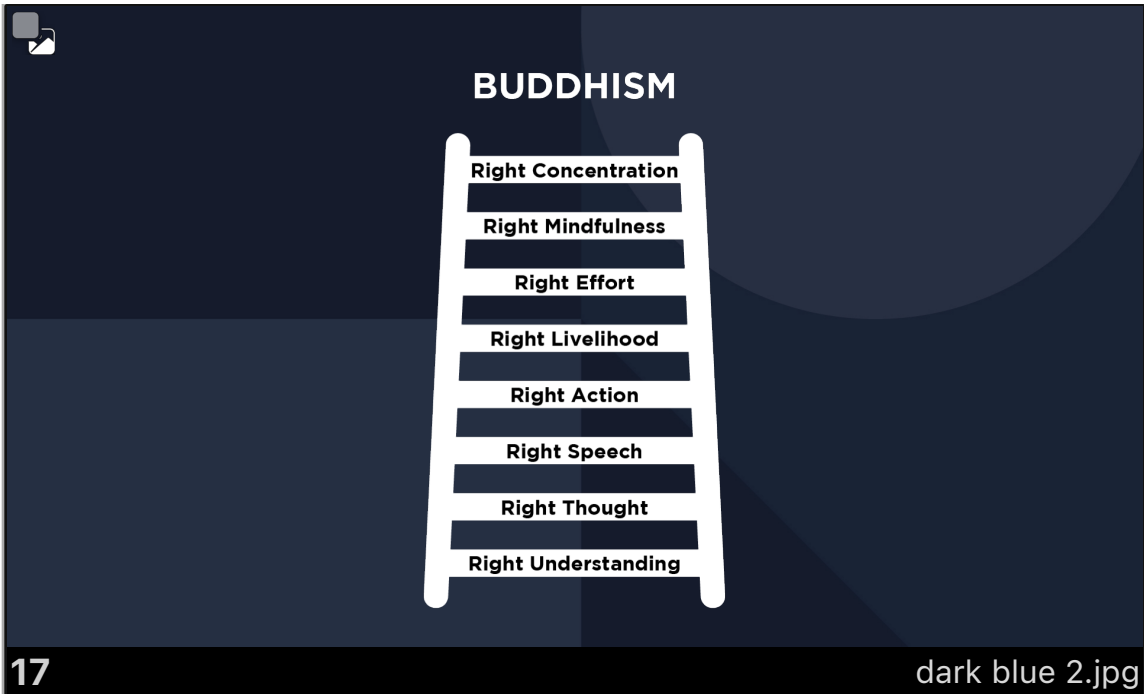


HINDUISM



16

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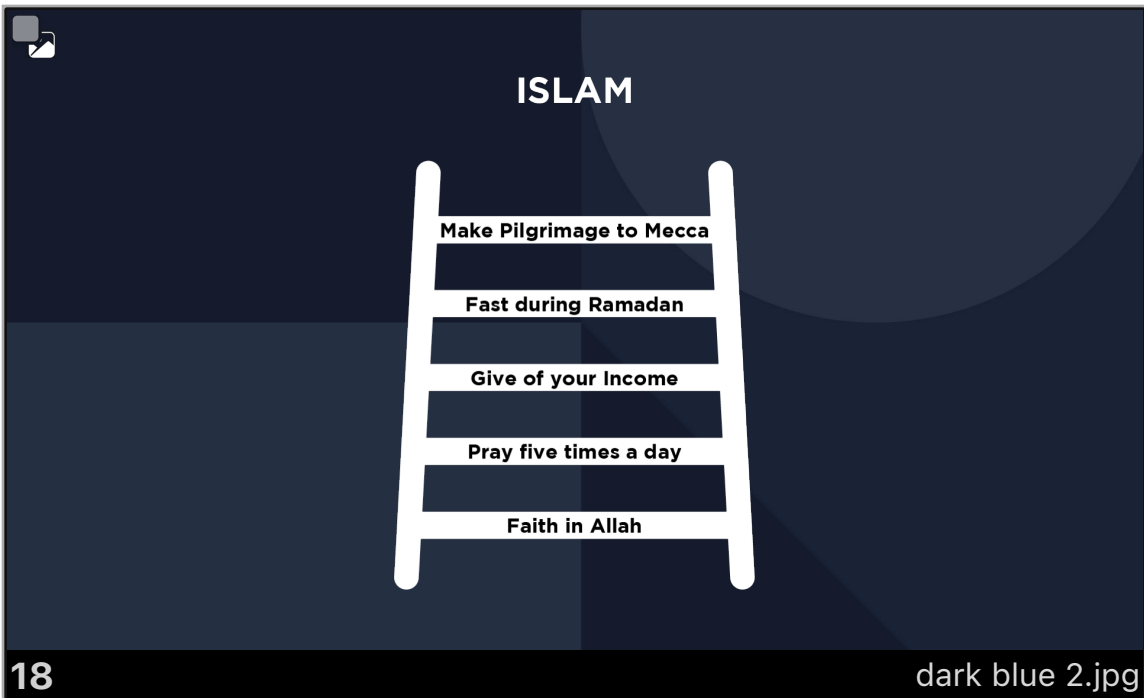
A diagram of the Eightfold Path of Buddhism, represented as a white ladder with eight rungs. The rungs are labeled from top to bottom: Right Concentration, Right Mindfulness, Right Effort, Right Livelihood, Right Action, Right Speech, Right Thought, and Right Understanding. The background is dark blue with a subtle circular gradient. A small icon of a document with a checkmark is in the top left corner.

BUDDHISM

- Right Concentration
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Effort
- Right Livelihood
- Right Action
- Right Speech
- Right Thought
- Right Understanding

17

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A diagram of the Five Pillars of Islam, represented as a white ladder with five rungs. The rungs are labeled from top to bottom: Make Pilgrimage to Mecca, Fast during Ramadan, Give of your Income, Pray five times a day, and Faith in Allah. The background is dark blue with a subtle circular gradient. A small icon of a document with a checkmark is in the top left corner.

ISLAM

- Make Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Fast during Ramadan
- Give of your Income
- Pray five times a day
- Faith in Allah

18

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RELIGIOUS PEOPLE/MORALISTS

And so on...

Do Good

Give to Charity

New Leaf in 2025

Better than Most

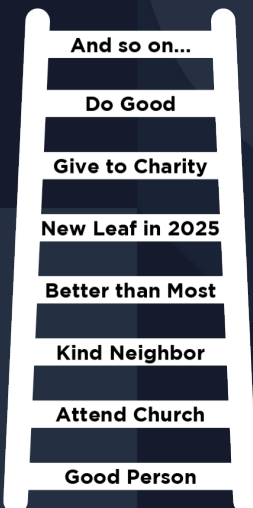
Kind Neighbor

Attend Church

Good Person

19

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The Jesus Way and Coexist 2.0

1. That every person has value as created in God's image, and we respect people, meaning we don't coerce or oppress people to faith.

20

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Then God said, "Let us make man in our image,
according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea,
the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth,
and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

GENESIS 1:26

21

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The Jesus Way and Coexist 2.0

1. That every person has value as created in God's image, and we respect people, meaning we don't coerce or oppress people to faith.
2. That we are not all worshiping the same God or gods, nor are we pursuing the same goals in many cases.

22

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“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

LUKE 19 : 10

23

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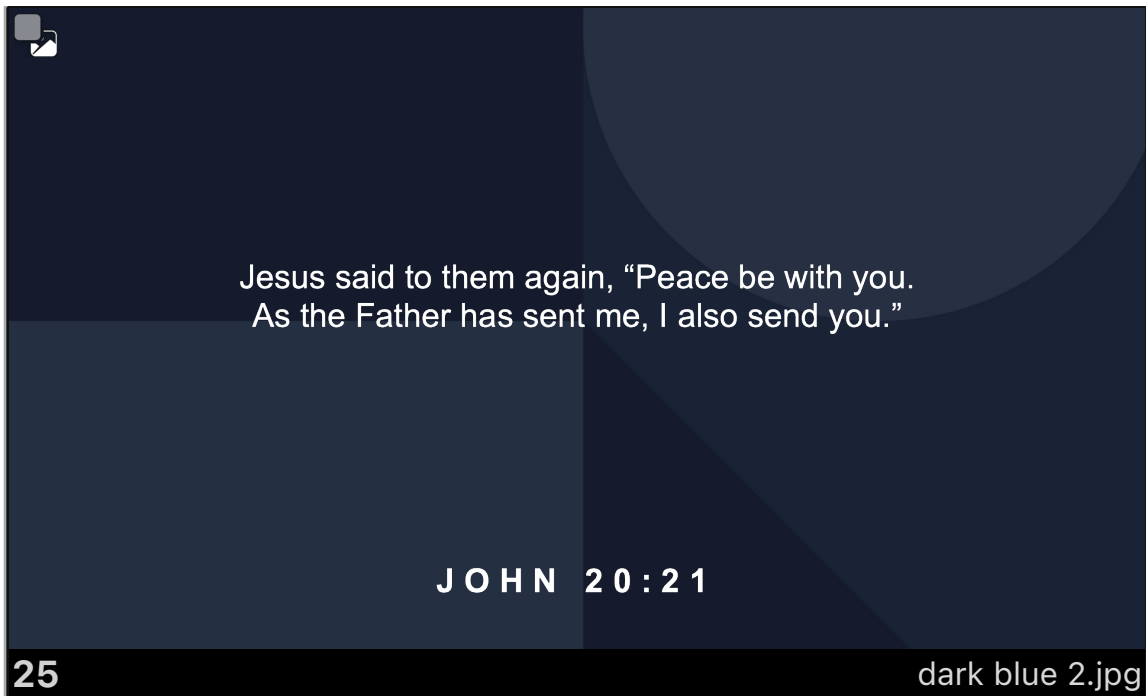


The Jesus Way and Coexist 2.0

1. That every person has value as created in God's image, and we respect people, meaning we don't coerce or oppress people to faith.
2. That we are not all worshiping the same God or gods, nor are we pursuing the same goals in many cases.
3. That we are not offended by our mutual desire to proselytize (or, to evangelize in our case) one another.

24

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I get that Christians who are proselytizing seem out of step in modern, live-and-let-live America, but when you are a Christian, you don't get to pick and choose which of his commandments to obey.

I understand that some non-Christians think Christians who share the good news are being intolerant.

Admittedly, some Christians have been intolerant at times throughout history, seeking conversions through unethical means. However, sharing our faith itself is not intolerant, but in fact is something that shows we really believe what Jesus said and we care about those around us.

Tolerance means more than acceptance of different people's beliefs, sometimes it also means listening to them. And when a whole lot of people believe there was a guy who was dead on Friday, and alive on Sunday, that's something worth explaining, particularly at Easter time.

So, please don't be offended.

Your Christian friends, neighbors, family members or co-workers are mustering up some courage because they care enough to reach out to you. They believe they've seen lives changed and are following a person whom they believe guides them toward faith and good works.

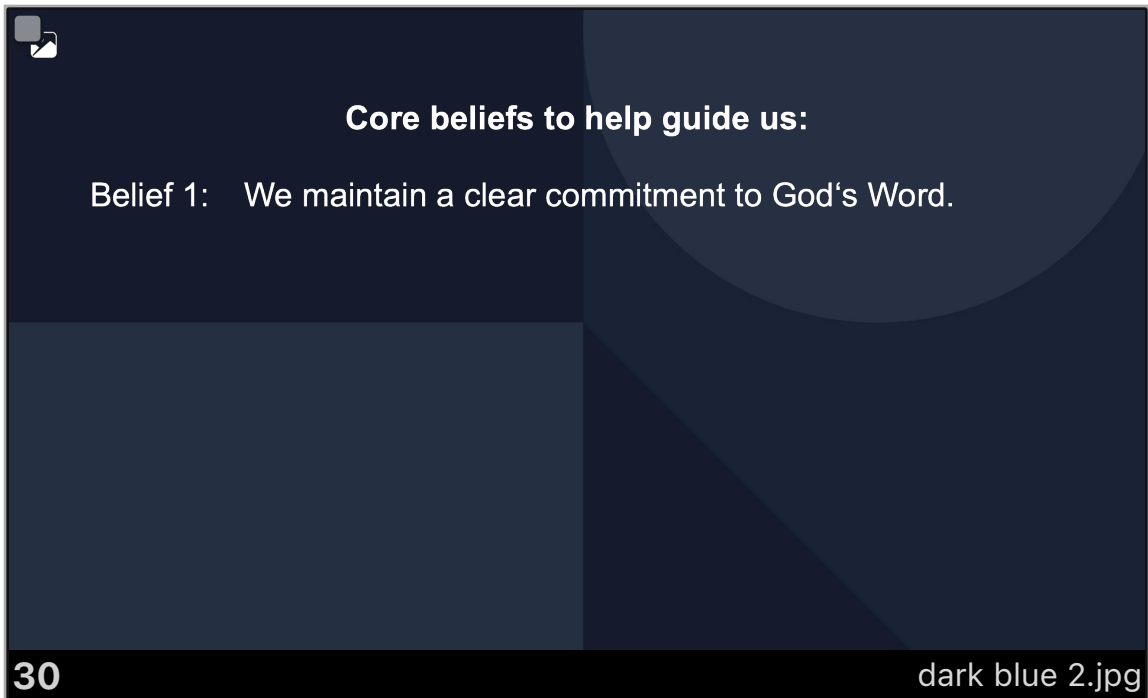
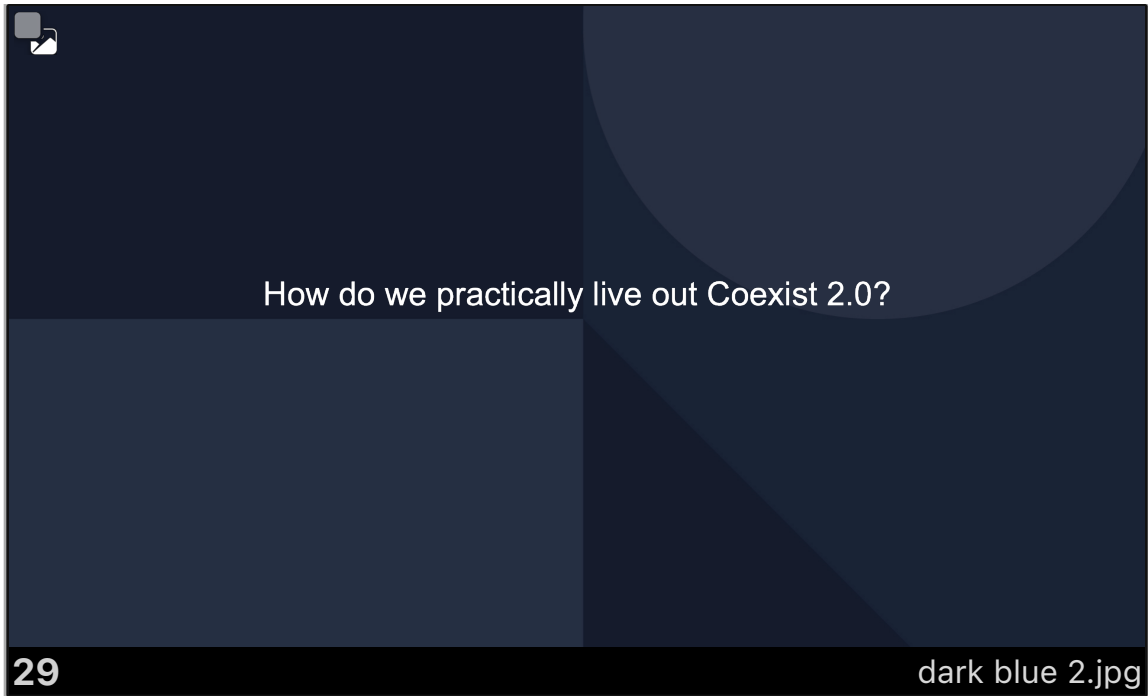
Don't be shocked that your friends think Jesus' last words should be their first priority – particularly around Easter, the day when they believe he came back from the dead. Their sharing with you means they care enough to get uncomfortable.

Trust that it comes from a good place and take a moment to hear them out.



The Jesus Way and Coexist 2.0

1. That every person has value as created in God's image, and we respect people, meaning we don't coerce or oppress people to faith.
2. That we are not all worshiping the same God or gods, nor are we pursuing the same goals in many cases.
3. That we are not offended by our mutual desire to proselytize (or, to evangelize in our case) one another.
4. A Christian view of coexistence believes we need to be willing to live together in our neighborhoods and communities with people of those different beliefs.





Core beliefs to help guide us:

Belief 1: We maintain a clear commitment to God's Word.

Belief 2: We hold to the centrality of the cross in our lives.

31

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Belief 3: Resulting from repentance, faith, and regeneration, we believe and we have to explain that we are as evangelical conversionary Protestants.

32

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Belief 4: We are called to practice social engagement without compromise.

33

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Practical principles to help us live out our faith:

1. In our multi-faith world we recognize that we are not worshipping the same God or gods.

34

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Practical principles to help us live out our faith:

1. In our multi-faith world we recognize that we are not worshipping the same God or gods.
2. Respect the people of other religions by understanding their sincerely held religious beliefs.

35

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36

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Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you should answer each person.

COLOSSIANS 4:6

37

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Practical principles to help us live out our faith:

1. In our multi-faith world we recognize that we are not worshiping the same God or gods.
2. Respect the people of other religions by understanding their sincerely held religious beliefs.
3. We're not offended by our mutual desire to proselytize one another.
4. Remember that understanding someone's beliefs does not mean accepting those beliefs.

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Practical principles to help us live out our faith:

5. It is an acceptable part of living in a free society to believe that others are wrong.



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6. At the same time, it's also unacceptable to smear leaders, burn books of others they consider holy, or equate the radical fringe of a religion with the heart of that religion.



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6. At the same time, it's also unacceptable to smear leaders, burn books of others they consider holy, or equate the radical fringe of a religion with the heart of that religion.
7. Jesus followers—each of us—can take the positive step of speaking out against people in our own tradition whose actions derail its impact.

41

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We are no longer considering people
merely according to the flesh.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

42

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Recommended Books:

Winfried Corduan. *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions (Revised Edition)*. IVP Academic, 2024.

John Dickson. *A Doubter's Guide to World Religions: A Fair and Friendly Introduction to the History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Big Five*. Zondervan, 2022.

Gerald R. McDermott. *World Religions: An Indispensable Introduction*. Thomas Nelson, 2011.

John Micklethwait and Adrian Woolridge. *God Is Back: How the Global Revival of Faith Is Changing the World*. Penguin, 2009.

