

STAIRS

A HINDU ALONGSIDER PHILOSOPHY

S - SONG & STORY TELLING: Hindus come from an Eastern oral culture (like Jesus), not a Western literate culture. 4/5 people in the world are oral culture, whom resonate more with storytelling, media, art, song, and audio/video forms rather than reading. Evangelism for a Hindu happens best in the context of worship. Song is the main way spirituality has spread across India. throughout history.

- Matthew 13:10-14
- Luke 15:3, 11
- Luke 19:11
- Mark 4:1-3, 33-34
- Luke 18:1, 9
- Acts 7:1-53

T - TEACHABILITY: Eastern Indian and Western American culture couldn't be more opposite, so we never stop learning. Jesus spent 30 years learning and maturing before starting 3 years of work to the lost sheep of Israel. After the Damascus road encounter, Paul spent 14-15 years preparing for his work among Gentiles before his 3 journeys which lasted only 10-12 years.

- Luke 2:46-52
- Acts 17:11-12
- Galatians 1:15-18
- Luke 6:40
- Acts 17:17-34
- Colossians 4:5-6

A - ANUBHAV (EXPERIENCE): Western cultures define truth by information and knowledge. Eastern cultures define truth by experience, emotion, and relationship. We will struggle to convince a Hindu to follow Jesus with apologetic tools and rational/logical illustrations. We are to be facilitators of Jesus experiences, helping our Hindu friends experience the love, power, and peace of Jesus.

- Matthew 14: 25-36
 - Mark 5:11-20
 - Acts 2:43
 - Matthew 15:29-31
 - Luke 7:14-17
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- (Matthew 8:16, 27; Matthew 9:33; Mark 7:36-37; John 7:30-31; Acts 4:29-30; Acts 5:12; Acts 8:6,13; Acts 14:3; Romans 15:17-19; 1 Corinthians 4:18-20; 2 Corinthians 12:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

I - INCARNATIONAL: The clear example throughout the Bible is that the messenger (believer) is supposed to adapt (become uncomfortable) so that the receiver (Hindu friends) can remain in their family/community/culture while following Jesus. As Jesus and Paul become Jews to the Jews, Greeks to the Greeks, and all things to all peoples, we should become Hindus to the Hindus so they don't have to leave their family nor change their culture to follow Jesus. Incarnation is arguably the model for ministry of God and Jesus in both the Old & New Testaments.

- Luke 10:1, 5-7
- John 4:9-26
- Acts 17:24-31
- John 1:14 (Phil 2:5-8)
- Acts 15:7-12, 19-21
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

R - RELATIONSHIP: India is a highly collectivistic/communal society where relationships are so important. This is very different from our Western individualistic/independent society. We should learn how to build relationships in an Eastern way. An authentic covenantal relationship with our Hindu friends will have a bigger impact on them following Jesus than our ability to convince them with apologetics, Bible studies, and illustrations. Family is the most important relationship within Hindu society. Family should be prioritized, understood, and honored. We see Jesus building relationships through blessing/serving, through experiencing hospitality, and celebrating cultural festivals.

- Matthew 12:9-21
- Mark 8:1-3
- Luke 19:5-10
- Matthew 9:35-36
- Luke 15:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 1:12-14

S - SIMPLE (REPRODUCIBLE): Our heart is for our Hindu friends to remain a light in the darkness and to not be extracted from their family and community. Everything we do with our Hindu friends should be simple and reproducible for them (not us), so that they can do it with their friends and family members, both here in the US and even back in India.

- Matthew 4:19
- John 20:21-22
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- John 13:12-17, 14:12-21
- 1 Corinthians 4:16-17
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-9