



# SESSION 20 Bhuddism

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## FOUNDED, LOCATION

Founded by Gautama Siddhartha, (563–483 BC), also known as Buddha (“Enlightened One”).  
Founded in modern-day Nepal and India as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Hinduism.  
Main types: Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana.



Gautama Siddhartha starving himself in pursuit of enlightenment.

## KEY WRITINGS

*The Mahavastu* (“Great Story”) a collection covering the Buddha’s life story.  
*The Jataka Tales*, 550 stories of the former lives of the Buddha.  
*The Tripitaka* (“Three Baskets”)  
*The Tantras*, as recorded in Tibetan Buddhism.



Buddhist monks going to temple in Laos

## BASIC BELIEFS

### WHO IS GOD?

The Buddha himself did not believe in the existence of God.  
Others speak of the Buddha as a universal \_\_\_\_\_ or as a god.

### WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus Christ is not part of the historic Buddhist worldview.  
Buddhists in the West today generally view Jesus as an \_\_\_\_\_, while Buddhists in Asia believe Jesus is an avatar or a bodhisattva, but not God.



Statue of a bodhisattva in Japan

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.  
Buddhists do believe in spirits, and some practice \_\_\_\_\_ and invite spirit possession.  
There is also a dark yoga called \_\_\_\_\_.



Buddhist Wheel of Life fresco

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

People do not have their own individual souls or spirits.  
However, one’s desires and feelings may be reincarnated into \_\_\_\_\_ after death.

## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

Some Buddhist groups talk about an “eternal Buddha” (life-force).  
Through the “Doctrine of Assimilation” the belief systems of other religions are blended into their form of Buddhism.

**ANSWERS:**

Reformed, Enlightened Consciousness, Enlightened Teacher,  
Deity Yoga, Tantra, Another Person