



# SESSION 21 Soka Gakkai

Zoom Meeting ID: 436 198 7805

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## FOUNDED, LOCATION

Founded by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871–1944) and Josei Toda (1900–1958) in 1930 in Japan. Based on 13th-century Nichiren Buddhism.



Tsunesaburo Makiguchi



Josei Toda

## KEY WRITINGS

*The Lotus Sutra* and  
*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*  
Writings of Daisaku Ikeda

## BASIC BELIEFS—Japanese Version of Buddhism

### WHO IS GOD?

There is no god in Soka Gakkai.  
Followers hold to a monistic worldview, believing that there is no separation between creator and creature.  
Followers believe they are protected by Buddhist, Hindu, and Shinto gods that they regard as \_\_\_\_\_.



Nichiren Daishonin

### WHO IS JESUS? WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jesus Christ nor the Holy Spirit are not part of this belief.

### HOW TO BE SAVED

Enlightenment, prosperity, and healing come from chanting *nam-myoho-renge-kyo*, a mantra (phrase) expressing devotion to the law of karma.  
Fulfilling worldly desires brings \_\_\_\_\_, which can be achieved in one lifetime.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

Repeated reincarnation until one awakens to one's Buddha nature, then enters \_\_\_\_\_ (escaping the cycle of rebirth).  
Heaven and Hell are two of ten states of existence along with Hunger, Anger, Humanity, Learning, Realization, Animality, Buddhahood, and Bodhisattva.  
After death, one enters a suspended state called *Ku*.

### OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

Worship of a sacred scroll called the Gohonzon.  
Soka University is SGI's main educational institution in the United States.



Gohonzon

### ANSWERS:

Spiritual Forces, Enlightenment, Nirvana