



# Can Christians Learn from Other Religions?

In his forthcoming book *Did Jesus really exist? and 51 other questions* **Nikolaas Sintobin SJ** explores dealing with the common ground of all faiths.

In the Gospel, Jesus says of himself, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6). Jesus does not say a way, a truth or a life. This is no coincidence. Christians



the twentieth century there was a radical turnaround. At that time, the Catholic Church explicitly called for respect, dialogue and cooperation with the other

believe that Jesus teaches people fully and definitively who God is. That's why Christians consider him unique, incomparable to anyone or anything. This does not mean that Christians believe that non-Christian religions are completely wrong in all respects.

As early as the second century of our era, there were Christian scholars who believed that there were valuable, albeit incomplete, access routes to God in other religions as well. They called them 'seeds of the Word'.

In the centuries that followed, this openness was considerably overshadowed. In the second half of

religions. As far as Islam and even more so Judaism are concerned, it was emphasised that there is a great deal in common, even if there are major differences.

It is therefore safe to say that Christians can indeed learn from the insights of other religions. This applies in particular to the way in which others experience their faith. It is sometimes said, for example, that Christians can learn from the powerful hope of the Jews and from the fervour of the faith of Muslims. Jews and Muslims, in turn, could learn from Jesus how to love more inclusively.

- Are you positive about or suspicious of other religions?
- Have you ever learned anything from other religions that has enriched your own faith? 