



**Memory Verse:** John 14:6- Jesus told him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**”

**The BIG Picture:** In secular culture today it is popular to be tolerant. People advocate a tolerance that suggests all religions are equally valid. It is suggested by many that it is no different if one worships Allah, Buddah, Hara Krishna, or Jesus Christ. However, Jesus never presented Himself as only one of many options. Today the goal of our lesson is to be able to recognize a cult, it is not meant to degrade any particular group of people or a religion. Only to help you be able to recognize when people or belief systems contain major deviations from the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Activity:** Divide the youth into two teams. Explain that you are going to scan through different radio stations I will play 2-5 seconds of sound from the station and the first team to guess correctly what station it is will receive 100 points, we'll play 10-12 rounds of the game the team that gets the most points wins **HOT CHOCOLATE!**

**FOCUS:** We can determine a radio station or its' format in just a few seconds, because our ears and minds are trained to recognize the various styles and we are quick to stop scanning when we find the style we like best. Too bad all people don't have the same ability when it comes to recognizing info that doesn't line up with biblical truth, and the teachings of Christ. Sometimes we are able to recognize the lies and sometimes we aren't. God, through His Son Jesus, wants us to know Him and His teachings so well that we are able to pick out the truth from the lies quickly before they become a part of our personal belief system.

**Make it personal:** Create four teams. Assign each team one of the following passages:



1. 2 Corinthians 11:1-6
2. 1 Timothy 1:3-7
3. 2 Timothy 4:3-5
4. 2 Peter 2:1-3

Each team will read their scripture verses and then plan a way to creatively present them to the rest of the group. You may act them out, do a drawing or create symbols, write a song, etc. You will have 15 minutes to come up with the most creative presentation.

### **Bring it Back Together [Discuss]:**

1. What is going on in 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 verses?
2. In 1 Timothy 1:3-7 what were some of the problems plaguing the church?
3. How do you think Timothy felt being left in charge of a situation like that?
4. In 2 Timothy 4:3-5 what does it tell us about some people beliefs?
5. What is our challenge when we hear false teachers and information?
6. In 2 Peter 2:1-3 what does Peter say about false teachers?
7. Why do people follow false teachers and become involved in cults and other false teaching doctrines?

**Life Application:** Whether you are looking at a group such as the Hara Krishna, Scientology, Wicca, or New Age ask yourselves these questions:

1. What is the cult or religion's source of authority?
2. Who or what do they consider God?
3. Who is Jesus to them?
4. Who is the Holy Spirit or do they acknowledge the Holy Spirit?
5. What happens according to this belief system after death?
6. How does a person get into heaven based on their beliefs?



The key question is how do these beliefs differ and/or compare with biblical Christianity? How does this compare to the Bible?

**Make it Personal:** Think about if I asked you to write your beliefs out on a sheet of paper what would you write? Can you provide scriptural references to support your beliefs? Right now is the time that you as young adults will form the belief systems that will carry you through life, it is okay to question your beliefs and to dig deeper into the Bible to find out why you believe the things you do.

**Close in prayer:** Ask God to help the youth continue to evaluate their belief system this week. Pray students will begin to recognize any deception or false information they are receiving from others.