

TALK IT OVER

KARMA

DIG DEEPER

Wherever you go today, it's common to hear people mention karma. People talk about different "energies" people emit (*So and so has good energy*). But where does the word karma come from, and what does it mean? The word karma, comes from Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language of more than 3,500 years, and means "an act." In the Vedic religion (700-1,000 BC), karma meant "a ritual" or "sacrificial action."

Today, Karma is a word prevalent in Hinduism and Buddhism – *it is the thought that the sum of a person's actions in this life and in previous states of existence, decide the destiny of future existences*. Then we have the popular, watered-down definition - *the idea that a person's actions will return to them at some point in the future through the forces of the universe*. But what does the Bible say? Read **Hebrews 9:27**.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How is karma different from what the Bible teaches? In what way is it similar?
2. What changes are you committed to make in the way you treat others, to enjoy life more?
3. Why do you think that, "*doing to others what you would like them to do to you*," is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets?

"And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,"
- Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)

SIMPLICITY

Although Karma does not exist in the Bible, in it, we do find principles that resemble the popular definition. God is clear that man only lives once, and then we will be judged. However, the Bible does warn us of the way we live, for our good. For example:

Proverbs 26:27 warns us not to set traps for others, because we will end up falling into them. **Galatians 6:7** teaches us that whatever we sow, we will also reap (*sow love, real love; sow hate, reap hate*). **Matthew 7:12** summarizes everything the law and the prophets teach: "*Do to others whatever you want them to do to you*." Pretty good verse to live by!

Pray and challenge the group to treat others as they wish to be treated.

Class # 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT STEPS COURSE
LIFEGROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

February 7 (9am via Zoom or Live)
February 21 (10am – 1pm)