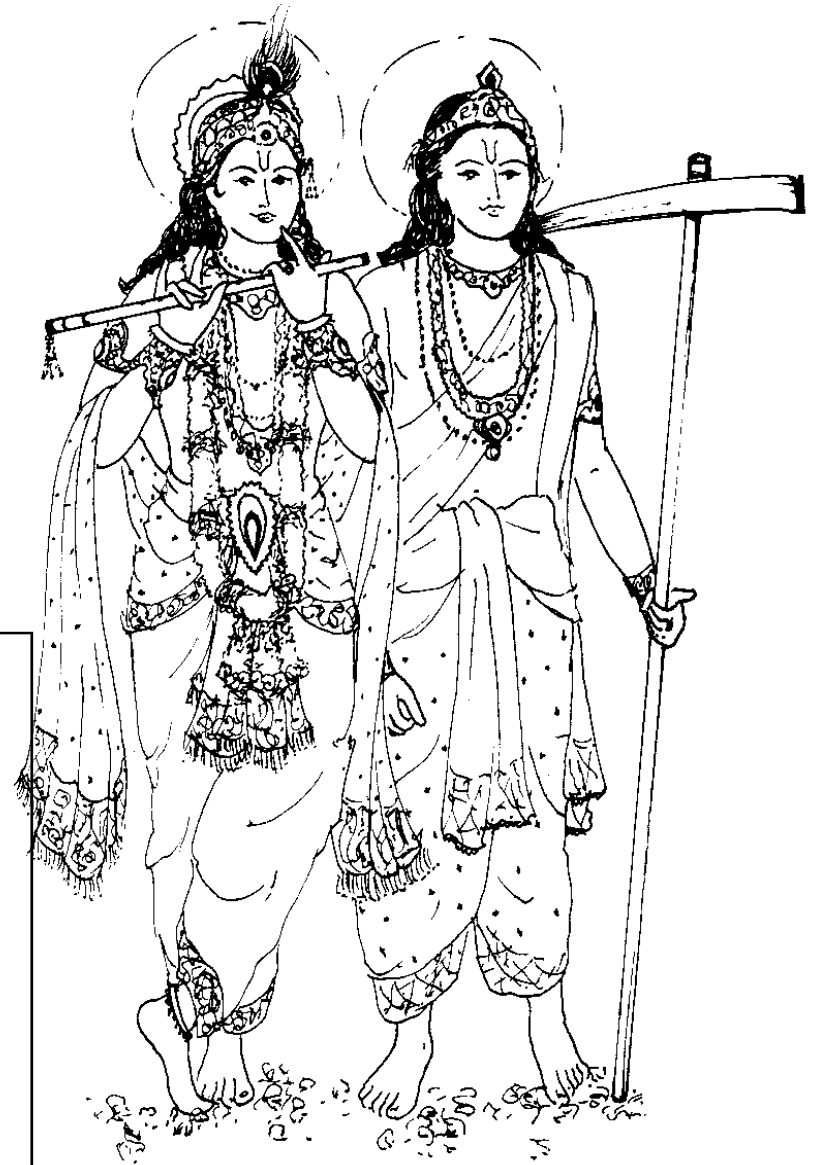


	Krishna	Christ
Similarities		
Differences		

Lesson 14 Balram, Krishna & Radha



NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 ID: _____ PERIOD: _____

KRISHNA & BALRAM

1. ***Vishnu is always accompanied*** by the serpent ***Adishesh*** (on whose coil he rests) when he decides to take an ***avtar*** in the world. In the ***Treta Yug***, ***Adishesh*** came as the ***younger brother Lakshman*** when Vishnu came as Ram to set right the standards of duty for society.

2. Ram promised Lakshman that in the ***Dwaper Yug*** he shall be the ***younger brother - Krishna*** and ***Adishesh*** will be known as ***Balram***, the older brother- ***the man with the plough***.

3. It stands to reason to have Balram with the plough to come and change the way of life of the people of this earth where humanity had multiplied and food came naturally from the forest, was running out. Someone had to find out ways and means to grow food by working at it.

4. ***Balram was born to teach the people how to dig the earth and put in seeds and produce food in good quantity***, and grow it where they wanted it thus making the settlements secure.

5. ***Balram*** although ***holds the plough*** and is till today acknowledged as the ***eighth avatar***, yet he is not much talked of nor the use of the plough stressed. His ***younger brother Krishna*** has slowly seized his position and is more or less acknowledged as the avatar.

6. Krishna is not regarded as just a part of Vishnu but ***Vishnu in full form*** with all the ***sixteen Kalas*** attributed to god. In no other avatar does Vishnu come in full form, therefore, Krishna is not counted as an avatar but the ***coming of god himself***.

7. ***Ram had fourteen Kalas*** but ***Krishna had sixteen***, the extra two were ***trickery*** and ***corruption*** which are also an essential part of the almighty.

36. When his advice was not heeded by the ***Kaurays*** — with only his advice as his weapon he taught ***Arjun*** the duty of a ***Kshatriya***, telling him the true nature of life and death as ***Arjun*** refused to fight his own blood relations and his elders.

37. He hung his head in shame in the battlefield of ***Kurukshetra*** where later the great battle of ***Mahabharat*** was fought to put down evil and bring back the rule of righteousness at the bidding of Krishna.

38. This ***sermon to Arjun*** is the ***Bhagwat Gita***, the crown jewel of all Hindu scriptures and is revered as the highest thought and philosophy of religion.

Review Questions:

Answer the following questions in your notebook.

1. What was the reason for switching the hierarchy of their relationship between Vishnu and Adishesh in their avatars?
2. Why is Krishna called the “coming of the god himself”?
3. What was the purpose / contribution of Krishna as an Avatar?
4. What strategy did Kan take to make sure that Krishna won't be able to destroy him?
5. How do you explain paragraphs 25, 26 & 27 when Balram and Krishna were gods?
6. Is it ethical (wrong) to fall in love with another man's wife (married woman)? Explain paragraph 30.
7. In what ways is the story of Krishna similar and yet different when compared to Christ?

29. As the brothers grew up all the young women of the town would run up to where Krishna was playing the flute — leaving their chores unfinished and dance with the cowherds, thereby getting scolded by their mothers and mothers-in-law.

30. Krishna developed a very deep attachment to a young **married woman Radha** who **became the true love of his life** and a deep bond between them, which is till today sung in various songs. She became a part of his soul and has remained the one and only.

31. Although he married several times later on and never did meet Radha after their youthful romance at **Gokul-Brindaban** and **Barsana**.

32. The young people played on the banks of the river and lived a life of abandon and happiness when Krishna was called to Mathura by Kans and fought **an elephant and two wrestlers to show his power** to the king and the people.

33. He soon killed Kans and got his grandfather's brother **Ugarsen** out of prison and made him the king. He himself became the King of **Dwarka** and was acknowledged as the greatest of men of all times.

34. The great **Mahabharat** was fought between his cousins, the five sons of Krishna's father's sister **Kunti** and her husband — **Pandu** and their 100 cousins — the sons of **Dhritrashtra**. The story of the Great War between the **Kaurays and Pandus** is the second great **Epic** of India known as the **Mahabharat**.

35. It is the tale of good winning over evil in the end where Krishna played a major role in advising both the parties to end the war — but sided with his cousins, the five **Pandus**.

8. Krishna was born as the **absolute image of Vishnu with four hands** holding the four symbols but soon he became an ordinary baby thereby establishing himself as **god incarnate**. He had **come to kill his maternal uncle Kans who had wrought destruction and evil into the kingdom which he ruled**.

9. **Kans** was a very powerful king and had imprisoned his own father **Ugarsen** and seized the throne. He was immensely disliked and everyone prayed for deliverance from him.

10. Hence **Vishnu** who had in some previous birth promised **Deviki** that he will be born as her son when the time came to spread light in the world, which would be in sore need of it.

11. He came to Deviki — a **cousin sister of Kans** — and her **husband Vasudev** to rid the world of a vicious king and to give the message of the **Bhagwat Gita** to the people who were to soon face the fourth and worst quarter of time **Kal Yug**.

12. The lesson of the Gita became an anchor for the people of this earth. No one can change the coming of the Yugs at their appointed time and the fourth quarter with very little good left in people, would require something for people to cling to for salvation.

13. Kans was told by the seer that his **cousin sister Deviki** would be the one whose **eighth** child would destroy him. **Narad Muni** fanned the fire by showing Kans a **eight-leafed lotus** and told Kans that in a situation like this no one was sure which was the eighth child.

14. Narad wanted Deviki to quickly have the eighth child and encouraged ***Kans to kill every child of hers***, so that she did not waste time nursing one child after another and thus delaying the process of an early birth of the eighth child.

15. So it was that Kans imprisoned his cousin and her husband in his capital ***Mathura*** and ***killed each child as soon as it was born***. But the ***seventh*** child was to be ***Adishesh*** in the form of ***Balram*** and had to be saved.

16. Krishna asked a dweller of heaven named ***Jog Maya*** to come down to earth and remove the child from the womb of Deviki and take it to ***Gokul*** where one of the ***seven wives of Vasudev*** named ***Rohini*** was left in the care of ***Nand***, a ***cowherd leader*** of that place and a ***great friend of Vasudev***.

17. Jog Maya was asked to put the baby in the womb of Rohini (first fetus implant). Vishnu made sure that everyone would go to sleep at the time this was being done. So it was that ***Balram*** was ***born to Rohini*** although ***conceived by Deviki***.

18. People were puzzled when it was discovered that Deviki was no more pregnant. Jog Maya was also asked to be born to ***Yashoda***, the wife of ***Nand***, and was to be exchanged with Krishna and it was she who flew out of the hands of Kans announcing the birth of his destroyer elsewhere.

19. Krishna had told her that she would then be worshipped as ***Durga***, ***Devyani***, ***Ishani*** and in all the other names of the goddess in various parts of the sub-continent (South Asia).

20. It happened so that when Krishna was born on a dark night, everyone guarding the prison went to sleep and the door opened by themselves.

21. Vasudev took the baby across the river ***Yamuna*** to Gokul to the house of Nand and exchanged the baby Krishna with the daughter of his friend.

22. Next day Kans heard of the baby's birth and came to kill it but Jog Maya flew into the sky as a streak of lightning and in a loud voice told Kans that his destroyer had been born and was safe on this earth.

23. Kans guessed that somehow the child at Nand's house was Deviki's son, but the people there acknowledged him as Nand and Yashodas' son.

24. Kans tried his best to get him killed by sending few ***demons***, but each time Krishna killed the demons, without letting anyone know how it all happened and everyone was puzzled to find huge demons lying dead in their town.

25. Krishna and Balram together played ***havoc*** amongst the local people by their ***pranks*** in collusion with all the little cowherds.

26. ***Krishna played the flute so very well*** that the young women would leave off their work and run to the banks of the river Yamuna where he would be grazing his cows and playing his flute.

27. As very young boys they would ***steal fresh butter*** from the churning pot of homes and when confronted deny having taken it!

28. When ***Yashoda Maiyya*** asked him to open his mouth she would see the whole world in it and she would suddenly become conscious of the true identity of her son, but would soon forget it as was ordained by Krishna.