Contents

List of illustrations vi
Contributors vii
The SPCK International Study Guides ix
Acknowledgements xi
The birthplaces of major religions xii
A timeline of major religions xiii

Introduction 1
Santanu K. Patro

1 Definitions, approaches and methodologies in the study of religions 11
Santanu K. Patro

2 Primal religious thought and practice 19
Gillian Mary Bediako

3 Hindu thought and practice 41
Prabhakar Bhattacharyya

4 Buddhist thought and practice 62
Shanthikumar Hettiarachchi

5 Jaina thought and practice 79
Priyadarshana Jain

6 Jewish thought and practice 90
Ed Kessler

7 Christian thought and practice 117
Roger Bowen

8 Muslim thought and practice 137
Haifaa Jawad

9 Sikh thought and practice 158
Shashi Bala

Conclusion 170
Santanu K. Patro

Index 177