

# Engaging with Islam

## THE BASIC BELIEFS OF ISLAM - SESSION 4

### PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

Q1. What are the basic beliefs of Christianity?

The six basic beliefs of Islam are:

- 1) Belief in one God whose name is Allah.
- 2) Belief in the angels, genies and Satan.
- 3) Belief in God's revealed books: the Torah, Prophets, Psalms, Gospel and Qur'an.
- 4) Belief in the prophets and messengers of God.
- 5) Belief in the Day of Judgment.
- 6) Belief in divine predestination.

Q2. From this list, in what ways does Islam seem similar to Christianity?

### The God of Islam - Allah

The Biblical prophets spoke in the name of Yahweh but Muhammad spoke in a different name, the name Allah. Here are some descriptions of Allah from the Qur'an.

God. There is no god but Him, the Living, the Eternal. Neither slumber nor sleep seizes Him. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. Who is there that intercedes with Him, save by His permission? He knows what lies before them and what is after them, while they comprehend none of his knowledge apart from what he wills. His Throne extends over the heavens and earth, and he is not tired by preserving them. He is the Exalted and the Mighty. (Qur'an 2:255, Jones)

The creator of the heavens and earth. He has appointed for you, from yourselves, pairs, and also pairs from livestock, in which He gives your increase. There is nothing like him. ... (Qur'an 42:11, Jones)

Had God wished to take to Himself a son, He could have chosen whom He pleased out of those whom He creates: but Glory be to Him! (He is above such things.) He is God, the One, the Irresistible. (Qur'an 39:4, Yusuf Ali)

Q3. What is similar or different between the Muslim and Christian concept of God?

## Spirits in the Life of a Believer

Abu Huraira reported: The Apostle of Allah (Muhammad, may peace be upon him) said. When any one of you awakes up from sleep and performs ablution, he must clean his nose three times, for the devil spends the night in the interior of his nose. (*Sahih Muslim*: bk. 2, no. 462)

The son of Abu Said al-Khudri reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: When one of you yawns, he should keep his mouth shut with the help of his hand, for it is the devil that enters therein. (*Sahih Muslim*: bk. 42, no. 7130)

Narrated Saud: I heard Allah's Apostle saying, "If Somebody takes seven 'Ajwa dates in the morning, neither magic nor poison will hurt him that day." (*Sahih Bukhari*: vol. 7, bk. 71, no. 664)

'A'isha reported: Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) commanded me that I should make use of incantation for curing the influence of an evil eye. (*Sahih Muslim*: bk. 26, no. 5447)

Narrated Aisha: Magic was worked on the Prophet (Muhammad) so that he began to imagine that he was doing a thing which he was not actually doing. ... (*Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 4, bk. 54, no. 490)

Q4. What is similar or different about how Christians and Muslims approach the spirit world?

## The Books of God

We (Muslims) believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us (Muslims, i.e. the Qur'an) and what was revealed to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them. (Qur'an 3:84, 2:136, 285, 4:136, Yusuf Ali)

Q5. How are Muslims commanded to treat the books of the prophets?

Q6. How do you honour a prophet?

**PART 2: Video Presentation** (23 minutes) <https://youtu.be/YoVbVfoTDUI>



	ISLAM	CHRISTIAN RESPONSE
One God		
Angels, Jinn & Satan		

	ISLAM	CHRISTIAN RESPONSE
God's Revealed Books		
The Prophets of God		
The Day of Judgment		

**PART 3: Discussion**

Q7. Do you have any comments about the video?

Q8. Why do Christians and Muslims believe different things?

Q9. How would you respond to a Muslims saying: "The Qur'an says the Bible is corrupt."

Q10. Our Scriptures record Lot's drunken incest (Genesis 19:30-38) and David's adultery (2 Samuel 11). What would you say to a Muslim who said: "These stories dishonour the prophets " and "The Bible must be corrupt to have such stories."

Q11. How would you respond to a Muslim saying: "I honour Jesus but do not have to read the Gospel."

**Answers**

Q3. We both believe in one creator all-powerful God but the Qur'an denies any expression of the Fatherhood or Son of God, does not teach the image of God, and does not know of the name Yahweh. Therefore we have a different understanding of the one God.

Q4. Jesus is lord over all spiritual forces but Muhammad was the victim of magic. Also see Numbers 23:23 and Roman 8:38-39.

Q5. Muslims are to treat all of the books of scripture as equal.

Q6. The most important way to honour a prophet is to listen to them.

Q8. Christians and Muslims believe different things because Christians read all the prophets and what they believe comes from reading all the prophets, but Muslims only listen to one man, Muhammad, and what he says to believe about the prophets.

Q9. The Qur'an actually says to treat all the Holy Books the same.

Q10. Christians and Muslims not only have a different concept of God but also of the prophets. In Islam the prophets are venerated and this stops Muslims accepting the stories of their failure. These stories actually show that the Bible has not been changed because Christians would not make these

types of changes to the prophets they admire. Muslims are also in denial about Muhammad's behaviour. He coveted and took his adopted son's wife (Qur'an 33:37 & Session 8), and accepted the gods of Mecca for a time (The Satanic Verses).

Q11. To honour Jesus you must listen to him. It is like saying I honour Muhammad but will not read the Qur'an. In this regard Islam is the same as the Baha'i religion: one man tells them what to believe about everyone else.

#### **PART 4: Activities**

1. Have you done the following? Circle an answer.

- Smile at a Muslim. Greet the Muslims you know. Yes/No.
- Pray at home and at church for the Islamic world and the Muslims you know, and for Christians who are suffering under Islam. Yes/No.
- Have you done your group activities? Yes/No.

2. Questions for Muslims

- Ask if they know what books are in the Bible. Yes/No.
- Ask if they believe in the Day of Judgement? If they do ask if they have done enough good deeds?