

Engaging with Islam

SPEAKING WITH MUSLIMS - SESSION 7

PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

All Muslims are Different

It is important to remember that Muslims do not agree about Islam or what it means to be a Muslim. Therefore, if someone tells you they are a Muslim do not assume you know who they are or what they believe; you need to ask.

Q1. How would it be different speaking with these types of Muslims?

- A Muslim not really interested in religion who does not want to be known as a Muslim.
- A Muslim mother of six children left at home with no help from her husband.
- A Muslim woman who knows little about Islam and is forced to wear the niqab (the veil that only leaves the eyes visible.)
- A Muslim man who knows absolutely nothing about Islam or Christianity.
- A Muslim man who regularly attends church with his Christian wife and believes that all religions are same.
- A keen Muslim who attends mosque and is prepared to talk to Christians.
- A convert to Islam.
- A Muslim who sees what Islam does in the world and hates it.

Be Careful

The Qur'an talks a lot about Christianity and why it is wrong. This means many Muslims are prepared to talk to Christians, and if a Christian is not ready for this he or she may find themselves confronted with issues they have not considered before. It is therefore important for Christians to talk with other Christians about the Muslims they are meeting with.

In particular Christian women need to be cautious when talking to Muslim men. Muslim men are allowed to marry Christian women (Qur'an 5:5) and have multiple wives. Some Muslim men may target Christian women to marry because they are available and godly. This needs to be remembered when Christian women go out evangelising or are talking to Muslim men on the internet.

Sharing the Gospel with a Muslim

There are many ways of sharing the Gospel with Muslims. These include telling stories that illustrate Gospel truths, sharing your testimony, sharing some music or a verse of scripture, exposing Islam, using the Qur'an, inviting them to read the Bible or do a Bible course. In the Engaging with Islam course our focus will be on how we read the Bible with Muslims.

Reading the Bible with a Muslim

1. Explain what the Bible is. Go to the table of contents and show that it is not one book but many books from many prophets. Christians believe and read all the prophets!
2. Do not say the word *Bible* but say *Torah, Prophets, Psalms, and Gospel* instead.

3. Read a Gospel together.
4. Answer questions by showing the Gospel is the fulfilment of the message of the prophets.

Look at the evangelistic leaflets at <http://engagingwithislam.org/evangelistic-resources/>



BIBLE				QUR'AN
Old Testament		New Testament		Muhammad
Torah	Prophets	Psalms	Gospel	
<----- c. 1500 years ----->				23 years
Humanity is created in the image of God.				No
The Fatherhood & Son of God				No
God dwells with his people.				No
Priesthood & Sacrifice of Atonement for Sin				No
Covenants of Noah, Abraham, Moses, & David				No
One Story of Redemption				No

Q2. As part of his evangelism to the Athenians (Acts 17:24-28) the Apostle Paul quoted the Cretan poet, Epimenides, and the Cilician poet, Aratus. Since the Qur'an has many Biblical characters and events, it is possible to find useful verses in it for evangelism. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the Qur'an for evangelism?

Q3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

- In what ways are Christians free and not free to be like Muslims to win Muslims?
- Should Christians say “the Prophet Muhammad” when they talk to Muslims?

Leading a Muslim to Christ

How does a Muslim leave Islam? For some this may be a rapid change, others may drift into it, and for others their first step is to say they are not Muslim. Your role is to support them, pray for them, and keep giving them opportunities to hear the Gospel.

What does a Muslim need to pray to become a Christian? Like everyone else Muslims need to acknowledge their sin, the lordship of Christ, and their dependence upon his salvation, but there may be extra prayers a Muslim needs to pray.

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. ... (Acts 19:18-19, NIV)

Islam's hostility to non-Muslims is something that should be renounced publicly by a Muslim who becomes a Christian. There needs to be a clean break from Jihad and Dhimmitude thinking, and this is done through prayer. Mark Durie's book, *Release for the Captives*, is an excellent book that explains this prayer and process.

PART 2: Video Presentation (18 minutes) <https://youtu.be/EZfRvuG6V3k>

What are Muslims like?



Get to know Muslims as you would anyone else.

- Talk with them. Listen to them.
- Show hospitality.
- What is the country like?
- Family, Raising children, festivals, family events.
- Food, music.
- World affairs.
- Ask what Islam and Muhammad mean to them. What type of Muslim they are?
- Ask what they like and dislike about Australian Culture and what they like and dislike about Muslim culture?

Just be respectful.

Muslims learn about Christianity.



- <http://answering-islam.org>

Reading the Gospel According to Matthew with a Muslim.	
First explain look at the table of contents and show that the Bible contains the Torah, books of the Prophets, Psalms and the books of the Gospel. Do not use the word Bible. Invite them to read a few chapters of Matthew or another part of scripture. Have a map ready and show the locations. Do not rush. Listen to their comments.	
	Discussion Ideas
The History of Jesus 1:1-17	Abraham and David are in the Qur'an. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 2 Samuel 7:11-17 and talk about God's covenants are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus. Show the locations on a map.
Childhood of Jesus 1:18-2:23	The virgin birth is in the Qur'an. What do they think of Jesus' names? Who is Jesus' father?
John the Baptist 3:1-17	John is in the Qur'an. Ask what was John's message? The prophets point to Jesus.
Sermon on the Mount 5-7	This shows the standard that God requires and is quite a surprise to Muslims.
Power of Jesus 8-9	The Qur'an says that Jesus performed signs but doesn't record many. Let them read it for themselves. What authority does Jesus have?
Family 10-12:50	Do you honour your family more than God?
Parables 13-14	What do these parables teach about how God will gather his people?
Clean and Unclean 15	The world of a Muslim is all about external cleanness. They can only eat halal food and must ceremonially wash at least five times a day. Jesus challenges this idea of cleanness and shows that external regulations can never change the cleanness of our heart. Ask, where does evil come from?
Who is Jesus? 16	Who is Jesus? You may need to show the "Son of God" in the Torah, Prophets, Psalms and Gospel.
Forgiveness 17-18	What do we learn about forgiveness?

Marriage 19	This shows God's standard and how Jesus brings us back to God's original plan for creation. Ask what they think of divorce and polygamy.
Jesus in Jerusalem 20-23	Jesus explains the meaning of his death 20:20-28.
The Son of Man 24-25	What place does Jesus have in the future?
The Death and Resurrection of Jesus 26-28	Ask if this scripture is clear that Jesus died and rose again?

Leaflets to give to Muslims - <http://engagingwithislam.org/evangelistic-resources/>



The Word of Life course

Presenting the Gospel to Muslims.

- Don't use the word *Bible*.
- Show that Christians believe all the prophets.
- Show that what Christians believe comes from all the prophets.

PART 3: Discussion

Q4. Do you have any comments about the video?

Q5. What is a helpful way to present our scriptures to Muslims? Why is this the case?

Q6. If a Muslim asked you a question that you could not answer, where could you go for help?

Q7. What should you do if you were threatened or harassed?

Answers

Q2. The advantages of using the Qur'an are that it is meant to be an authority for Muslims and can show we have something in common. The disadvantages are that the Qur'an rejects Christianity and we may encourage the Muslim to obey the Qur'an. To use the Qur'an as a starting point for evangelism requires using the right parts of it. See session 10 and Jesus creating birds from clay and being called the Word of God.

Q3. Christians have the freedom to share in many cultural aspects of Islamic life but we need to be careful as Paul shows in his letters. We should not call Muhammad a prophet because this is assigning him a position we do not accept. We could possibly call him the *Islamic Prophet*, but not a prophet of God.

Q5. Do not use the word *Bible* instead use the names *Torah, Prophets, Psalms and Gospel*. This shows Muslims that Christians believe all the prophets and that all the prophets have one message.

Q6. answering-islam.org

Q7. Tell someone immediately.

PART 4: Activities

1. Give a Muslim an evangelistic leaflet. *What is the Bible?* Is a great leaflet to start with, or during Ramadan give *The Messiah and Ramadan*. Invite to read Matthew and use the outline presented in this session.

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

- Smile at a Muslim. Greet the Muslims you know. Yes/No.
- Have you done your group activities? Yes/No.