

Engaging with Islam

SPEAKING WITH MUSLIMS - SESSION 7

Sessions 7-12 form the second part of the course. In these sessions we will focus on speaking with Muslims and answer common questions. If you have not done so, watch the introductory talk *Christianity and Islam - Where to Start* youtu.be/ft5aQyWetBc
This talk lays the foundation for the course.



PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

All Muslims are Different

Here are examples of different kinds of Muslims you may meet.

- 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 wears head covering because it is her culture.
- 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.

It may surprise you but 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.

Be Careful

The Qur'an talks a lot about Christianity and why it is wrong. This means some Muslims are well prepared to talk to Christians, and if a Christian is not ready for this he or she may find themselves confronted with issues they are not prepared for. 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 (Q. 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 Christian music, a Christian movie, a verse of scripture or a Christian book. All of these are excellent and are encouraged, however, in this course our focus will be on reading the Bible with a Muslim. At this stage we will only consider one point - *where to start*.

Imagine that you are having a coffee with a Muslim friend and you wish to explain the gospel to them. Where is a good place to start? I recommend that you ask them what they know about the Bible? Ask if they know what is *in* it? After listening to them, ask if you can show them the table of contents. This is your first Bible study with a Muslim - the table of contents.

Why? What does the table of contents show? The table of contents shows that the Bible is not one book but many books from many prophets. Point to the Torah (law of Moses), the Psalms of David, the books of Job and Jonah. Ask if they have heard of these prophets and explain to them that Christians believe read all these prophets!

This is an important lesson for Muslims because Muslims take pride in saying *they* believe all the prophets, however, the Qur'an only contains what Muhammad said. The Qur'an is only one man; it is nothing like the Bible. When you show a Muslim the table of contents you show them that Christians are actually the ones who believe the prophets in practice. There is a helpful leaflet you give them called *What is the Bible?* which explains these things. engagingwithislam.org/evangelistic-resources/



Adapting to Islamic Culture

Though I (Paul) am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

Q. 1. From these scriptures we can see that Christians are free to adapt to culture of others for the sake of the gospel. Discuss whether or not Christians are free to adapt to Islamic culture in the following ways:

- Not eating pig meat or drinking alcohol?
- Praying towards Mecca with Muslims?
- Dressing in the same clothes Muslims wear?
- Learning and using Islamic greetings?
- Eating food at a Muslim festival.
- Calling Muhammad “the Prophet Muhammad”?

PART 2: Video Presentation (18 minutes) 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, movie.
- 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.

For answers to common questions go to go to: engagingwithislam.org/answering-common-questions/ and answering-islam.org

Reading the Gospel According to Matthew with a Muslim.	
First show them the table of contents and explain 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? Show that 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?



Presenting the Gospel to Muslims.

- Start with the table of contents.
- Don't use the word *Bible*.
- Show that Christians believe all the prophets.
- Show that what Christians believe comes from all the prophets.

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
Humanity is corrupted by sin.				No
Priesthood & Sacrifice of Atonement for Sin				No
Covenants of Noah, Abraham, Moses, & David				No
One Story of Redemption				No

PART 3: Discussion

- Q2. Do you have any comments about the video?
- Q3. What is a helpful way to present our scriptures to Muslims? Why is this the case?
- Q4. If a Muslim asked you a question that you could not answer, where could you go for help?
- Q5. What should you do if you were threatened or harassed?

Answers

Q3. Start with the table of contents. 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.

Q4. engagingwithislam.org/answering-common-questions/ and answering-islam.org

Q5. Tell someone immediately.

PART 4: Activities

1. Give a Muslim something, maybe some Christian music or a movie or an evangelistic leaflet. *What is the Bible?* is a great leaflet to start with, or during Ramadan give *The Messiah and Ramadan*. Invite them 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.

Appendix 1 - Using the Qur'an in Evangelism

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. 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; we may encourage Muslims to obey the Qur'an; and we have to learn something of the Qur'an. To use the Qur'an as a starting point for evangelism requires using the right parts of it. This can be done. See session 10.

Appendix 2 - Leading a Muslim to Christ

How does a Muslim become a Christian? 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.