

ENGAGING WITH ISLAM - 2023

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engagingwithislam.org/training/

SESSION 2. STARTING A CONVERSATION

Define Islam, the Qur'an,¹ Hadith, Allah, Muhammad, and Muslim.

The goal of this session is to help Christians understand how Islam prepares Muslims for Christianity, and how this provides both a challenge and opportunity for Christians, to give simple steps for evangelism and how to teach Islam in Church.

What verses when. Know where you sit on the historical time line. We learn about each other differently.

A. They [the unbelievers] said, "We killed the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, the messenger of God"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ about this are full of doubts, with no knowledge, but only assumption to follow, for of certainty they killed him not. Rather, God raised him to himself. (Qur'an 4:157-158)

B. They are unbelievers who say, "God is the Third of Three". No god is there but One God. ... The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was just a woman; they both ate food. (Qur'an 5:73-75)

C. It is not fitting for the Merciful (Allah) to take to himself a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth who will not come to the Merciful except as a slave. (Qur'an 19:92-93 and 5:18)

D1. And it was not possible for this Qur'an to be produced by other than Allah, but it is a confirmation of what was before it [the Bible] and a detailed explanation of the Scripture. (Qur'an 10:37)

D2. To you (Muslims) We sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety: so judge between them by what God has revealed. (Qur'an 5:47-48)

E. [Permitted to Muslim men in marriage] are the chaste women of the believers (Muslims) and the chaste women of those what have been given the Scripture before you (Christians and Jews). (Qur'an 5:5)

F. You will certainly find the nearest in friendship to those who believe (to be) those who say: We are Christians ... (Qur'an 5:82, 60:8)

G. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. (Qur'an 5:48)

H. Fight those who believe not in God and the Last Day and do not forbid what God and His Messenger (Muhammad) have forbidden - such men as practise not the religion of truth, being of those who have been given the Book (Christians and Jews) - until they pay the tribute (of surrender) out of hand and have been humbled. The Jews say, 'Ezra is the Son of God'; the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the Son of God.' That is the utterance of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. God assail them! How they are perverted! ... It is He who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that

¹ <https://www.clearquran.com/>

He may uplift it above every religion. (Qur'an 9:29-33)

What about Islam in the Bible? General Matthew 7:15. Abraham's story?

The Result

- Islam prepares Muslims for Christianity in a way that Christianity does not prepare Christians for Islam. We learn about each other differently. Specific verses general. This is the most important cultural aspect to know.
- Muslims are prepared. Compulsory and practice. Online resources. Their governments all promote Islam.
- For Christians, Western media and politicians it is optional and we are generally not prepared. We believe anything. Muslims have 1400 years of practice refuting Christianity and this needs to be taken seriously.
- It is not a priority for Christians to learn about Islam. Islam is almost invisible to some Christians.
- A Muslim friend may teach a Christian about the Trinity, incarnation, Bible, Nicea, etc. The first time a Christian may think deeply about these subjects may be with his Muslim friend as his or her teacher.
- Muslim students and Christian schools.
- It is this teaching that Muslims discuss with you not the five pillars.
- It is often said it is not about winning the argument. Yes and no.
- Some Muslims: They are confident to speak about Christianity with authority. Dismissive. Distain. They may feel entitled to correct Christianity. Christianity's error seems logical and obvious. They think they know Christianity. They may have questions ready to ask you and control the conversation. They can be skilled at casting doubt over Christianity. They may like debating and use cliches. They may give you a leaflet or video
- Muslim leaders expose and exploit that we do not know our doctrine or this history.
- They promote Islam by discrediting Christianity.
- The problem is that we have to teach Islam which is not in the Bible, while Muslims teach Christianity the Qur'an.

Application

They may start a conversation with you or give you a booklet.

Ask: What does Islam teach about Christianity? What have you been taught about Christianity?

What do you teach others about Christianity?

Let them speak. Do not rush. There is no need to correct them at this stage.

Do you believe this? Have you checked it for yourself?

Can I show one thing about Christianity?

- A challenge to the church.
- An opportunity because Muslims are meant to learn about Christianity! See application.
- Other Muslims may be interested in Christianity.
- They think you are asking about Islam. You think you are asking about Christianity. This opens a door.
- Do not need to know about Islam to speak to a Muslim.

SESSION 3. INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL TO A MUSLIM

Last session: Can I show you one thing about Christianity? What? I would like to show you what books are in the Bible. This is a great way to introduce the Gospel..

Introducing the gospel. Acts 17:1-3, 23.

- What Jews believe. What idol worshippers believe. What is it that Muslims believe?

Muslim belief 1. I already believe in Jesus and all the prophets and know their message.

- But righteous is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the prophets. (Qur'an 2:177)
- Torah & Gospel (Qur'an 3:3, 5:68, 53:36) books of the prophets (2:136, 285, 3:84, 4:136), Psalms (4:163, 17:55, 21:105) The scriptures of Moses (53:36).
- Sometimes this can make them open, but normally, I don't need to listen to you and the gospel to believe in Jesus. May want to convert you.

Muslim belief 2. The Bible is corrupt.

- Just saying 'Bible' can start an argument. Suspicious.

What does this mean for how we introduce the gospel to Muslims? It means we have to introduce the gospel in such a way that it shows Muslims that they do not believe all the prophets. And we need to make the Bible intriguing and surprising to them so that they will reconsider what they have been taught about it.

What is the Qur'an?

- Muslims say they believe all the prophets but when you read the Qur'an you do not find any of the books of the prophets in it. It is just Muhammad. Muslims believe Muhammad not the prophets.
- What Muslims mean when they say they believe the prophets.
- One man telling you about the prophets and saying not to read them. Do not read the prophets just listen to Muhammad. Muslims have left the prophets to follow Muhammad.
- Islam is the same as the Bahai religion.

- Do not be deceived. Muslims believe in the prophets in name alone. They believe in one man Muhammad

What is the Bible? Not one book.

- We do not have one man saying only listen to me and do not read the other prophets.
- We read all the prophets.
- You do not believe a prophet if you do not listen to them. Christians are the ones who believe the prophets. We take this for granted.
- How can you show Muslims they do not believe all the prophets? Show the difference between the Bible and Qur'an. They do not know the difference.
- Can I show you one thing. Table of contents. Explain the prophets.

We introduce the gospel by explaining what the Bible is first. We explain what the Bible is before we invite them to read it. Table of contents. Level playing field. Remove the impression that they believe all the prophets. Vaccinate Christians.

- Make interesting. This shows that the message of the Bible has not changed.

Application

1. Bible Study on the table of contents of the Bible.
 - Show the books of the prophets they know: Moses (Mussa), David (Davood), Job (Youb), Jonah (Yanus). Show the books of the prophets they don't know: Isaiah - Malachi.
 - Explain how the Bible and Quran are different. Take your time and really labour this point. This is revolutionary for them so it takes a while, and they must get it. Can you see how they are different? Maybe, but the Bible is corrupted? Changing the subject.
2. Give *What is the Bible?* http://engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/What_is_the_Bible.pdf
3. Invite to read the Gospel According to Matthew.

Muslims: "Islam is the religion of all the prophets."
 Christian: "No, Islam is the religion of Muhammad and what he says about the prophets. If it was the religion of all the prophets you would read them."

Reading the Gospel according to Matthew with a Muslim.

Read the whole Gospel. Here are some discussion ideas for certain parts.

| | |
|---|---|
| Locating Jesus in History 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 | How do we see God protecting Jesus? Ask what they think of Jesus' names? Caution: They may say that the virgin birth does not prove Jesus is God because Adam had no human father either. God is the father of both, but in different ways. However, the virgin birth does not prove that Jesus is God but it is the method God used to take to himself a human nature. |
| John the Baptist 3:1-17 | John is in the Qur'an. Ask what was John's message in 3:1-17? Show how John and all the prophets point to Jesus. Isaiah 53. |
| The temptation of Jesus 4:1-11 | We all sin but Jesus does not. How does the devil tempt Jesus with God's protection? Does Jesus claim God's protection? |
| Sermon on the Mount 5-7 | This shows the standard that God requires and is quite a surprise and challenge to Muslims. It helps Muslims understand the serious of sin. |
| Power of Jesus 8-9 | The Qur'an says that Jesus performed signs but has few details. Let them read it for themselves. What authority does Jesus have? |
| Family 10 | Do you honour your family more than God? |
| Parables 13 | Jesus' parables are a large part of his teaching yet they are not in the Qur'an. 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. |
| Sin and Forgiveness 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 role 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? |

SESSION 4: THE QUR'AN AND EVANGELISM

If they invite you to read the Qur'an then say let's read both books.²

Can Christians refer to the Qur'an?

- For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." (Acts 17:28)
- Will reading the Qur'an cause a young Christian to stumble?
- Your manner is to be humble. Do not pretend to be an expert on the Qur'an. Doesn't the Qur'an say?
- Muhammad retells Bible account which we can use.

Muslims are allowed to read the Bible.

- If you are in doubt about what We send down to you, ask those who recited the Scripture before you. (Qur'an 10:94)³
- Muhammad retells Bible stories which can be useful.

Three ways of using the Qur'an.

1. Reading parallel parts of the Bible and Qur'an together

Parts that agree to show something better.

Define: "We" is one of the way that Allah speaks of himself in the Qur'an.

Jonah

And truly Jonah was among the message bearers. Behold! He fled to the full-laden ship, and then cast lots and was among those rejected. Then the fish swallowed him, for he was blameworthy. And had he not been among those who glorify, he would have tarried in its belly till the Day they are resurrected. So We cast him, sick, upon the barren shore. And We caused a gourd tree to grow over him. Then We sent him unto a hundred thousand or more. And they believed; so We granted them enjoyment for a while. (Qur'an 37:139-148)

Then read the book of the prophet Jonah.

Show that:

- The Bible has the original book of the prophet.
- The Bible has the complete message of the prophet.
- The Qur'an has a few of the details.

² <https://www.clearquran.com/>

³ Also, Qur'an 2:111, 3:93, 21:7.

- If you want to understand the Quran you first need to learn the Bible.

Jesus

And He will teach him the Scripture and wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel. A messenger to the Children of Israel: "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I make for you out of clay the figure of a bird; then I breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave. And I heal the blind and the leprous, and I revive the dead, by Allah's leave. And I inform you concerning what you eat, and what you store in your homes. In that is a sign for you, if you are believers." (Qur'an 3:48-49)

Then Matthew 5-7 and 8-9

Creation: Qur'an 7:54 then read Genesis 1.

Jonah: Qur'an 37:139-148 then read the book of Jonah.

Job: Qur'an 21:83-84, 38:41-44. Then read Job 1-2 and 40-42.

The teaching and miracles of Jesus: Qur'an 3:48-49 then Matthew 5-7 and 8-9 or wherever you want.

The return of Jesus is not in the Qur'an but most Muslims believe it. Raise the subject and read Matthew 24-25.

2. Comparing and contrasting the Bible and Qur'an

Muhammad and Jesus

So know (O Muhammad) that there is no god except Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sin and for believing men and believing women. (Qur'an 47:19)

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. (1 Peter 2:22)

Say, "I am not something new among the messengers, and I do not know what will be done with me or with you. I only follow what is revealed to me. I am only a warner." (Qur'an 46:9)

Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going." (John 8:14)

Paradise: Qur'an 56:1-56 and Revelation 21-22.

- Virgins
- No presence of God.
- No temple
- No worship

Iranian Muslims

Show the positive place Iran/Persia has in the Bible. Esther, Isaiah 45:1-13, Daniel 6, Acts 2.

3. Useful verses in the Qur'an

The Qur'an validates the Bible.

O you who believe [Muslims], believe in God and His messenger [Muhammad] and in the Scripture which He has sent down to His messenger and in the Scripture which He has sent down previously. (Qur'an 4:136)

Do not dispute with the people of the Scripture [Jews and Christians] except with what is better ... [instead] ... Say, "We believe in that which has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to you." (Qur'an 29:46)

Say, "We believe in God and in what was revealed to us [the Qur'an] and in what was revealed to Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob and the tribes, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and in what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them." (Qur'an 2:136)

If you are in doubt about what We send down to you, ask those who recited the Scripture before you. (Qur'an 10:94)

We bestowed on him [Jesus] the *Gospel* in which is a guidance and light - confirming that which [had been revealed] before in the *Torah* - a guidance and an admonition to those who fear God. Let the people of the Gospel judge by what God has sent down in it. (Qur'an 5:46-47)

And they say, "None will enter Paradise except one who is a Jew or a Christian." That is [merely] their wishful thinking, Say, "Produce your proof, if you should be truthful." (Qur'an 2:111)

Does the Qur'an teach that the Jews corrupted the Bible?

Woe to those who write the Scripture with their own hands and then say, "This is from God", so that they may sell it for a paltry price. Woe to them for what their hands have written. Woe to them for what they earn. (Qur'an 2:79)

He who has sent down to you the Scripture set out distinctly ... The Word of your Lord is perfect in truth and justice. There is no one who can change His words. (Qur'an 6:114-115)



Watch this debate. <https://youtu.be/I2xNIsBAiMk>

Jesus creating birds from clay

When your Lord said to the angels, "I shall create mankind from clay. When I have formed him and breathed some of my Spirit into him ... I created (him) with my own hands." (Qur'an 38:71-75)

In exactly the same way the Qur'an says Jesus created life:

I [Jesus] have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will create for you out of clay the likeness of a bird; then I will breathe into it, and it will be a bird, by the permission of God. (Qur'an 3:49)

This story of Jesus creating birds comes from an early Christian fable⁴ about the childhood of Jesus. This original story demonstrated that Jesus was God by showing that he is the creator who gives life. What is surprising is that the Qur'an retells this story. That is, the Qur'an contains a story showing Jesus as the creator.

In the Qur'an, the story now says that Jesus only did this by God's permission; however, this does not remove Jesus' divinity from the story, because 1. creating is a unique attribute that defines God. 2. It

⁴ *The Infancy Gospel of Thomas*

shows that God' can connect and mediate his creative power through a human.

This is not Tawheed. Therefore, an element of incarnation theology remaining in the stories Muhammad used included in the Qur'an. Muhammad has used a story he did not understand.

These ... miraculous powers attributed to Jesus are extraordinary in that they suggest powers usually reserved for God. (Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *The Study Quran*, U.S.A: Harper Collins, 2015, fn. 110, p. 334)

SESSION 5. BIBLE AND QUR'AN

What does the Qur'an say about the Bible?

Say, "We believe in God and in what was revealed to us [the Qur'an] and in what was revealed to Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob and the tribes, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and in what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them." (Qur'an 2:136)

So why do Muslims say the Bible is corrupted?

O you People of the Book! Believe in what We have (now) revealed [the Qur'an], confirming what was (already) with you [the Bible]. (Qur'an 4:47)

Those who follow the messenger [Muhammad], the prophet of his community, whom they will find mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel in their possession. (Qur'an 7:157)

What is the solution to this problem? Muslim leaders blame Christians for the failure of Muhammad's words.

Muhammad said the Qur'an confirms the Bible; it does not. Muhammad said he is foretold in the Bible; he is not. Do not explain this failure by blaming Christians. A prophet is to be held accountable for his words.

So how do we answer when they say the Bible is corrupt?

1. Show what the Qur'an says

2. ½ the argument and then try to imply the rest. When Muslims say the Bible has been changed the other half of the argument is that there is one perfect Quran. Creating the impression that the Qur'an is better.

- The Islamic canon is the Qur'an and Hadith. We will come back to this in a later session.
- You must discuss the Bible and the Qur'an, not the Bible alone. Level playing field. You are not changing the subject because this is what they are claiming.

The Qur'an

http://engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/Preservation_Quran.pdf

Muhammad edited the Qur'an

Narrated Al-Bara: There was revealed: "Not equal are those believers who sit (at home) and those

who strive and fight in the cause of Allah." (Qur'an 4.95) ... and at that time 'Amr bin Um Maktum, the blind man was sitting behind the Prophet. He said, "O Allah's Apostle! What is your order for me (as regards the above verse) as I am a blind man?" So, instead of the above verse, the following verse was revealed: "Not equal are those believers who sit (at home) except those who are disabled and those who strive and fight in the cause of Allah." (Qur'an 4.95) (Sahih al-Bukhari 4990; vol 6, bk 61, no 512)

And when We exchange a verse in the place of another verse - and God knows very well what he is sending down - they (the Meccans) say (to Muhammad), "You are simply inventing this". (Qur'an 16:101)

Was the Qur'an memorized?

We will make you recite, [O Muhammad], and you will not forget, except what Allah should will. (Qur'an 87:6-7, 2:106)

We used to recite a surah which resembled in length and severity to (surah 9) Bara'at. I have, however, forgotten it. (Sahih Muslim 1050; bk 5, no 2286; Sahih al-Bukhari 5037; vol 6, bk 61, no 556)

No autograph

'Umar has come to me and said: "Casualties were heavy among the Qurra' of the Qur'an (i.e. those who knew the Qur'an by heart) on the day of the Battle of Yamama, and I am afraid that more heavy casualties may take place among the Qurra' on other battlefields, whereby a large part of the Qur'an may be lost. Therefore I suggest, you (Abu Bakr) order that the Qur'an be collected." I said to 'Umar, "How can you do something which Allah's Apostle did not do?" (Sahih al-Bukhari 4986; vol 6, bk 61, no 509)

Synoptic Qur'ans - The companions made their own collections.

So I [Zaid bin Thabit] started looking for the Qur'an and collecting it from (what was written on) palmed stalks, thin white stones and also from the men who knew it by heart. (Sahih al-Bukhari 4986; vol 6, bk 61, no 509)

They had different numbers of suras, different sura orders, and different words within the verses.

Making a standard version.

Narrated Anas bin Malik: ... Hudhaifa was afraid of their (the Muslims of Syria and Iraq) differences in the recitation of the Qur'an, so he said to 'Uthman, "O chief of the Believers! Save this nation before they differ about the Book (Quran) ..." So 'Uthman sent a message to Hafsa saying, "Send us the manuscripts of the Qur'an so that we may compile the Qur'anic materials in perfect copies and return the manuscripts to you." Hafsa sent it to 'Uthman. 'Uthman then ordered ... to rewrite the manuscripts in perfect copies. ... 'Uthman sent to every Muslim province one copy of what they had copied, and ordered that all the other Qur'anic materials, whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burnt. ..." (Sahih al-Bukhari 4987; vol 6, bk 61, no 510)

Old manuscripts

There are different Arabic Qur'ans today <http://answering-islam.org/Green/seven.htm>

Don't be deceived

The Bible

- Ancient Copies
- Ancient Translations
- Ancient Quotes in the NT, ECF, apocryphal books.
- Flow of the argument in the book
- Copying errors can be identified.

With this abundance of evidence, what can we say about the total number of variants known today? Scholars differ significantly in their estimates - some say there are 200,000 variants known, some say 300,000, some 400,000 or more! We do not know for such because, despite impressive developments in computer technology, no one has been able to count them all. Perhaps, as I indicated earlier, it is best simply to leave the matter in comparative terms. There are more variations among our manuscripts than there are words in the New Testament. (Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus*, pp. 89-90.)

Application

Muslim: The Bible has been changed.
Christian: Are you saying that the Bible has been changed and there is one perfect Qur'an?

Show the different versions of the Qur'an and its history. Give them time to process this.

Explain the evidence for the Bible: manuscripts, translations, quotes, flow.

Please don't exaggerate.

The evaluations of all 1438 sets of variants cited in the apparatus have been completely reconsidered. (*The Greek New Testament*, Barbara Aland et al., United Bible Societies: D-Stuttgart, 4th revised edition, 2001, p. vii)

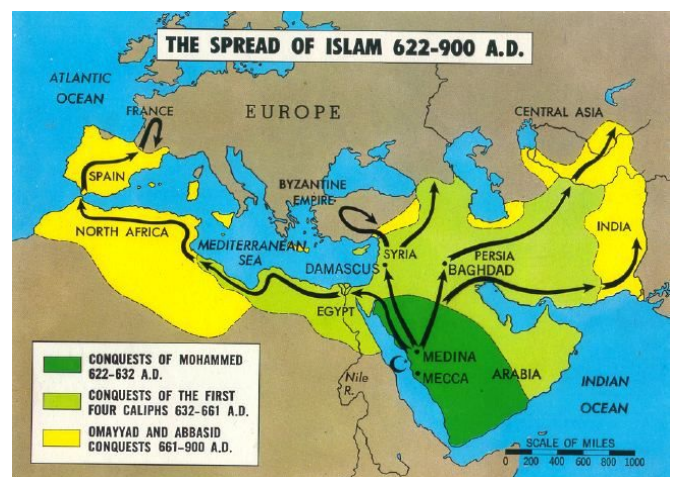
PART 6. SALVATION IN ISLAM

Your message is important.

Luke 24:46-47 > Missionaries

There is one God, Muhammad is his messenger, you have three choices.

[Muhammad] would say: Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah. Make a holy war ... When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. ... [1] Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them ... [2] If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the Jizya (terms of surrender). If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. [3] If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them. (*Sahih Muslim* 1731;



bk 19, no 4294; based on Qur'an 9:29)

> Jihadists

Therefore, salvation is not the main message of Islam. You do not need to understand how to be saved to be a Muslim.

Salvation in Islam

God has promised those who believe and do righteous deeds: they will have forgiveness and a great reward. (Qur'an 5:9)

Then those whose scales are heavy (with good deeds), they are the successful. And those whose scales are light are those who lose their souls, in hell abiding. (Qur'an 23:102-103)

Path 1: Best Muslim - Souls go straight to paradise.

Jihadist martyrs go straight to paradise.

If you are killed or die in God's way, pardon and mercy from God are better than what they collect. If you die or are killed, you will be gathered up to God. (Qur'an 3:157-158)

Narrated Jabir bin 'Abdullah: On the day of the battle of Uhud, a man came to the Prophet and said, "Can you tell me where I will be if I should get martyred?" The Prophet replied, "In Paradise." The man threw away some dates he was carrying in his hand, and fought till he was martyred. (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 4046; vol 5, bk 59, no 377)

The souls of the martyrs live in the bodies of green birds who have their nests in chandeliers hung from the throne of the Almighty. They eat the fruits of Paradise from wherever they like and then nestle in these chandeliers. (*Sahih Muslim* 1887; bk 20, no 4651)

There is assurance in Islam. You can do enough good deeds to be saved. This teaching inspires radical behaviour.

Path 2: Good Muslim - The Grave then Paradise

Most Muslims are not martyrs and so they take a different path. They earn Allah's mercy through the religious rituals of Islam: the Five Pillars which are the confession of faith, feasting and fasting during Ramadan, pilgrimage, prayers, giving money to Islamic causes. When they die they go to the grave first and then hopefully to paradise later.

And behind them is a barrier until the Day they are resurrected. (Qur'an 23:100, 15:92)

The Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) said: "Indeed the grave is the first stage among the stages of the Hereafter. So if one is saved from it, then what comes after it is easier than it. And if one is not saved from it, then what comes after it is worse than it." (*Jami' at-Tirmidhi* 2308; *Musnad Ahmad* 454)

What is interesting is that a Muslim can do good deeds which will be credited to another Muslim who is in the grave. Substitution theory.

Narrated Ibn Abbas: A woman from the tribe of Juhaina came to the Prophet and said, "My mother had vowed to perform Hajj but she died before performing it. May I perform Hajj on my mother's behalf?" The Prophet replied, "Perform Hajj on her behalf. Had there been a debt on your mother, would you have paid it or not? So, pay Allah's debt as He has more right to be paid." (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 1852; vol 3, bk 29, no 77)

They will bear their own burdens in full on the Day of Resurrection, and also of the burdens of those whom they misled without knowledge. Evil indeed is that which they shall bear! (Qur'an 16:25)

Islam has a substitution theory, and they exploit us not knowing about it.

Muhammad did not die as a martyr. The Qur'an says something different to him.

Say, "I am not something new among the messengers, and I do not know what will be done with me or with you. I only follow what is revealed to me. I am only a warner." (Qur'an 46:9)

Allah's Apostle said [at a funeral], "As for him, by Allah, death has come to him. By Allah, I wish him all good [from Allah]. By Allah, in spite of the fact that I am Allah's Apostle, I do not know what Allah will do to me.", Um Al-'Ala added, "By Allah, I will never attest the righteousness of anybody after that." (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 7003; vol 9, bk 87, no 131)

Therefore, there is no assurance of what will happen in the grave because you can do the five pillars and be a hypocrite.

Judgement Day

There is none of you who will not go down to it [the mouth of hell]. That is a fixed decree for your Lord. Then We shall rescue those who are god-fearing; and We shall leave the wrong-doers crouching there. (Qur'an 19:71-72, 21:101-102)

The bridge over hell, *Sahih al-Bukhari* 806; vol 1, bk 12, no 770.

Path 3: Bad Muslim - The Grave then Hell then Paradise

Says the shahada but does not do the five pillars. The final way is to go to hell and then paradise.

Whoever said "None has the right to be worshipped but Allah" and has in his heart good

SALVATION IN ISLAM

Application

You now have a level playing field.

1. Show the diagram and ask, which path are you on?

2. Why don't you know?

3. Yes, people do try to make many paths to God, but when God comes to saves us there is only one path and that is Jesus dying for our sins. This is the path I am on. You can be on this path too. You can have assurance that you will be saved.

4. If they say they are sure, then point out that Muhammad was not.

(If they disagree with the diagram, ask them to draw a better one.)

engagingwithislam.org/EwI-phone-summary-slides.zip

(faith) equal to the weight of a barley grain will be taken out of Hell. ... (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 44; vol 1, bk 2, no 42/43)

Sin in Islam

How can Jesus pay for our sins?

- Ezekiel 18:20-21
- A fine or ransom
- OT sacrifices
- Islam's substitution teaching
- Every soul earns only to its own account; no soul laden bears the load of another. (Qur'an 6:164)
- For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

All prophets are sinless. Jesus is not unique.

So know [O Muhammad] that there is no god except Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sin and for believing men and believing women. (Qur'an 47:19)

I don't need Jesus because in the end I will get out of hell. Response: you do not fear God.

SESSION 7. THE CRUCIFIXION IN THE QUR'AN

What do your Muslim friends believe about the crucifixion of Jesus? Ask. If they say he was not, then ask them to explain what happened. There are many different Muslim theories about what happened.

- No one was crucified. It was all a vision. The whole crucifixion event is just a myth.
- Someone was substituted for Jesus.
- We do not know what happened.
- It was the Romans who crucified Jesus not the Jews.
- Jesus fell asleep and his soul left his body.
- Jesus survived the crucifixion.
- The Qur'an denies the death of Jesus as it denies the death of any martyr.

Show that the Bible is clear and so is history.

If they insist he was not crucified ask what happened. Then show that the Qur'an does not deny the crucifixion. Give a better explanation of the Qur'an.

Normally these are the verses that Muslims refer to.

They [the unbelievers] said, "We killed Jesus the Messiah, the son of Mary, the Apostle of God"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ about this are full of doubts, with no knowledge, but only assumption to follow, for of

certainty they killed him not. Rather, God raised him to himself. (Qur'an 4:157-158)

These verses may look like a direct denial, but ...

1. Q4:157-158 do not say "Jesus did not die". Instead, they say, that it appeared to the unbelievers that they killed and crucified Jesus, but they did not. The verses do not say Jesus was taken bodily.
2. The other two references to the crucifixion say God took Jesus' soul on the cross.

And when God said to Jesus, I am going to take you and raise you to Me. (Qur'an 3:55)

I [Jesus] was a witness over them [the Jews] as long as I was among them. When You took me, it was you who were the watcher over them. (Qur'an 5:117)

Take/took – tawaffa. What does this word mean?

There are 24 references to this word (tawaffa) in the Qur'an: 2:234, 2:240, 3:55, 3:193, 4:15, 4:97, 5:117, 6:60-61, 7:37, 7:126, 8:50, 10:46, 10:104, 12:101, 13:40, 16:28, 16:32, 16:70, 22:5, 32:11, 39:42, 40:67, 40:77, 47:27.

Result: And on every occasion, it means taken in death. That is the only use of the word.

Ibn Abbas said that mutawaffika in 3:55 is referring to death, see Sahih al-Bukhari, 'Kitab al-Tafsir', on verses 5:103-117, after hadith 4622.

Recall when Allah said, O Isa [Jesus] surely I shall make thee die and am lifting thee to Me. (Qur'an 3:55, translated by Shaykh Abdul Majid Daryabadi, Sunni)

So what is the best explanation?

Do not say of those who are killed in the way of God, 'dead'. No, they are living, but you do not perceive [that]. (Qur'an 2:154, Jones)

If you are killed or die in God's way, pardon and mercy from God are better than what they collect. If you die or are killed, you will be gathered up to God. (Qur'an 3:157-158)

Peace be on me the day I [Jesus] was born, the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive. That is Jesus, the son of Mary. (Qur'an 19:33-34, Jones)

Application

1. Ask what they believe about the crucifixion of Jesus? If they say he was not crucified insist that they explain what happened.
2. Show your Muslim friend verses from the Bible which show that Jesus was crucified and died on the cross, and say that all historians agree that Jesus died on the cross.
3. If they reject the Bible and history then give them the evangelistic booklet and read it together.

But doesn't Jesus have to return?

Allah would not let his prophet be killed. Qur'an 2:61, 3:21, 4:115

You only need to show that it is a better explanation, not the only explanation.

The description of Jesus appearing to die but actually being taken to God makes sense if the Qur'an is describing the unseen realities of Jesus being a martyr.

SESSION 8. TRINITY & TAWHEED

What do Muslims say to Christians?

There is no problem with the Trinity. God is a higher-order personal being. God is different to us. The reason Muslims have a problem with the Trinity is that they use logic derived from their own experience of existence to decide what is logical about God. You cannot use yourself as the basis to say what God must be like. You cannot use yourself as a model for God. God is a higher-order personal being.

We need to practice our doctrine.

The doctrine of God in the Bible

God has both oneness and distinction.

The Holy Spirit

- Monotheism
- Same nature
- Distinction of person

Jesus

- Monotheism
- Same nature
- Distinction of person

Therefore, the Christian understanding is that the one God has both oneness and distinction. There is the one divine nature of God shared equally by three distinct related persons of Father, Word/Son, and Spirit.

The actions of the one God are from the Father, through the Son, and by the Spirit.

The Father commands, the Son works, the Spirit perfects.

Reason and the Trinity

God is a higher-order personal being. Beyond us in power, beyond us in knowledge, beyond us in person.

If God is personal, relational, and self-sufficient then it is reasonable to say that his personal aspects are expressed within himself. This is coherent.

Romans 1:20, creation has oneness and diversity. Creation is not chaos (diversity alone), nor monism

(oneness alone), but cosmos (simultaneously oneness and diversity).⁵

Tawheed

Islam does not have the Father.

It is not fitting for the Merciful (Allah) to take to himself a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth who will not come to the Merciful except as a slave. (Qur'an 19:92-93 and 5:18)

Everyone must answer the oneness-distinction question.

The Islamic solution: bi la kayfa (without asking how).

There are different versions of Tawheed.

The Trinity is the best solution

In the Qur'an the Holy Spirit is God's breath through whom he gave Adam life (Q. 15:29). God sends his Spirit with revelation (Q. 16:102), and the Spirit comes as an agent of God to Mary (Q. 19:17) to announce the birth of Jesus. Therefore, in the Qur'an the Holy Spirit is the personal breath of God who is his agent into the world. It seems there is a remnant of Trinitarian theology in the Qur'an.

When Muhammad was asked to explain the Holy Spirit he had no answer as we see from this verse in the Qur'an:

- They will ask you about the Spirit. Say, "The Spirit is part of the affair of my Lord; and you have been given only little knowledge (of it)." If We wished, We could take away from you that with which We inspired you. ... (Qur'an 17:85-86, Jones)

The Trinity and the Gospel

We are brought into an existing relationship by the Son.

<http://engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/Trinity.pdf>

All Christians have a practical and functional understanding of the Trinity. God always draws us to himself through his Word and Spirit.

Popular but wrong: The God of the Old Testament turns out to have three other persons inside him.
Right: The Word and Spirit of God turn out to be personal. (Andrew Moody, Facebook post 3rd October 2021)

Application

God is a higher order personal being.

Muslims have no answer.

* bi la kayfa

* Different versions of Tawheed.

Show from the Bible or give the booklet.

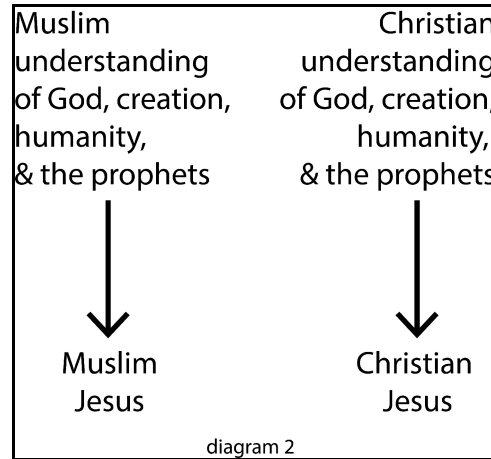
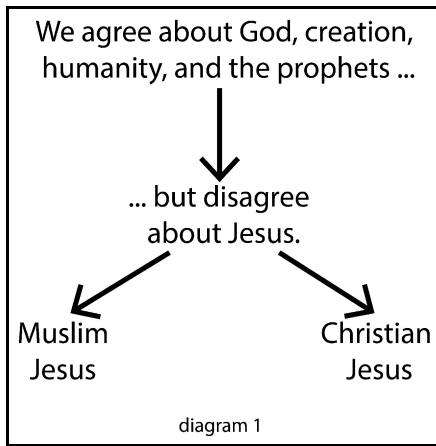
⁵ Robert Letham, The Holy Trinity, p. 437.

SESSION 9. THE INCARNATION

What do Muslims say about the incarnation?

Defining the incarnation: The Father sends the Son. The divine Son through the agency of the Holy Spirit adds to his person a complete human nature. One divine person with two natures. Jesus is true God and true man.

Why the incarnation? The divine Son takes to himself a human nature, in order to perfect our humanity and make a new man. He brings glory to his Father through his obedience, by saving a people for God, through his obedience defeating sin, the devil, and death, and establishing God's resurrection kingdom. And through this body humanity is brought into the presence of God.



Where should we start with the NT?

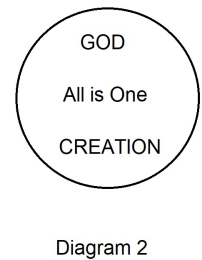
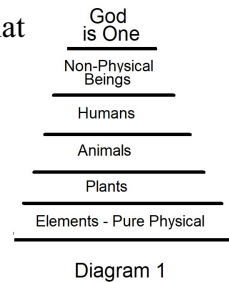
to start?

Should

Therefore we need to start by considering what is God like and what does it mean to be human.

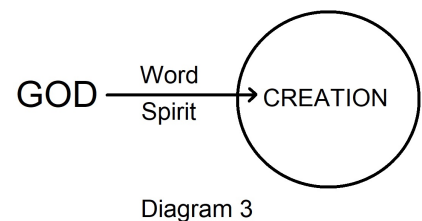
1. Cosmology: God connects with Creation.

- Creation
- Sustaining
- Two natures are united.
- God is not locked out of his creation



2. God accommodates himself to us.

3. God comes to dwell with his people.



4. Image of God

- Correspondence, connection, compatibility.
- Humanity represents God's rule.
- Humanity can display God's character.
- Humanity is to share in the glory of God.
- God's power works through a man. Mediation, priest, prophets, Jesus (John 3:34)

5. God shares life. There already is a union.

NT Witness

- Preexistent, John 1:1, Hebrews 1:1-4
- The Creator John 1:1-3.
- The fulfilment of the coming of God in Isaiah 40:2-3, Malachi 3:1 > Mark 1:1-3.
- He does what only God can do.
 - Forgave people their sin, Mark 2:5-7.
 - His presence led to a conviction of sin, Luke 5:8.
 - He calmed the storm, Psalm 107:23-30 > Mark 4:35.
 - Walked on water, creation, flood, Exodus, Job 9:8 > Mark 6:45ff.
 - Commanded spirits, 1 Kings 22 > Mark 5:7-8
 - Chooses who is saved, Matthew 11:27.
 - He works like God, John 5:17-18.
- He is the husband to God's people, Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14; Ezekiel 16:32, Hosea 1-2 (2:19-20) > Mark 2:19, John 3:29.
- And finally Jesus says it: Matthew 26:63-66, Mark 12:35ff, John 5:16-23, 8:58, 10:29-39, 14:8-9, Isaiah 44:6 > Revelation 1:17, 22:13.

The incarnation in the Qur'an

[Some] faces, that Day, will be radiant, looking at their Lord. (Qur'an 75:22-23, Saheeh In).

Narrated Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri: We said, "O Allah's Apostle! Shall we see our Lord on the Day of Resurrection?" He said, "Do you have any difficulty in seeing the sun and the moon when the sky is clear?" We said, "No." He said, "So you will have no difficulty in seeing your Lord on that Day as you have no difficulty in seeing the sun and the moon (in a clear sky)." ... Then the Almighty will come to them in a shape other than the one which they saw the first time, and He will say, 'I am your Lord.' (Sahih al-Bukhari 7439; vol 9, bk 93, no 532)

When your Lord (God) said to the angels, "I shall create mankind from clay. When I have formed him and breathed some of my Spirit into him ... I created (him) with my own hands." (Qur'an 38:71-75)

I (Jesus) have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will create for you out of clay the likeness of a bird; then I will breathe into it, and it will be a bird, by the permission of God. (Qur'an 3:49)

FAQ

God is great! Who is the greatest king? Mark 10:43-44

Jesus prayed to God.

Muslims: Where did Jesus say, "I am God" worship me?

Christian: We need to be saved before we can worship. We are sinful and do not worship God. Jesus came to save us so that we can worship God. He does say he is the divine son of God, equal to the Father,

Application

Have you thought deeply about this.

God connects with creation
God accommodates himself to creation.
God comes to dwell with his people.
Humanity is made in the image of God.

Do you understand Jesus' mission?

The gospel testifies to the divinity and humanity of Jesus.

who will be worshipped (Matthew 26:63-64, John 5:16-23, 10:33-36) but first he must complete his work of being the true man and bringing glory to his Father and our salvation and suffer before entering his glory. He gave proof of this by what he did and his resurrection.

http://engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/Is_Jesus_God.pdf

SESSION 10. OUR MINDSET WHEN ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS

1. Love everyone.
2. The attitude of our heart, 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Titus 1:10-13.
3. It is okay to say I am still learning about God. I will find out.
4. Don't be fooled by their "facts".
5. If a Muslim quotes the Bible, say, that is great you want to read the Bible. Let's read it.
6. What is the assumption of their question?
7. Show that it is not the Bible against the Quran but all the prophets against the Muhammad. Need to know your Bible.
8. It is a spiritual battle, Ephesians 6:10-20.

| 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. | | | | ? |
| The Fatherhood & Son of God | | | | No |
| God comes to dwell 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 |