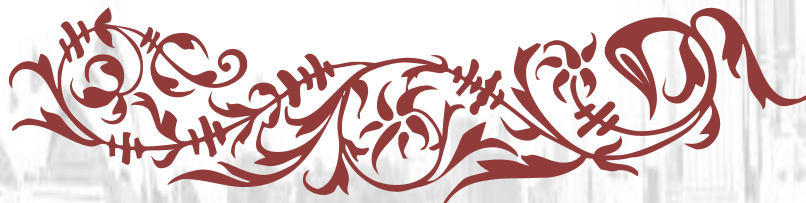




STUDY GUIDE

CHRISTIANS CONNECTING WITH MUSLIMS

John Saah



INTRODUCTION to the STUDY Guide

The notes for each session begin with an Introduction of important/new words followed by goals for the session. When the DVD begins the notes follow the presentation with minor adjustments. This is followed by a section called Additional Thoughts and Resources. This is material that I think adds some additional insights as well as referencing other materials for deeper study.

Hint—when the speaking stops and the music plays, the answer to one of the fill in blanks is given.

Space has also been left to provide room for personal notes.

Text in **red** is from the Bible, in **green** from Quran or Hadith, **blue** are additional thoughts not in the dvd

Session 1— ISLAM RISING

Intro before DVD

New words

Ka'aba— Muslims believe the Ka'aba was built by Abraham and his son Ishmael. The building is believed to mark the gate of Heaven, where communication with Allah is easiest. For a period of time the Ka'aba was a sacred space for nomadic, polytheists in the Middle-East. Muhammad conquered and reclaimed the temple, destroying the polytheistic idols housed there. Though most Muslims pray toward the building every day, they will likely see it only once in their lives – when they go on Hajj to Mecca.

Hijrah—In June 622, warned of a plot to assassinate him, Muhammad secretly escaped out of Mecca. Muhammad and his followers immigrated to the city of Medina, 200 miles north of Mecca. The Muslim year during which the Hijra occurred was designated the first year of the Islamic calendar by Umar in 638 or 17 AH (*anno hegirae* = "in the year of the hijra")

Sura(h) - the Quran is divided into 114 sections. Each is given a name, but they are more commonly referred to by number. The suras are broken down into verses.

Goals :

- Understand a little about Islam's beginning and it's spread
- Become familiar with events in the life of Muhammad
- Be introduced to ideas about Islamic scriptures

DVD Begins

Most Muslims did not chose to be Muslims;

Most Muslims have not heard about Jesus

Jean's Story

Went to _____ on Sunday for SS

Jesus wasn't crucified, an _____ took his place

Quran not _____

Acts 2:5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

The question isn't 'Should I share the Gospel with my Muslim friend?' but 'How can I?'

Muhammad is the model Muslim man, he sets the pattern for belief and actions.

Muhammad was born in _____ into the Quraysh tribe. His father died before he was born and his mother died when he was 6. he was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib.

Arabian society before Islam:

- Pagan _____ society with more then 360 gods in the Ka'aba

- Arabs in the line of Ishmael originally worshipped one god
- Warring tribes
- Traveling caravans brought contact with Jews and Christians

In 595 he married Khadijah, a businesswomen 15 years older then him for whom he worked.

In 610 Muhammad received his first _____ in which Allah revealed to him that he was a prophet. According to Islamic tradition, an angel appeared to Muhammad and told him to recite. He had a spell and foamed at the mouth. Whatever he spoke was written down and later compiled into the Quran.

Recite in the name of your Lord who created Sura 96:1

In 622, Khadija dies and Muhammad was persecuted in Mecca, so he fled to Medina.

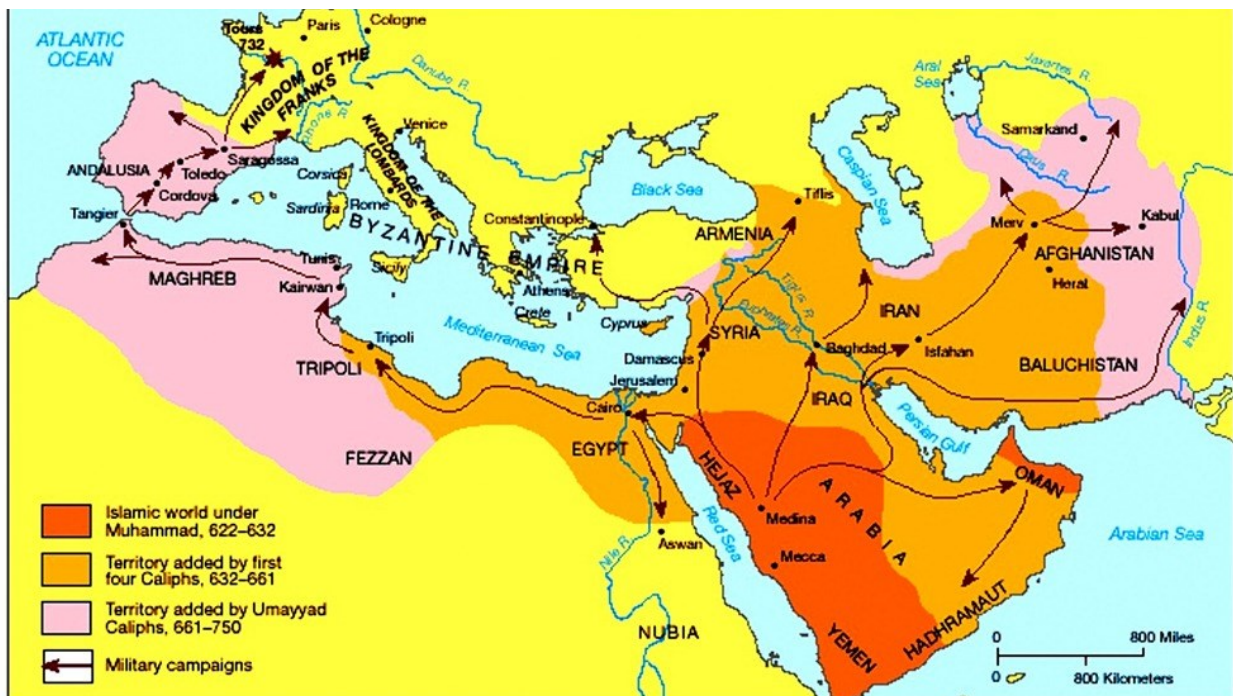
Muhammad and his followers supported themselves by raiding caravans.

In Medina he rose as a political power and had multiple wives and slaves.

Muhammad finally conquered _____ in 630.

He destroyed the idols in the Ka'aba. As people were converted to Islam they were forced to speak Arabic, the language of the Quran.

In 632 Mohammed dies. Dispute as to who follows in power.



Ali, a first cousin is closest male relative and claims power, but majority want community to elect successor (a Caliph).

634 Abu Bakr fights to reconvert the Arab tribes to Islam

642 Omar conquers the Middle East.

650 Questions regarding what is authentic Quran develop. Uthman collects, compiles, and seeks to authenticate revelations of Muhammad and makes an authorized version. This is distributed and all other copies must be destroyed upon pain of death.

656-661 Internal fighting between Ali and Mu'awiya ends with Ali's defeat. Result is division in Islam:

Sunnis—leadership chosen through community consensus.

Shi'ites—leadership chosen through succession of Imams.

Positive things Muhammad accomplished:

United warring tribes.

Abolished _____.

Gave more rights to _____.

Stopped the practice of infanticide.

In the Gospel, God's word is Jesus who we are to worship, in Islam God's word became a book with laws we are to obey.

What is the Quran

The holy book of Islam

Word of God revealed _____ by
_____ through Muhammad.

Arabic meaning= to recite

The book itself is considered to have _____.

Islam teaches that the Quran cannot be translated from Arabic which is Allah's language. Any attempts are just renderings of its meaning.

Hadith

The Hadith are collected _____ of Muhammad, second only to the authority of the Quran. They expand the teachings and explain applications of the Quran. They were collected 300 years after the death of Muhammad.

Islam teaches that the Hadith and Quran must be studied together.

Sunnis and Shi'ite both have their own versions of the Hadith

Additional Thoughts and Resources

The DVD concludes with a couple demonstrating a method to meet Muslims. What is it?

Links for finding Muslim shops, restaurants and Mosques can be found on the resource page of www.bridgesoption.org.

You might also be interested in 'A Christians Guide to Islam' available from The Bridges Option.

ACTION ASSIGNMENT

Identify/find a Muslim who will be a prayer focus for you

Try to have a low key/casual conversation.

Pray for him/her daily.

Session 2—BELIEF AND RITUAL

Intro before DVD

New words:

Salat—the practice of formal prayer. Muslims must be in a state of ritual purity, which is achieved by ritual ablution, (*washing*), according to prescribed procedures. Salat consists of the repetition of a unit called a rakat consisting of prescribed actions and words.

In'shallah — commonly thought of as if God wills, but more accurately, it is in God's hands

Rasul—one who brings a message, a prophet

Haram—ceremonially unclean or forbidden. Pork is haram.

Halal—clean or permitted, in regard to meat it is animals that have been properly killed.

Iftar—the meal at sunset that breaks the daily fast during Ramadan

God in the Quran is not bound by his character; he is sovereign with the power to do both good and evil. God in the Bible is holy in His sovereignty

Goals:

- To understand the basic belief system of Muslims;
- To be familiar with the rituals Muslims perform and the importance they hold;
- To be filled with gratitude for the finished work of Christ;
- To have our hearts filled with compassion for Muslims.

What is the difference between a belief and a ritual?

DVD Begins

Prayer beads—33 to cycle through 3 times to say the 99 names of god.

Rituals are nice but they cannot be used to control god

Jenn's story

Christian Bible study group became her circle of friends. They let her wrestle/ do/ask crazy things.

Basic Islamic Beliefs

1. Belief in ONE God

Allah simply means God in Arabic

God is known through his names

_____ Beautiful names of god

Hadith: Allah's Apostle (PBUH) said, "Allah has ninety-nine names, and whoever enumerates on them will go to Paradise." (Bukhari)

Most names we can agree with, 3 we cannot

The Source of Death

The Avenger

The Schemer (see Additional Thoughts)

When asked if he is going to heaven, a Muslim will respond In'shallah. In Islam you can be the best Muslim and not go to heaven because God can

_____ .

Because of this uncertainty, rituals are done to protect against the wrath of God and get blessings from Him.

It is not the _____ of Allah with which we disagree; it is the _____ of Allah in Islam that contradicts God in the Bible.

2. Belief in Angels

In Islam God created sin, Satan, demons, angels and Jinn

* Angels are created from light to do good on earth

* Demons are created from fire to do evil on earth

* _____ are half human, half demonic. They tend to be demonic or controlled by Satan.

3. Belief in Prophets

Many of the prophets in Islam and Christianity have the same name. Their message may be subtly different.

Orthodox Islam teaches that Muhammad is the _____ (last) of the prophets.

Say, [O believers], "We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him." Sura 2:136

4. Belief in The Books or Messages

Muslims must believe and follow the:

Tawrat (Book of Moses)

Zabur Book of David)

_____ (Book of Jesus)

Quran (Book of Mohammed

Problem

Tawrat changed so God sent

Zabur which was changed so God sent

Injeel which was changed so God sent

Quran which will be preserved, never changed

Questions

If the first 3 are God's word and changed, why not the last one? Why couldn't God protect the first 3 if he can protect the fourth? Seems like all or none should/can be protected. Quran never says the Bible has been changed.

5. Belief in Judgment Day

Fate: whatever Allah decrees, both good and bad, must come to pass

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9

A scale will weigh the _____ and _____ deeds a person has committed; whichever deeds tip the scale determine the person's eternal destination—paradise or hell. However, Allah is not bound by these rules and can change his mind.

PARADISE

Four rivers—milk, honey, water, and wine

70 maidens take care of a man's physical needs

Very sensual

No mention of good Muslim women

HELL

Perpetual fire

Skin burns off, is regrown and burns off again, eternally

Horrible ideas, borrowed from other religions

Majority of dwellers are women

PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Creed (Al Shahadah)

I testify that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.

Reciting this creed in the presence of a Muslim makes you a _____.

2. Prayer (Al Salat)

A _____ exercised in the mosque or alone 5 times a day.

It is a ritual, not a conversation with God. Communal prayers are regarded as good works.

Salat is different from Christian prayer, in which you can pray _____ or _____.

The 5 times of prayer are: Sunrise, Noon, Afternoon, Sunset, and Nighttime. Muhammad ordered Muslims to pray towards Mecca instead of Jerusalem once they migrated to Medina.

Ablutions are Ritual _____ that must be done before prayers. One becomes unclean for praying if touch a Jew, pagan, Christian, or woman.

3. Fasting (Al Saumi)

During the month of Ramadan (when the first verses of the Quran were revealed, A Muslim is not allowed to eat as long as there is _____.

However Muslims make up the meals they miss by _____ at night.

Night of Destiny (Laylat al Qadar) also known as Night of Power _____ night of Ramadan (some say exact night unknown but it is an odd date during final week).

_____ are answered on this night.

Opportunity to change your destiny for the year.

Some Muslims stay up all night reading Quran.

This is a good time for Christians to pray that God will send their Muslim friends dreams and visions revealing the truth.

4. Almsgiving (Zakat)

The percentage of a Muslim's wealth given as alms to needy Muslims.

_____ Sunni

_____ Shia

5. Pilgrimage Al Hajj

Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina that must be made by every able Muslim at least _____ in his _____

During the Hajj a pilgrim circles the Ka'aba seven times and attempts to touch or kiss the Ka'aba's black stone.

Tradition says Abraham built the Ka'aba to sacrifice his son Ishmael..

Memorize and reflect on God's promises re His Word:

Psalm 119:60 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Deut 6:4-7 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Additional Thoughts and Resources

* Re the 3 unacceptable names.. The first 2 can be understood in a more positive light.

Source of death—Quran context indicates God is the one who gives life and determines its end.

Avenger—Quran context indicates God will bring judgement on unbelievers and that rebellious will reap what they sow.

The 3rd presents a difficult situation.

Schemer—follows are 3 different translations of the verse cited by Masri. Sura 3:54. Pickthall's translation would be similar to our King James version in using words that have changed in meaning over time. Currently in the UK, scheme has a positive meaning of well crafted and beneficial plan. The other 2 are more modern translations which do not carry a negative connotation.

Pickthall **And they (the disbelievers) schemed, and Allah schemed (against them): and Allah is the best of schemers.**

Sahih International **And the disbelievers planned, but Allah planned. And Allah is the best of planners.**

Yusaf Ali **and (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and Allah too planned, and the best of planners is Allah.**

So, in English Muslims would have warrant to argue that this is a false criticism. But,

Arabic speakers would say the words used have a negative not positive connotation. So, we conclude by observing that these are thought provoking ideas, but if we want to show the superiority of the God of the Bible over Allah; it is more certain/profitable to lift Him up and not criticize Allah.

* While the Injil is often used to refer to the New Testament, it is more accurately understood as the 4 Gospels.

For deeper study, see Bridges Option booklets:

Was the Bible changed at Nicea

The Night of Power and the Day of His Power

What is God Like?

- Many Mosques have Iftars which are open to the community during Ramadan and they are happy for guests to join them..

ACTION ASSIGNMENT

Try to have another conversation with your Muslim friend

During the conversation ask them to explain a tradition or holiday they celebrate.

Be prepared to answer a similar question about your holidays.

Is there anyway you could relate their answer to the Gospel?

Session 3—ATTITUDES OF AN AMBASSADOR

Intro before DVD

Goals

- * Learn to identify 3 general types of Muslims
- * Learn keys to initiating natural relationships with Muslims
- * Have the right state of heart to think about and engage Muslims

What are some tense subjects that could arise in a conversation with a Muslim?

How could they be handled or avoided?

DVD Begins

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

AMBASSADORS

What is an Ambassador?

_____ his country

Our job is _____, God makes people Christians, not us.

FOUR ATTITUDES

1. Loving

Show unconditional compassion.

We came to Christ because we saw Christ's love in others

2. Friendly

Build a friendship

Do not _____ Muslim beliefs.

Do not _____.

3. Bridging

Take the _____ concepts of Islam and Christianity and build a bridge. Start building a bridge and pray your friend will step out in faith to cross it.

4. Biblical

Always use the Bible

Give a New Testament as a gift.

Because many Muslims are taught negative and incorrect information about Christians and Christianity, it takes time and genuine relationships to make them begin to question what they have been taught. Most Muslims hear the Gospel many times and have a number of close Christian friends before they believe. Someone has to be the first in this chain, and you might be the final link that sees them come to Christ.

TYPES OF MUSLIMS

Cultural

The majority of Muslims worldwide; representing all classes of society and ethnic groups

They have only _____ information about Islam and therefore do not normally adhere to and perform all the rituals

They may have a lot of superstition, tradition and twists of Islam mixed in their beliefs.

Converts

From a variety of backgrounds

Ask them why they became Muslim

Devout

May be well informed about their religion and able to discuss it convincingly
Highly involved in the religious rituals, but have wide range of formal education.
Show love and understanding to them rather than an argumentative spirit; even though they may tend to argue

The Approach

Pray

Build friendships

Present your faith in a _____ manner

Muslims are very open to discussing spiritual issues.

Smile to keep the conversation relaxed.

Witness one to one when possible

REMEMBER

Be patient

Wait on the Lord for the timing and opportunities to share

Answer criticism if necessary in order to correct incorrect ideas about Christ and Christianity

Give the NT as a gift

Expect results

Additional Thoughts and Resources

* Even the most lapsed of Muslims can become quite orthodox when challenged by the Gospel

* English speaking Muslims have a wide range of Islamic Apologetic material available to them.

- When a Muslim says something you disagree with, your silence implies agreement!!

Action Assignment—Pray for Muslims

This week identify and pray for specifics regarding your Muslim friend and your relationship with them.

It might help to write some down here:

SESSION 4—BRIDGING THE GOSPEL

New words-

Grace—in Islam one can only be saved by God’s grace. Allah is gracious when he accepts the inadequate good works of a man as a balance to the sins he has committed.

Goals:

- * To understand some of the basic similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity;
- * To see how some Muslim beliefs can be used as bridges to share the Gospel;
- * To learn some methods to communicate the truth of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection to a Muslim

Intro—there are similarities but much more significant differences.

Focusing on differences can drive a wedge

Starting with similarities can be a bridge to sharing the Gospel as we talk in more depth about what we believe.

Sam’s Story -

Taught that everything Christian’s believe is twisted, altered, or not true.

Basic Similarities

Similar is NOT the Same

1. GOD IS ONE

Both Christians and Muslims believe in one God

Names of God that we agree on:

Al-Barry—the Creator

Al-Qudoos—_____

Al-Raheem—_____

Al-Malek— the King

2. MAN IS SINFUL

- * While Muslims believe everyone sins, they do not believe in _____. It is better to focus on people being sinners than on Adam's sin.
- * Prophets, including Muhammad, sin and fall short of God's law according to the Quran. 3 places in Quran where Allah forgives Muhammad's sins..
- * _____ was the only sinless prophet.
- * Sin= not meeting God's righteous standards

3 JESUS

Muslims believe Jesus:

- * was born of the _____
- * was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
- * is the _____ (Kalimat Allah —no difference between God and His word)
- * was pure and sinless from birth
- * raised the dead and healed the sick
- * will be the _____ on Judgment Day
- * is coming back to earth

O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not "Trinity" : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs. Quran 4:171

Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah; Quran 3:45

Christ is mentioned 93 times in the Quran

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:1-3

Allah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel. Quran 3:2-3

4. HOLY BOOKS

Tawrat—first 5 books of the Old Testament

Zabur—the Psalms

Injeel—the Gospels, the book of Jesus, sometimes the NT

When giving a Muslim a Bible or New Testament we are not asking them to do anything wrong

5 PROPHETS

Start with the prophet and relate his message to Jesus

Adam -

Noah -

Abraham—sacrifice of son, God provides

Jonah— 3 days in belly of fish, Jesus used this story to illustrate His death and resurrection

John the Baptist

Basic Differences

Not to argue over, but take/make opportunities to dispel misunderstandings

1. The Sonship of Jesus

Muslims are taught that Christians believe that Mary had a _____
_____ with God

2. Trinity

Muslims think Christians worship 3 gods—God, Jesus, and Mary.

Father	God
Son	His Word
Holy Spirit	His Spirit

3. Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

According to Muslim logic, if Christ was a prophet sent from God, He should _____ and not lose by dying.

Muslims interpret the Quran to say that Christ was not really killed but instead was taken up into heaven.

4. Authority of the Bible

Muslims believe that the Bible has been _____.

Muslims believe the Quran replaces the Bible

The Quran tells Muslims to read the Tawrat, Zabur, and Injeel

The Quran says Christians have the power to judge the message of the Quran.

5. Salvation by Grace

Muslims believe they take _____ for their sins, while Christians just _____ them to Christ

Muslims do good works to balance out their sins, Christians just pass them on to Jesus.

Arguing about differences build walls,
Highlighting similarities can build bridges.

We need to be ready to use the Bible to correct misconceptions and point to Jesus

THE FIVE PILLARS OF CHRISTIANITY

We believe in:

One God

One Savior

One Spirit

One Message

One Family

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

Additional Thoughts and Resources

The idea of similarities should not be confused with multi faith gatherings looking for the least common denominator as a basis for unity. Neither is it an effort to water down our faith or remove doctrines that would be difficult or distasteful to our Muslim friends.

Other names of God that Christians and Muslims can agree on : Al-Adil—the Just, Al-Wadud—the Affectionate.

Helpful booklets from Bridges Option: God Has No Wife, How To Reach Out To Your Muslim Friends, and Tawhid—the Oneness of God in Three.

Islam is better viewed as a cult of Christianity than as a major non Christian world religion. From our studies so far, you can see how Islam clearly fits 9 out of the 10 common characteristics:

1. **New Truth** This is usually truth that has never before been revealed and supersedes and contradicts all previous revelations.

2. **A Non-biblical Source of Authority** cults have sacred writings or a source of authority that supersedes the Bible.

3. **Another Jesus** The "Jesus" of the cults is always someone less than the Bible's eternal God who became flesh, lived here on earth, and died for our sins.

4. **Rejection of Orthodox Christianity** Characteristic of many cultic groups is a frontal attack on orthodox Christianity They argue that the church has departed from the true faith.

5. **Double-Talk** A feature of some cultic groups is that they say one thing publicly but internally believe something totally different.

6. **Non-biblical Teaching on the Nature of God** (Trinity) Another characteristic of all christian cults is either an inadequate view or outright denial of the Trinity.

7. **Changing Theology** Cult doctrines are continually in a state of flux and have no sure foundation on which to anchor their hope.

8. **Strong Leadership** Cults are usually characterized by central leader figures who consider themselves messengers of God with unique access to the Almighty.

Since the leader has such a special relationship with God, he can dictate the theology and behaviour of the cult. Consequently, he exercises enormous influence over the group.

9. Salvation by Works One teaching that is totally absent from all the cults is the gospel of the grace of God.

10. False Prophecy Another feature of cults is they often promulgate false prophecy.

Josh McDowell in *Handbook of Today's Religions*, Thomas Nelson

Session 5 - UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENTS' CREDIBILITY



Intro before DVD

New words:

Injeel – often used to refer to the whole NT, more precisely to the 4 gospels

Tawrat – the 5 books of Moses sometimes the *Torah*

Zabur – the Psalms of David

Isaiah 55:10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Goals:

- Understand the source of Muslim objections;
- Answer the most common objections;
- Present theological, logical, and historical reasoning for the Injeel’s integrity

DVD Begins

Issue of a Life based on myth not reality

Sam’s Story

Questions Muslims pose concerning the Bible:

Isn't the Injeel corrupted?

Hasn't the Quran been sent to replace the Bible?

Majority of Muslims have never read the full NT. But some have, don't make assumptions.

Some important passages from the Quran:

Quran 2: 136 Say, [O believers], "We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him."

Quran 3:2-4 Allah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence. 3 He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel. 4 Before, as guidance for the people. And He revealed the Qur'an. Indeed, those who disbelieve in the verses of Allah will have a severe punishment, and Allah is exalted in Might, the Owner of Retribution.

Some thought producing questions for Muslims from their book—

Why was the Quran given?

What should be Muslim's response to any of God's revelation?

Why were the Torah and the Gospels given?

Common Muslim misunderstanding –

God gave Moses the Tawrat. It was corrupted so God sent the Zabur;

The Zabur of David was corrupted, so God sent the Injeel;

The Injeel of Jesus was corrupted so God sent the Quran;

The Quran will never be changed since God protects His word.

Islamic leaders teach:

* The Injeel has gone through many versions and the real _____ has been lost.

* Christians have changed many stories and deleted any references to Islam and Muhammad. Also they have added verses to make it seem like Jesus is God. This is evident by the many versions of the Bible

Christian Perspective

God inspired the writing of the Injeel;

God will keep His Word to enlighten and _____ the human race;

The many versions are merely translations of the same book retaining the same message and truths.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

A Theological, Logical, and Historical approach

Key Verse to memorize - .

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away

Theological:

When Muslims say the Bible has been corrupted, what are they saying about God?

What should our response be? _____

If a person believes the Injeel is corrupted, he or she believes
_____ are stronger than God

God promised in the Injeel to keep His Word so that He might be a
just God.

Logical:

Those that claim the Injeel has been changed must answer these questions.

Who corrupted the Injeel?

Why was the Injeel corrupted?

Where was the Injeel corrupted?

_____ was the Injeel corrupted?

_____ is the original Injeel?

What parts of the Injeel were corrupted?

Was the Injeel corrupted _____ or _____ the life of Mohammad?

Why couldn't God keep the Bible pure when He promised to?

If God couldn't protect the Bible, why do you think He is able to protect the Quran?

Historical :

Stages of Bible transmission

Eyewitness Stage 33AD—100 AD

Jesus crucified and raised from the dead

Many witnesses of what happened

Injeel written, had to bear up to scrutiny of the witnesses

After AD 100 There are no _____ of the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus.

Persecution Stage

Romans martyred Christians and destroyed their books

Partial manuscripts are found

Writings/letters of church fathers

Lectionaries—devotional/daily readings

Early translations

Translation Stage

Ad 325 Codex Sinaiticus

AD350 Codex Vaticanus

AD 400 Codex Alexandrus

Present day translations are based on early Greek manuscripts

These manuscripts predate Muhammed's birth in AD 570. He instructed Muslims to believe and therefore read the Injeel as part of following Islam.

All present day translation _____

How can we use this?

As we present this 3 level approach to our Muslim friend we have as a goal to see them want to read the Injeel. It is good to challenge and offer them an appropriate one.

By pointing Muslims to the authenticity of the Injeel , we bring them to the heart of the Gospel—Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and rose from the dead.

Additional Thoughts and Resources

* If the changes are before Muhammad, how can we understand these statements from the Quran?

In Surahs 10:94 and 21:7 Muhammad is instructed to ask people who read the Bible to help him understand the revelations he has received.

“Muslims are to believe in the Bible” Surah 4:136

"God's word does not change" Surahs 3:2,78; 4:135; 6:34; 10:64; 18:26; 35:42; 50:28-29.

“No difference between Bible & Quran” Surahs 2:136; 3:2-3.

“Dispute not with the Christians” Sura 29:46

“Christians are to believe in the Bible” Surahs 5:46-47, 68

* If the Bible was corrupted by this time, why does the Quran speak like this concerning it? One would think that it would contain warnings. There are no warnings against its corruption until Ibn Hazam (1064).

* If the Bible was changed after Muhammad's life, what do we do with:

- (1) 24,000 Manuscripts: in Greek, Latin and other languages, 230 MSS before 6th century which are in agreement concerning the present text.
- (2) 15,000 existing copies of the various versions written in Latin and Syriac , some of which were written as early as 150 A.D., such as the Syriac Peshitta (150-250 A.D.) Because Christianity was a missionary faith from its very inception, the scriptures were immediately translated into the known languages of that period. For that reason other written translations appeared soon after, such as Coptic translations (early 3rd and 4th centuries), Armenian (400 A.D.), Gothic (4th century), Georgian (5th century), Ethiopic (6th century), and Nubian (6th century). The fact that we have so many translations of the New Testament points to its authenticity, as it would have been almost impossible, had the disciples or later followers wanted to corrupt or forge its contents, for them to have amassed all of the translations from the outlying areas and changed each one so that there would have been the uniformity which we find witnessed in these translations today
- (3) 2,135 lectionaries from the 6th century, which are in agreement with the present text;

(4) 86,489 quotations of the N.T. in the early church father's letters of which 36,000 are before 325AD. In fact, there are enough quotations from the early church fathers that, even if we did not have a single manuscript copy of the Bible, scholars could still reconstruct all but 11 verses of the New Testament from material written within 150 to 200 years of the time of Christ.

* Questions to ask:

Who made the changes, the Jews or the Christians?

How or Why do they have identical scriptures?

Why is there no record of corruption?

‘If the New Testament was changed, then why not expunge the embarrassing stories i.e. Peter’s denial of Christ Matthew 26:69-75 or Paul’s disputes with Barnabas Acts 15:39?

• Other literature from The Bridges Option

Was the Injeel Changed at Nicea

History of the Quran and the Injil

KJV—No 50,000 Errors

Should Muslims read the Tawrat, Zabur, and Injil?

Session 6 - Understanding Jesus' Sacrifice

Intro before DVD

New words:

Adhah—sacrifice

Toub also Tawbe –the Qur'an and the Hadith incorporate the word to refer to the act of leaving what Allah has prohibited and returning to what He has commanded.

Eid al-Adha also called Feast of the Sacrifice, the Major Festival, the Greater Eid, Kurban Bayram, is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide to honor the willingness of the prophet 'Ibrâhîm (Abraham) to sacrifice his young first-born son Ismâ'îl (Ishmael)^a as an act of submission to God's command and his son's acceptance to being sacrificed, before God intervened to provide Abraham with a Lamb to sacrifice instead

Goals:

- * understand why Muslims think grace is a free ticket for immorality
- * Understand Muslim's objections to Jesus dying
- * Explain how Jesus was the true Adha (sacrifice)

DVD Begins

Scale of deeds.

Good works vs Bad works.

What if the balance is even?

Many live in fear because they do not know if they have done enough.

Need of a redeemer.

Sam's Story

Salvation by Grace—Common Muslim Misunderstandings:

Why should Jesus die?

Not fair that Jesus has to pay for sins, everyone should pay for their own sins.

It is not right that Jesus as a prophet should lose by dying.

There is no need for sacrifice, we are saved by good works.

You Christians are morally loose, you just sin and then say give it to Jesus.

No one knows if they will make it to Paradise, everyone is working and waiting until judgment day

Quran 7:8 The weighing on that day is the true (weighing). As for those whose scale is heavy, they are the successful. 9 And as for those whose scale is light: those are they who lose their souls because they disbelieved Our revelations.

Muslims believe Christianity is _____ in punishing Jesus for the sins of others.

Muslims pride themselves in righteous acts which will _____ sins on Judgment Day.

Muslims believe God is a just _____. He is a great businessman; you cannot steal from Him.

If you sin, you pay for it. If I sin, I pay for it. You pay for it by doing good works.

Muslims believe that life is a test and on Judgment Day your individual _____ will get you into paradise.

Christian Perspective

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God is Holy, He cannot mix with sin.

The Bible says All humans have sinned;

Whether you have sinned a little or a lot it doesn't matter, you have still broken God's commandment.

Only Jesus was sinless.

A _____ cannot redeem another _____.

Sin is an insult to God. The wages of sin is death. We pay for sins not with our good works but with death.

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Approach

How do we deal with a Muslim who says that Jesus should not have died or 'aren't we saved by good works?'

Ask a question.

What happens if your good works and bad works on Judgment Day are equal?

What if the scale on Judgment Day is _____ ?

Most will not have an answer for this.

Maybe the mercy of God will tip the scales in my favor.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Share that all of us need a redeemer to save us from the _____ and _____ of sin.

Explain 5 things Christians believe about God:

God is **Love**

God is **Holy** – He must be separated from sin

God is **Just** – He must punish sin

God is **Merciful** – shown in Jesus the eternal sacrifice

God is **Forgiving** - Jesus has taken the penalty of our sins.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Experience **forgiveness** now, not wait for Judgment Day

Why Christ and no one else? Christ is _____ in His birth.

Born of a virgin

Sinless from birth

Did miracles

Christ _____ the whole universe. (see Additional Thoughts and Resources)

Redemption idea is key:

Passover

Abraham and son

Rose from the dead proving that God accepted His sacrifice and that He has power over sin, Satan, and death.

He became the true sacrifice for us

A point Muslims can understand; 70 days after Ramadan they celebrate Eid al Adha.

Good works are not adequate:

Sin is against God Almighty, good works are earthly works; and they have nothing to do with our sin.

Good works are nice, it is our responsibility to be obedient to God. But what do we do with our sin?

Jesus is the redeemer to save from the penalty of sin and give us power over sin to live a holy life.

Hebrews 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Jesus is the True Adha

Point of Decision

Need to bring things to a tangible conclusion ...challenge to make a confession of faith in prayer.

Explain Prayer as a conversation with God.

2 parts:

Toub = repent

Confess or _____ (Ish-had). Confess that Jesus is your only Savior from the penalty and power of sin.

Additional Thoughts and Resources

- In Sam's Story, Sam says he saw Jesus standing behind the pastor as he was preaching. Dreams or visions are very common as the culmination or turning point of Muslim's conversion. They do not contain new revelation but usually embody truth they have already heard. Eastern cultures are more influenced by experience than by logic. So this seems to be a method the Holy Spirit employs. If you are going to take a step that could lead to ostracism from your family or death, you want it based on a message from God and not merely a good argument.
- One of the fill ins says "Christ redeemed the whole universe'. This is not teaching universalism; it is a somewhat less clear way of making the point that Christ's redemption is not based on ethnicity, culture, or family. Instead it reaches those of all race, gender, class, status, etc.
- Other literature from The Bridges Option
 - Who was on the Cross?
 - Eid Sacrifice
 - What Did Adam Do Wrong?
 - The Great Sacrifice
 - An Examination of the Fall and It's Effects From a Christian & Muslim Perspective