

SHARING THE HOPE

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: A Tri-Session Workshop

Objectives

1. Impart a Biblical view of Muslims and Islam.
2. Equip you to bridge the Gospel to the Muslim mind and heart.

Overview

1. "Introduction to Islam: Jesus and Muslims." In this session you will learn the basics of the Islamic faith and political structure.
2. "Introduction to Muslim Evangelism: Building Bridges and Moving Beyond Common Ground." In this session you will be equipped with ways to build bridges that lead your Muslim friend to Jesus.
3. "Tools for Effective Witnessing: Why Muslims Choose to Follow Christ." In this session you will hear how Muslims come to faith in Christ. You will be equipped and challenged to take the initiative and share the Good News of Christ.

Section 1: Introduction to Islam

Purpose:

1. Understand the historical growth of Islam and its basic doctrines and rituals.
2. Recognize common ground between Islam and Christianity.

Founding of Islam

Muhammad – The Man

Muhammad – The Messenger

Qur'an

What is the Qur'an?

THE QUR'AN TODAY

Hadith

The collected _____ of Muhammad that is second in authority only to the Qur'an. There are multiple versions of the Hadith (Sunni, Shiite – different sects have their own).

Basic Islamic Beliefs

Belief in God

Belief in His Angels

Belief in His Prophets

Belief in His Books

Belief in Fate

Pillars of Islam

Creed (Al- Shahadah)

Prayer (Al- Salat)

ABLUTIONS:

Fasting (Al-Saum)

Night of Destiny (Laylat – Al-Qadar)

Alms Giving (Al-Zakat)

Pilgrimage (Al-Hajj)

Al-Jihad

Militant Islam

Basic Similarities

God is One

Man is Sinful

Jesus Christ

Holy Books

Prophets

Basic Differences

The Sonship of Jesus

Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ

Trinity

Authority of the Bible

Salvation by Grace

NOTES

Section 2: Introduction to Muslim Evangelism

The purpose of this session is to equip Christians with the necessary spiritual and biblical perspectives concerning Muslim evangelism.

Ambassadors

Attitude

Loving

Friendly

Bridge the Gospel

Biblical

Types of Muslims

Fanatical

Religious/Educated

Nominal

Mixed Marriage

Women in Islam

APPROACH

1. Pray.
2. Build Friendships.
3. Be Patient – may take a long time.
4. Present your faith in a straightforward manner. Muslims are very open to discussing spiritual issues.
5. Don't witness to Muslims in a group.
6. Answer criticism if necessary in order to expel false information about Christ and Christianity.
7. Give the Injeel as a gift.
8. Expect results.

NOTES

Section 3: Tools for Effective Witnessing

The purpose of this session is to teach you how to use tools that clearly bridge the central message of Christian salvation to Muslims.

Authenticity of the Injeel

Folk (Common) Muslim Perspective

Imam's Teach:

Christian Perspective:

APPROACH: AIM BRIDGE

What does the Qur'an say about the Injeel?

1. Theological
2. Logical
3. Historical

Point of Decision

Salvation through Grace

Imam's Teach:

Christian Perspective:

APPROACH:

Adha in the Injeel:

Point of Decision:

Nature of God

Folk (Common) Muslim Perspective:

Imam's Teach:

Christian Perspective

APPROACH

Nature of God – Jesus

Folk (Common) Muslim Perspective:

Imam's Teach:

Christian Perspective:

APPROACH:

True Intercession

Folk (Common) Muslim Perspective:

Imam's Teach

Christian Perspective:

APPROACH:

Respecting the Prophets

Folk (Common) Muslim Perspective:

FIVE THEORIES MUSLIMS PROPAGATE ABOUT THE CRUCIFIXTION:

Imam's Teach:

Christian Perspective:

APPROACH:

NOTES

Glossary

Ali: Name of the cousin of Muhammad revered by Shi'ites

Al-Adha: Arabic word meaning sacrifices. It is the name of the most important feast on the Muslim calendar.

Al-Jihad: Arabic word meaning to persevere and strive for the faith. The term is given for holy war to implement God's religion.

Allah: Arabic name of God, meaning the only God.

Al-Salat: Arabic word given for the prayer ceremony practiced five times a day.

Al-Saum: Arabic for fasting during the month of Ramadan. A Muslim is not allowed to eat as long as there is daylight.

Al-Shahada: Arabic word meaning to testify, it is one of the rituals of Islam. A Muslim is to testify that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger.

Al-Zakat: Arabic for alms given to the needy, generally 2% of income

Autographs: Original manuscripts of the Injeel (New Testament)

Caliph: Arabic word to mean successor, a title given to rulers of the Muslim empire. It is also spelled Khalif and means successor of the prophet Muhammad.

Church Fathers: Early church leaders who were contemporaries with the Disciples of Christ. It also refers to the church leaders of the first two hundred years before the rise of Constantine.

Codex Sinaiticus: Manuscript discovered in St. Catherine's monastery in Mount Sinai. It is dated 325 AD.

Hadith: Arabic word meaning speech. A title given to the oral traditions relating to Muhammad's life – it has been collected in a written form.

Hijra: Arabic for migration. It is referred to the migration of Muhammad, in 622 AD, from Mecca to Medina due to persecution. This migration marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

Id-Al-Fitr: Arabic for the celebration of breaking the fast, observed after the month of Ramadan for three days.

Imam: Arabic title for a religious leader or Muslim priest.

Injeel: Arabic for the holy book given to Jesus (New Testament).

Ka'bba: Arabic meaning square. It is the name of the holiest shrine in Islam. It is a square structure in Mecca where all Arabs come to worship their tribal deities before Islam. Presently, the Ka'bba is an integral part of Hajj.

Mecca: The city where Muhammad was born. It is the holiest city in Islam for the Ka'bba is located there.

Medina: The city to which Muhammad migrated. It is some 260 miles to the north of Mecca. Muhammad was buried in Medina where he built his first Mosque.

Mu'awiya: A Muslim leader who defeated Ali and began the main division in Islam. He led the Sunni division of Islam.

Partial Manuscripts: New Testament manuscripts dating between the years 100 and 325 AD. They are copies of different books of the New Testament in Koine Greek not collected in one volume.

Ramadan: The name of the month of Fasting for Muslims. The Qur'an was to have been revealed to Muhammad in that month. Muslims must abstain from eating as long as there is daylight.

Qur'an: Arabic meaning to recite. It is the name for the book of Muhammad.

Shari'a: Arabic meaning law, refers to the Muslim law that governs every detail of Muslim Life.

Shi'ite: Arabic name meaning followers, given to the Muslim sect that followed Ali.

Sunna: Religious practices of the prophet Muhammad.

Sunni: Arabic meaning followers of the Sunna, or path. The name given to those who followed Mu'awiya in his dispute with Ali

Tawrat: Arabic name for the holy book given to Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Zabur: Arabic name of the psalms of David.

Appendix

1: The History of Islam

The cradle of Islam is the ancient city of Mecca where the prophet Muhammad was born. Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. to the tribe of Quraish in the line of Abraham through Ishmael. His parents died by the time he was six years old. His uncle, Abu Talib, cared for him until he was 18 years old, after which Muhammad accompanied trading caravans to Syria and had more contacts with Judaism and Christianity. His marriage at the age of 25 to Khadijah, a wealthy widow, gave him social status and financial security.

In 610 A.D., at the age of forty, Muhammad had his first revelation telling him that he was the messenger of Allah, the Arabic name for God. Muhammad claimed that he saw the angel Gabriel telling him that he was the prophet of God. As a sign of his prophecy, the angel gave him some sayings that are now included in the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam. His first converts were his wife, Khadijah, Zaid and Ali, who were close relatives, and his friends Abu Backer and Omar.

Due to persecution, Muhammad left the city of Mecca for Medina in 622 A.D. This event is known as the Hijra, and the Muslim calendar dates from this point. In Medina, Muhammad became a popular political figure and prospered. He and his followers raided passing caravans on their way to Mecca from his headquarters in Medina. This started a war between him and Quraish, the tribe of Mecca. Muhammad won some battles and lost others, then, through a political ploy, he finally conquered Mecca in 630 A.D. and destroyed the idols of its shrine, called Ka'bba.

Muhammad lived in Medina until his last pilgrimage to Mecca where he delivered his farewell address. He fell ill, and in 632 A.D. Muhammad died and was buried in Medina. After the death of Muhammad, Abu Backer took over and succeeded in the wars of Ridda. These wars were fought to reconvert tribesmen who deserted Islam after Muhammad's death.

By 628 A.D. the Byzantine Empire won over the Persian Empire after 26 years of war that left both sides exhausted. This made it easy for Muslims to conquer countries outside Arabia. In 642 A.D. Iraq, Syria and Egypt fell into the hands of Muslims. In 656 A.D. the whole of Persia was occupied, Cyprus captured, and the Muslim army advanced to Tripoli.

From 656 to 661 A.D. a civil war raged between 'Ali and Mu'awiya in a struggle for the throne. Mu'awiya won the war, which caused the division of Islam into two major sects: first, the Sunnis, followers of Mu'awiya, who emphasized the concept of consensus in the community; and second, the Shi'ites, followers of 'Ali who taught obedience to a line of divinely guided leaders called Imams. Even today, conflict between Sunni and Shiite Muslims is widespread, but zealots of both factions unite in their distaste for social change by rallying the masses against westernization.

In 713 AD Spain was taken, but in 732 AD Charles Martel defeated them in the Battle of Tours.

In 1091 A.D., Crusaders recovered Sicily and Malta. During 1099 A.D. the Crusaders captured Jerusalem, but by 1187 they were defeated by Saladin. In 1492, Moors were expelled from Spain.

In 1923, abolition of Caliphate by Ataturk took place, leaving the Muslim world under the mandate of growing European countries. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, Muslim states got their independence, producing strong nations along the Middle East.

2: The History of the Qur'an

Islam claims that the greatest miracle of Muhammad was the Qur'an. It is considered the words of God revealed to Muhammad. The Arabic meaning of the word Qur'an is to recite. Muslims take seriously the study of the Qur'an and even try to memorize the whole text. Those who memorize the Qur'an and can repeat it in a religious chant are called "Hafiz", which means one who memorized. Muslims take the words of the Qur'an as powerful and can help them in their daily life. Certain chapters might be read to ward sickness, evil or even jinns.

The Qur'an is said to have been given to Muhammad, however it was given to him verse by verse, not as a whole. Muhammad himself did not write the Qur'an. It was his followers who memorized the sayings of Muhammad and these were later written down. The caliphs, who were successors of Muhammad, began collecting these verses into one text. Many were memorized or written on stone, wood or even leather. Many different variations of what is known now as the Qur'an were circulating in Arabia. This forced the third Caliph, Uthman ben Afan, to gather all existing texts and scribes who formulated a Qur'an and burned every other text or artifact. There are no Qur'anic records prior to Uthman's rule available to any Muslim or even us today. This is why the Qur'an is referred to in Arabic as "Moshaf of Uthman", the book of Uthman. The Qur'an, is divided into chapters called "Sura" which literary means picture. There are 6236 verses or "Aya" in the Qur'an. The Injeel, New Testament, has 7948 verses. The Qur'an is roughly equal to 78% of the Injeel.

Reading the Qur'an, has become a high priority for Muslims today. Higher education and the invasion of different ideas through literature has awakened a new zeal to focus on their holy book, the Qur'an.