

Islam and Evangelism

Evangelism is always personal. An individual must believe and obey the gospel for themselves. A Christian must be clear about their own beliefs and practices for Muslims' sake, lest they be lumped in with apostate forms of Christianity. Likewise, Christian soul-winners must bear in mind that the Muslim person they're talking to may genuinely have little sympathy for Islamic fundamentalism or Muslim terrorists. We need to reach out and get to know the individual person – what they believe, practice, and affirm. Let's not make assumptions about our neighbors.

In this session we'll learn about evangelizing Muslims; understand that Muslims are working very hard to spread their religion in this country; and finally consider evangelistic opportunities that arise in other areas and contexts because of Islam and its rising profile in this country.

I. Evangelizing Muslims

A. Challenges to Evangelizing Muslims.

1. Qur'an's _____ of friendship with Christians (Surah 5:51; 3:100).
2. Cultural Barriers (1 Cor. 9:22). Examples:
 - a. Respect for _____ regulations
 - b. Respect for _____ choices
 - c. Respect for _____ "holy books"
 - d. Respect for the _____ of the family
3. Our own _____ (2 Tim. 1:7).
4. Bridge Building opportunities. There is common ground and much commendable about our Muslim neighbors in this country.
 - a. _____ is commendable (Surah 5:90-91). – no wine, gambling, idolatry, divination, theft, fornication, homosexuality, adultery.
 - b. _____ is commendable (Surah 24:31).
 - c. _____ is commendable (Surah 2:110, 277).
 - d. Emphasis on family is commendable.
 - e. Industry and participation to improve society is commendable.

B. Similarities to other latter-day religions.

1. You've known groups that follow a _____ revelation, Islam does, too!
 - a. Islam claims the O.T. and N.T. came from Allah (Surah 3:3).
 - b. But Satan has tampered with those holy books and he used the Jews and Christians to do it (Surah 22:52-53).
 - c. The Qur'an is the final and superior word of Allah both for Muslims and the other people of the book (Surah 5:15).
2. You've known groups that follow _____ prophets, Islam does, too! Surah 33 records several self-serving prophecies for Muhammad.
3. You've know groups that _____ the deity of Jesus, Islam does, too (Surah 5:17; 4:171; 9:30).

C. Our expectations for success.

D. Can it be done? Can Muslims be converted to Jesus Christ? After all, their core doctrinal tenants are anti-Christ! Well, consider a Bible parallel: Saul of Tarsus. Saul had to see Jesus clearly.

E. Plant the Seed: Jesus is More Than A Prophet

1. _____ show He's more than a prophet (Surah 3:49; 5:110). Unlike Jesus, Muhammad worked no miracles or signs to authenticate himself (Surah 6:37; 29:48-50). The

Bible tells us Jesus performed miracles to authenticate that He is the Christ! – John 3:1-2; 20:30-31; Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:3-4

2. “_____” means He’s more than a prophet. The Qur’an refers to Jesus as Christ and Messiah in several passages (Surah 5:17, 72, 75). But does a Muslim know what that title and office mean? The Qur’an doesn’t say, but the Bible shows us!
3. Muslims are told to _____ Jesus’ teachings in Surah 3:50, yet His teachings are only found in the New Testament. We can ask Muslims where the teachings of Jesus are found besides the gospels? We need to direct Muslims to see Jesus in the New Testament, that’s where they see Jesus clearly.
4. This was preached to _____ on Pentecost, He is their Christ, too (Acts 2:11).

II. Muslims are Proselytizing Others

- A. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world.
- B. Muslims work to evangelize (Surah 2:143), their word for it is “Da’wah.”
 1. Strictly speaking, *Da’wah* means “invitation” or “calling.”
 - a. *Da’wah* means the active business of the propagation of Islam with the end of making conversions.
 - b. *Da’wah* involves the effort to bring those who have fallen away from Islam back to active involvement in the faith.
 - c. *Da’wah* means the responsibility to simply live quiet lives of Muslim piety and charity, with the hope that by example they can encourage wayward coreligionists as well as others that Islam is the right and appropriate path to God.
 2. When we think of Muslim propagation in a single word, likely they think of the term *Jihad*. In the West, Muslims are likely to win far more converts through *Da’wah*.
- C. Are Christians getting outworked? Perhaps we’ve gotten discouraged or weary with spreading the gospel in certain areas. William Wagner’s 2004 book, *How Islam Plans to Change the World*.
 1. Muslims target the _____ world with Islam.
 2. Muslims target _____ with Islam.
 3. Muslims target _____ with Islam.

III. Using Islam to Evangelize Others

- A. Islam in America presents an opportunity. A lot of our denominational neighbors want to learn about Islam and the differences. It’s a hot topic and it continues to be one. So talk about it!
- B. More Americans will respond favorably to an invitation to visit a new church today, than any other point in our nation’s history. Today, about _____% of Americans are religiously unaffiliated and _____% of Americans will leave the church of their childhood for another “stream” of Christianity. - *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life* (2008) by Pew Research Center.
- C. Discussing what the Qur’an says about Islam is an opportunity to show what the Bible says about Christianity. There’s merit in telling folks, “The only way you can really see what Islam is about is to look at the _____ for yourself. Likewise the only way we can learn true Christianity is to look at the _____ ourselves.”