

Evangelism
Spring 2021
Session 4

Pastor Francek Strlek



GO

AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS



A N L I
Bridging The Gap Leadership

Activity 4: Lecture on Islam and Nation of Islam					
Adherents (approx.)	God(s) and Universe	Human Situation and Life's Purpose	Afterlife	Practices	Texts
Islam: Founded by Muhammad in 622 AD, Saudi Arabia (Origin and History) Islam means submission to God.					
1.3 billion (Sunni: 940 million)	One God (Allah in Arabic)	Humans must submit to the will of Allah to gain Paradise after death.	Paradise or Hell	<p>Five Pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faith, 2. Prayer 3. Alms 4. Pilgrimage 5. Fasting <p>Seven Beliefs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allah 2. Angels (both good and bad 3. The revealed Books of God 4. God's many prophets" (including Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and other Christians and Jews are familiar with) 5. Last Day 6. Divine measurement of human affairs 7. Life after death 	<i>Qur'an</i> (Scripture dictated by God through the angel Gabriel); <i>Hadith</i> (tradition)

Adherents (approx.)	God(s) and Universe	Human Situation and Life's Purpose	Afterlife	Practices	Texts
<p>Nation of Islam: Wallace Fard Muhammad became the divine messiah and incarnation of Allah in 1930. Detroit, USA (Origin and History)</p>					
<p>Estimates range from 10,000 to 100,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "One God whose proper name is Allah" • The Earth is over 76 trillion years old • All land was once called "Asia" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Blackman is the original man" (<i>Message to the Blackman</i>) • Live righteously and worship Allah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental resurrection of the righteous • Black people will be mentally resurrected first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer 5 times a day • Work for equality of African race • Respect laws of land, don't carry arms, don't make war • Healthy living, abstinence from alcohol, smoking and substance abuse • Modest dress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qur'an and "Scriptures of all the Prophets of God" are holy texts • Influential writings include Elijah Muhammad's <i>Message to the Blackman in America</i> (1965)

Some Tips on Witnessing to Muslims:

- Be courteous and loving.
- Reflect interest in their beliefs. Allow them time to articulate their views.
- Be acquainted with their basic beliefs.
- Be willing to examine passages of the Qur'an concerning their beliefs.
- Stick to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith but also take time to respond to all sincere questions.
- Point out the centrality of the person and work of Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Stress that because of Jesus, His cross, and His resurrection one may have the full assurance of salvation, both now and for eternity.
- Share the plan of salvation. People do not have to earn salvation.
- Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Trust Him to provide wisdom and grace.
- Be willing to become a friend and personal evangelist to Muslims.

Roberts, P. (1996) *North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist*. Retrieved from <http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/islam.html>

Basic Dos and Don'ts

1. Women should dress modestly around Muslims. (This is actually a biblical concept too, but Muslims take it more seriously than we do.)
2. Women should not offer to shake the hand of a Muslim man. If he offers his hand, then it's okay.
3. Never assume you know what a Muslim believes. Always ask the person.
4. Feel free to read the Qur'an.
5. Avoid the politics of Israel if possible. Muslims see this as a hot button issue. Focus on Jesus. You can never "win" this argument.

6. Be aware Muslims consider pork, alcohol, and dogs as “dirty” in Islam.
7. Avoid showing the bottom of your feet.
8. Never use your left hand to shake or eat.
9. Express sadness at the state of Western morals and spirituality. Make a clear distinction between the “Christian West” and what a true follower of Jesus looks like.
10. Always offer to pray for your Muslim friend. Muslims have a great deal of respect for prayer and people of prayer. Pray for blessing on their family, work, and home. Invite God’s Spirit to come and touch them. Pray loud right then.
11. Share from personal experience. Tell stories. Be real.
12. Talk about your family and ask about theirs. They view family as central to their personal community.
13. Above all—listen. Be a good listener. You will win the heart of anyone when you listen!

Medearis, C. (2008). *Muslims, Christians, and Jesus: Gaining understanding and building relationships*. Bethany House. Used by permission.

Questions and Answers about Islam

1. Is it true Islam resembles Christianity?

Although the two religions share some terminology and even some theology (monotheism, for instance), Islam differs from Christianity. Islam bases itself on works, while Christian faith stands on salvation by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Christianity recognizes the necessity of the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin ([Heb 9:22](#)). Muslims believe in Satan and a Day of Judgment of which Allah will send people to either heaven or hell. They also believe Ishmael (the father of the Arab world), not Isaac, received the promise from God through Abraham. This helps explain why Arab Muslims see their claim to the Holy Land as a God-given right.

2. What do Muslims believe about Jesus?

Muslims see Jesus as a great prophet, born of a virgin--yet only a man. They believe God sent Jesus to help people obey God. Islam claims Jesus spoke as a baby, healed the sick, and raised the dead. The Quran refers to Jesus as the breath of God, spirit of God, life of God, and word of God. Muslims do not believe Jesus died on the cross; rather, God took Him up to heaven right before His crucifixion and someone else (probably Judas) replaced Him on the cross. Muslims do believe in the second coming of Christ! Jesus will return to the earth to usher in the final judgment from God and confirm Islam as the true and final religion for all humankind.

3. How do Muslims view their salvation?

As a works-oriented religion, Islam requires its adherents earn their way to heaven by performing the five pillars of the faith.

- **Say the confession of faith.** A Muslim must confess, "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the prophet of God."
- **Pray.** Muslims must pray five times a day: shortly before sunrise, mid-morning, noon, mid-afternoon, and after sunset.
- **Give alms.** Muslims must give about 2.5% of their wealth.
- **Fast during Ramadan.** For one lunar month, from sunrise to sunset, Muslims cannot pass anything down their throat. (Theoretically, a good Muslim spits out his or her saliva.) Then from sunset to sunrise, they eat as little or as much as they want. In this manner, they develop discipline and relate to the poor. (Travelers, young children and pregnant or nursing mothers do not need to keep the fast.)
- **Pilgrimage to Mecca.** Every financially able Muslim should travel to the birthplace of Islam once in a lifetime.

4. Do Muslims know their guarantee of salvation?

Muslims have no guarantee of salvation. They believe Allah will account for all their works on Judgment Day. If a person's bad works outweigh their good works, one goes to go to hell. However, if good works outweigh bad, the person probably goes to heaven. Since they see Allah as all-powerful, they concede he may do with you as he pleases, even if a person has been righteous. They hope He will not have a "bad day" at Judgment. On the other hand, a Muslim may also go to hell to burn off sin for a while, and then go to heaven. The only guarantee for a Muslims to go to heaven comes through "jihad" literally meaning, "to exert force for God." One could be in "jihad" by writing a book about Islam, sharing his faith to bring others to Islam, or physically fighting for the cause of Islam. If a Muslim dies in jihad, that person has a guarantee to go to heaven.

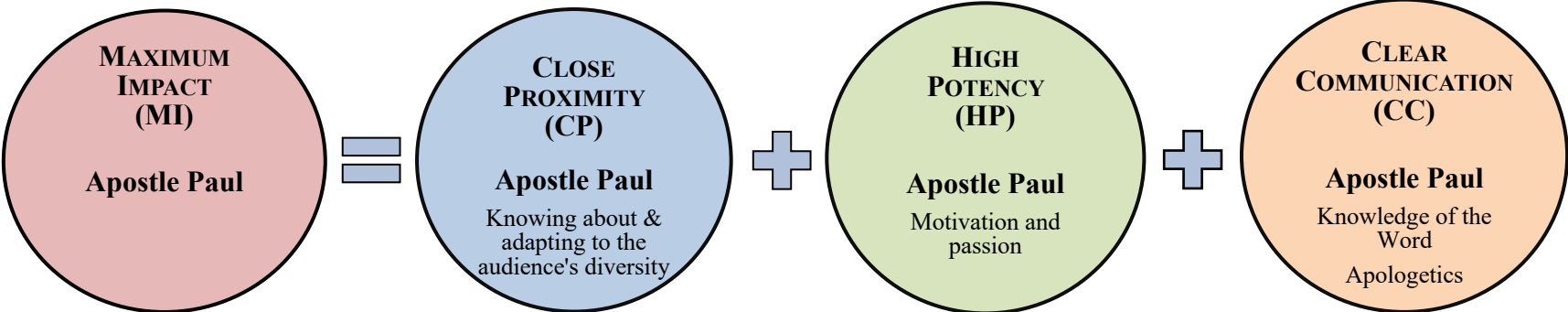
5. Do Muslims understand Christianity? How do they view Christianity?

The average Muslim has a tremendous misunderstanding of Christianity from movies, music and television. Muslims think Christians believe in three gods: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Mother (Mary). They believe Christians and Jews have changed the Bible with different versions. Although the Quran acknowledges the Gospel of Christ, the Torah of Moses and the Psalms of David, they cannot trust the existing copies. In any case, the Quran supersedes them. Because of pornography from the West and its media, they equate Christianity with sex, drugs, alcohol, rape, and divorce--All the evils of the West. This misconception confirms their belief of Islam as the true and final religion for all humankind.

6. What happens if Muslims come to know Christ?

Culturally, Muslims fit into a larger group of people to feel secure by belonging to an extended family, a network of friends, etc. In this community, they experience security and safety. They may worry about leaving their current community when confronted with the truth about Jesus' message of redemption. Muslims may need to find a new community of Christians before they will leave their community of Muslims.

Activity 5: What Goes In Your Evangelism Toolkit?



What are your evangelism strategies? Focus on Muslims

Directions:

- Word in teams to create strategies for evangelism to Muslims
- Write strategies on post-its.
- Debrief

Notes:

Activity 6: On the Spot Evangelizing

Pastor Francek will initiate a one-on-one dialogue with each student to practice real-life witnessing with those who adhere to tenets of Islam or the Nations of Islam. Each of the scenarios requires a response on your part.

1. Your neighbor wears the traditional burqa. Both she and her husband have welcomed you into their home. You go over for dinner one day and...
2. The young man next to you on an airplane begins to "witness to you about Islam. You say...
3. At the stoplight on Stony Island, a man comes up to your window to tell you about the Nation of Islam...You say...
4. You chat with someone at Starbucks who opens the conversation with, "We worship the same God, Allah." You say...
5. You've noticed a grandmother push a stroller around your complex at about the same time everyday. You purposely work in your garage one day when she will pass by so you can introduce yourself to her and strike up a conversation about Jesus. She does not wear a hijab (head covering). You say...
6. Every morning Muslim parents (mother and/or father) wait with their children at the bus stop. You have formed friendships with them over the last couple of months. One day, one of the fathers asked you about Jesus... You say...
7. You go to the library reading area with Bible in hand to study and witness. A man with a Koran sits next to you. You say...
8. As the Holy Spirit comes upon you at the grocery store, you quietly worship and speak in tongues as you shop. Seeing this transpire, a woman from the Nation of Islam comes up to you and says you are spooked.--The Holy Spirit does not exist. You say:
9. You teach at a conference to an interfaith audience about the Oneness of God. Revival breaks out and many receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost and revelation about God's progressive manifestation. A man who adheres to the Nation

of Islam comes up to you afterwards and says, “I thought Christians believe in the Trinity. What news! The Nation of Islam denies the Trinity. Many Christians refer to God as a ‘Mystery’ and a ‘Spirit’ and divide Him into thirds. One part they call the Father, another part the Son, and the third part they call the Holy Ghost. The law of mathematics does not allow us to put three into one. Please tell me more about the Oneness of God!” (equip.org, 2009) You say...

Evangelism Homework – Session 3
Due April 29, 2021

Reflection on Evangelizing to a Muslim

Directions:

1. Evangelize to person who holds either the tenets of Islam or Nations of Islam. Pray, pray, pray. Let Holy Ghost to lead you.
2. Then, write up what occurred **using the below format** following the maximum impact steps. Provide as much detail as possible. Discuss your strategies: close proximity (CP), high potency (HP), and clear communication (CC) for maximum impact (MI). Then, analyze your strengths, areas for improvement, lessons learned to apply to the next time you evangelize.
3. Follow the example from last week. Don't forget to write your headers. Bring a typed copy to class next week.

Reflection Format for Maximum Impact

1. Background
2. Close Proximity
3. High Potency
4. Clear Communication
5. Area of Strength
6. Area for Improvement
7. Lessons Learned

Work on Self-Analysis of Growth, due week six. See syllabus for instruction.