- **I. Introduction and Context**
    - Last week's Islam session reviewed: differences in understanding of God and Jesus, calling good evil and evil good, Sunni and Shia branches
- **II. The Origins and Development of Islam**
    - Muhammad began around AD 610
    - Early Meccan Surahs: moderate tone of peace and tolerance
        - Quran 2:190 — defensive fighting only, no aggression
        - Quran 2:256 — no compulsion in religion
    - After gaining political and military power, Muhammad's tone shifted
        - Quran 9:5 — commands to fight polytheists who violated treaties
- **III. The Muslim Claim That the Bible Has Been Corrupted**
    - Muslim apologist Ajijola's argument that the Torah and Gospels are mingled with human writings
    - The Quran itself affirms the Bible as a confirmation of the Torah and Gospel
    - Key Quran verses every Christian should know
        - Quran 10:94 — Allah directs Muhammad to the Scriptures for certainty
        - Quran 5:43 — Jews directed back to the Torah for judgment
        - Quran 4:47 — Christians affirmed as having the Scriptures
        - Quran 5:47 — People of the Gospel told to judge by what Allah revealed in it
    - The double standard: the Quran cannot both affirm Scripture as authoritative and dismiss it as corrupted
        - Courtroom analogy: a witness cannot bring their own rulebook and declare established law corrupted when it rules against them
        - Muslims selectively honor Scripture when it appears to support their claims and dismiss it when it contradicts the Quran
    - No mention of Muhammad anywhere in the Bible
    - Practical applications for Christians
        - Do not assume the Bible is corrupted simply because someone says so
        - Learn why you can trust the Bible
        - Read Scripture regularly enough to recognize when verses are taken out of context
- **IV. The Importance of Reading Scripture in Context**
    - Questions to ask in personal Bible study
        - Who is speaking
        - To whom is the passage addressed
        - What was taking place when those words were spoken
        - What was the author's purpose
    - Muslims misuse Scripture by taking verses out of context

- Text message analogy: a message without context cannot be properly understood

- **V. Did Jesus Claim to Be God**

  - Muslim argument: Jesus never said verbatim "I am God, worship me"
  - Muslim position: Jesus is the Messiah or a prophet exercising delegated authority
  - Teacher analogy: a person who gives lessons claims to be a teacher without stating it explicitly; Jesus claimed to be God by doing and saying things that belong only to God
  - Key verses affirming Jesus's divine authority
    - John 5:21 — the Son gives life as the Father raises the dead
    - John 5:23 — all are to honor the Son as they honor the Father
    - John 11:25 — Jesus declares Himself the resurrection and the life
    - John 17:2 — the Father gives Jesus authority to grant eternal life
    - 1 John 5:11-12 — eternal life is in God's Son
  - Muslim use of John 17:2 to argue Jesus only acted as God's appointed Messiah
    - Christian response: John 1:1-3, John 5:21-23, John 10:28-30

- **VI. Eternal Life and the Identity of Jesus**

  - Romans 6:23 — sin earns death; eternal life is God's gift through Jesus Christ
    - Eternal life is given, not earned, purchased, or inherited
  - 1 John 5:11 — God is the giver; eternal life is found in His Son
  - Detailed study of John 10:27-30 in context
    - John 10:1-6 — the shepherd, the sheep, and recognizing the shepherd's voice
    - John 10:7-10 — Jesus as the door; if anyone enters by Him he will be saved
    - John 10:11-18 — Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life; contrast with the hireling
    - John 10:19-21 — division among hearers
    - John 10:22-30 — the Feast of Dedication setting; Jewish leaders demand Jesus state plainly whether He is the Christ
      - John 10:25 — Jesus points to His works as evidence
      - John 10:26 — unbelief is the issue, not lack of evidence
      - John 10:27 — His sheep hear His voice, He knows them, they follow Him
      - John 10:28 — Jesus gives eternal life; His sheep shall never perish; no one can snatch them from His hand
      - John 10:29-30 — the Father's hand and Jesus's hand connected; "I and My Father are one"
    - John 10:31-33 — Jewish leaders attempt to stone Jesus for blasphemy, accusing Him of making Himself God
  - Connecting John 10:28-30 with Isaiah 43:11 and 1 John 5:11
  - Christians and Muslims do not worship the same God
    - Jeremiah 10:10 — God is the true God and will not share His glory

- **VII. Reasons to Reject the Quran**

  - Contradicts authentic Scripture

    - The Bible provides hundreds of fulfilled prophecies as evidence of divine inspiration
    - The Quran teaches salvation by works, not grace
        - Quran 23:102-103 — scales of good and bad deeds determine outcome
        - Quran 18:107 — belief and good deeds lead to Paradise
        - Contrast with Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5
- Contradicts known facts of science
    - Quran 18:86 — the sun setting in a spring of murky water
- Contradicts known facts of history
    - Quran 4:157 — denies the crucifixion of Jesus
    - The crucifixion is documented within the first generation after the event, supported by archaeology, the Jewish Talmud, Josephus, and other secular sources
    - Even liberal scholars consider the death of Jesus historically undisputable
- No particularly compelling reason to accept the Quran as inspired Scripture
    - The Muslim argument from the beauty of the Quran's language is insufficient

- **VIII. Sharia Law and Its Implications**

    - Freedom of religion: apostasy is a capital crime in traditional Islam
    - Freedom of expression: blasphemy carries severe criminal penalties
    - Legal testimony and equality: a woman's testimony is valued at half that of a man
    - Marriage and personal autonomy
        - Women require a male guardian's permission to marry, work, or travel
        - Husbands have a unilateral right to divorce
    - Criminal responsibility: children face adult criminal liability based on puberty
    - Corporal and retaliatory punishments: floggings, amputations, and blinding
    - Theft: amputation of the left hand under specific conditions
    - Dress requirements for women
    - Permissible lying under certain circumstances such as war, reconciliation, or preventing harm

- **IX. Answering the Muslim Argument About Jesus's Death**

    - Muslim question: if Jesus is God and He died, who ran the world for three days
    - Response one: Christians believe in a triune God; the Father and Holy Spirit continued to exist
    - Response two: Christ did not experience death as non-existence
        - Jesus said He would raise the temple in three days, implying continued existence
        - Jesus told the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with Me in paradise"
    - Using Quran 57:3 and Revelation 1:17-18 together
        - Quran 57:3 describes Allah as the First and the Last
        - Revelation 1:17-18 — Jesus identifies Himself as the First and the Last, the one who lived, died, and is alive forevermore
        - If Jesus is not God, He committed blasphemy and cannot be a true prophet; if He is God, the Quran is wrong

    - The claim that the Bible is corrupted is not a valid escape because the Quran itself affirms Scripture as incorruptible

- **X. Witnessing to Muslims**

    - It comes down to relationships and love — 1 Corinthians 13:1
    - Many Muslims believe Christians hate them
    - Be prepared to defend the trustworthiness of Scripture
    - Respect gender distinctions in communication
    - Always be prepared to give a reasoned defense with meekness and fear
    - Be patient — 2 Timothy 2:24-25
        - There is significant peer pressure in Islam; give people time to think
    - Avoid politics; keep the conversation centered on Scripture
    - Key questions and issues to address
        - Where will you spend eternity
        - How can a person be saved
        - Who is Jesus
        - Can the Bible be trusted
    - Avoid raising the violence in the Quran; always come back to Jesus
    - Be candid about the sins of those who have acted wrongly in the name of Christ
        - Acknowledge the Crusades as contradicting the teachings of Jesus
        - Jesus taught to love enemies, bless those who curse you, and pray for persecutors
    - Emphasize God's grace and love
        - 2013 survey reported by Christianity Today: more than 80 percent of Muslim converts identified the love shown by Christians as a major factor in their conversion
    - Lead by example; some Muslims are having visions and dreams of Jesus
    - Many Muslims live with fear regarding salvation and have no assurance of peace
        - Some believe martyrdom is the only guaranteed path to salvation
    - Emphasize that sins can be totally forgiven through faith in Jesus
    - Offer a Bible and offer to pray for them
    - Hebrews 4:12 — the Word of God is living, powerful, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart