

Session 1: Islam Rising

After this session you will understand:

- ✦ Islam's beginning.
- ✦ How the religion spread.
- ✦ Who Muhammad was and how he lived his life.
- ✦ The difference between the Qur'an and the Hadith.

Pray God will cultivate in you:

- ✦ A heart to care about Muslims.
- ✦ Eyes to see them.
- ✦ Actions to follow learning.

Warm-Up:

Write two things you already know about Islam and two things you'd like to learn.

What I already know about Islam:

- 1.
- 2.

What I would like to learn about Islam and Muslims:

- 1.
- 2.

Founding of Islam:

Muhammad, The Man

Muhammad was born in _____ into the Quraysh tribe (highest tribe in Mecca). His mother died when he was 6 years old, and he was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib.

Arabian society before Islam:

- ✦ Pagan _____ society with more than 360 gods in the Ka'aba
- ✦ Arabs from the line of Ishmael originally worshiped one God ✦ Warring tribes
- ✦ Traveling caravans brought contact with Jews and Christians.
- ✦ A.D. 595: At age 25 Muhammad married his employer, a wealthy widow named Khadijah. She provided him social and financial security.

Life of Muhammad:

- A.D. 570 He was born in Mecca.
- A.D. 595 He married a 40-year-old wealthy widow, Khadijah.
- A.D. 610 He had his first revelation.
- A.D. 622 He was forced to flee to Medina (then Yathrib).
- A.D. 622 His flight from Mecca was so significant that this date became the first year in the Islamic calendar.

Life of Muhammad (cont.):

A.D. 630 He made a triumphant entry into Mecca.

A.D. 632 He died and was buried.

A.D. 634 Abu Backer fought to reconvert the Arab tribes back to Islam (Ridda Wars).

Muhammad, The Messenger:

In A.D. 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 Qur'an.

In A.D. 622 Muhammad was persecuted in Mecca, so he fled to Medina (an event known as Hijrah).

✚ Muhammad and his followers supported themselves by raiding passing caravans.

✚ In Medina, Muhammad rose as a political figure. Muhammad finally conquered _____ in A.D. 630.

He destroyed the idols in the Ka'aba. As people converted to Islam, they were forced to speak Arabic, the language of the Qur'an. Mu'awiya's victory divided Islam:

✚ Sunnis: leadership chosen through community consensus (followed the Sunnah)

✚ Shi'ites: leadership chosen through succession of imams

A.D. 642 Iraq, Syria and Egypt fell into Muslim hands.

A.D. 650 Uthman compiled the Qur'an and destroyed variant texts.

A.D. 656–661 Internal fighting was waged between Ali and Mu'awiya.

A.D. 732 Muslim army was defeated in the Battle of Tours.

Positive things Muhammad accomplished:

1. United warring tribes

2. Abolished _____

3. Gave more rights to _____

4. Stopped the practice of infanticide

Qur'an:

What is the Qur'an?

✚ The holy book of Islam

✚ Word of God revealed _____ by _____ through Muhammad

✚ Arabic meaning = to recite Importance Muslims take the study of the Qur'an seriously. Some Muslims memorize the entire text. The book itself is considered to have _____.

Hadith:

The Hadith are collected _____ of Muhammad, second only to the authority of the Qur'an. They were collected three hundred years after Muhammad's death. Islam claims that the Hadith and the Qur'an must be studied together. There are multiple versions of the Hadith (Sunni and Shi'ite have their own accounts).

THE QUR'AN TODAY:

In approximately A.D. 650 Caliph Uthman bin Afan (the third caliph) compiled the first Qur'an from various writings of Muhammad's followers. Uthman then burned all manuscripts and variant texts, leaving no original record available today.

Discuss:

1. What are two new things you learned about Islam today?
2. John 3:16 says God sent Jesus because of His love for the world. From what you know about Islam, what can Jesus offer Muslims?