

Session 2: Belief and Ritual

After this session you will understand:

- ✦ The basic belief system of Muslims.
- ✦ The rituals Muslims perform and the importance they hold.
- ✦ Some similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity.

Pray:

- ✦ Your basic understanding of Muslims' beliefs will give you credibility in their eyes.
- ✦ By learning about Islamic rituals, you will be overcome with gratitude for the finished work of Christ (see Colossians 2:13-14)
- ✦ Your heart will be filled with Christ's compassion for Muslims.

Warm Up:

What is the difference between belief and ritual? List some of your Christian beliefs on the lines below. Next, list some Christian practices in which you participate.

Basic Islamic Beliefs

1) Belief in God

Allah means only God in Arabic.

99 BEAUTIFUL NAMES OF GOD:

God is known through His names.

Names that are not compatible with the biblical view of God:

- ✦ Al Mumeet: The Source of death
- ✦ Al Muntaqem: God will come after you out of vengeance, not necessarily justice
- ✦ Al Macker: The Schemer; God can change his mind or scheme against you

In Islam you can be the best Muslim and not go to heaven because God can

_____.

It is not the _____ of Allah with which we disagree; it is the _____ of Allah in Islam that contradicts God in the Bible.

Do not get caught up in semantics; **Arabic speaking Christians also use Allah** to refer to God.

2) Belief in his angels

In Islam God created sin, Satan, demons, angels, and Jinn.

- ✦ Angels are created from light to do good on earth.
- ✦ Demons are created from fire to do evil on earth.
- ✦ _____ are half human, half demonic. They tend to be regarded as demonic or controlled by Satan.

3) *Belief in his prophets*

Many of the prophets in Islam and Christianity are the same. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Jesus, Job, Elijah, Jonah, and John the Baptist are all prophets in Islam.

Orthodox Islam teaches that Muhammad is the _____ (last) of the prophets.

4) *Belief in his books/messages*

Muslims must believe and follow the:

- ✦ Tawrat (Book of Moses)(the Pentatuch).
- ✦ Zabur (Book of David)(Psalms).
- ✦ _____ (Book of Jesus or New Testament)(Gospels).
- ✦ Qur'an (Book of Muhammad).

Common Understanding:

God sent the Tawrat <i>It was changed</i>	God sent the Zabur <i>It was changed</i>	God sent the Injeel <i>It was changed</i>	God sent the Qur'an. <i>It cannot be changed</i>
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Most Muslims believe the Old and New Testaments have been _____ and are therefore not trustworthy. **This teaching is not found in the Qur'an.**

5) *Belief in the last day or Judgement Day*

A scale will weigh the _____ and _____ deeds a person has committed; whichever deeds tip the scale determine the person's eternal destination—paradise or hell.

However, Allah is not bound by these rules and **can change his mind.**

Muslim View of Paradise v. Hell

Four rivers: milk, honey, water, and wine	Perpetual fire
70 maidens take care of a man's physical needs.	Skin burns off, new skin is grown and burned off, and the cycle continues.
Very sensual	Traditional information borrowed from other religions
No mention of good Muslim women	Majority of dwellers are women.

The Five Pillars of Islam:1) *Creed (Al-Shahadah)*

Creed: "I testify that there is no god except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

Reciting this creed in the presence of a Muslim makes you a

_____.

2) *Prayer (Al-Salat)*

A _____ exercised in the mosque or alone five times a day.

It is a ritual, not a conversation with God. Communal prayers are regarded as good works. Salat is different from Christian prayer, in which you can pray _____ or _____.

The five times of prayer:

1. Sunrise
2. Noon
3. Afternoon (usually two hours after the noon hour)
4. Sunset
5. Nighttime (usually two hours after sunset)

Muhammad ordered Muslims to pray toward Mecca instead of Jerusalem once they migrated to Medina.

Ablutions

Ritual _____ that must be done before prayers. After performing ablutions, you cannot touch a woman or a non-Muslim (you become unclean).

3) *Fasting (Al-Saum)*

During the month of Ramadan (when the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed), a Muslim is not allowed to eat as long as there is _____. However, Muslims make up the meals they miss during the day by _____ at night.

Night of Destiny (Laylat al-Qadar)

- ✦ _____ night of Ramadan.
- ✦ _____ are answered on this night.
- ✦ Opportunity to change your destiny for the year
- ✦ Some Muslims stay up all night reading the Qur'an.

4) *Alms Giving (tithing) (Al-Zakat)*

The percentage of a Muslim's wealth given as alms to needy Muslims

_____ Sunni
_____ Shi'ite

Muslims depend on their religious leaders to determine the precise amount.

5) *Pilgrimage (Al-Hajj)*

Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina that must be made by every able Muslim at least _____ in his _____

During the Hajj a pilgrim circles the Ka'aba seven times and attempts to touch or kiss the Ka'aba's black stone.

Muhammad circled the Ka'aba before Islam. Tradition says Abraham built the Ka'aba to sacrifice his son.

A Muslim who has completed the Hajj is given the respected title of Hajji.

Discuss:

Injeel (in-JEEL): the Book of Jesus (New Testament)

Tawrat (tawr-AHT): the Book of Moses (name usually given to the entire Old Testament except Psalms)

Zabur (zuh-BUR): the Book of David (Psalms)

Why do you think memorizing Scripture from the Injeel, Tawrat, and Zabur might be helpful in sharing with Muslims?
