

Tools for Reaching Muslims: Understanding Jesus' Sacrifice

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

After this session you will be able to:

- ⊕ Understand why Muslims think grace is a ticket for immorality.
- ⊕ Share how Jesus did not lose by dying.
- ⊕ Explain how Christ became the true Adha (sacrifice).

Pray:

- ⊕ You will grasp the meaning in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son.
- ⊕ Muslims will be aware of their sin and need for a Savior.
- ⊕ For openings to share this truth with your Muslim friend.

Warm-Up

What would you say to a Muslim who says the Injeel is corrupted? How would you begin? How could you use the three parts of the bridge (theological, logical, and historical)?

Salvation BY Grace

Typical comments from Muslims:

- ⊕ "Why did Jesus have to die?"
- ⊕ "Since Jesus is a prophet, how can He lose by dying?"
- ⊕ "There is no need for sacrifice. Aren't we saved through good works? Christians are lazy and don't take care of their sins. Good Muslims take ownership for their sins and work to take care of them."

Qur'an 7:8-9	"The balance that day will be true (to nicety): those whose scale (of good) will be heavy, will prosper: Those whose scale will be light, will be their souls in perdition, for that they have wrongfully treated Our signs."
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Acts 4:12	"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it."
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Common Muslim Understanding

1. Christians are lazy and morally loose. They sin, and Jesus just keeps forgiving.
2. Christianity is _____ in punishing Jesus for the sins of others.
3. Muslims pride themselves in righteous acts that will _____ sins on Judgment Day.

Religious leaders teach:

1. God is a just _____. He is a great businessman; you cannot steal from Him.
2. God punishes each person according to his/her sins, and punishing Jesus for others is not just.
3. Life is a test, and on Judgment Day your individual _____ will get you into paradise.

Christian Perspective

Ephesians 2:8-9	"You are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast."
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- † God is holy, and all humans are sinful. No one is righteous in the sight of God.
- † All humans have already failed the righteousness test.
- † God is a just judge. A _____ cannot redeem another _____.
- † Jesus Christ was sinless from birth. He conquered sin, death, and Satan and therefore can intercede for humanity.
- † Jesus is the true Adha sacrifice. He paid the debt we owe to God.
- † Forgiveness can be experienced when we come to God through the redemption of Christ.

APPROACH

1. Ask, "What if the scale on Judgment Day is _____?"
2. Share that all of us need a redeemer to save us from the _____ and _____ of sin. Introduce the concept of grace.

Share about God's character:

- † God is love (Al Wadud—the Affectionate).
- † God is holy (Al Qudoos—the Holy One).
- † God is just (Al Adil—the Just).
- † God is merciful (Al Raheem—the Merciful).

- ⊕ God is forgiving (Al Ghafoor—the Forgiver). Christ the Eternal Sacrifice:
- ⊕ Christ is _____ in His birth.
- ⊕ Christ is sinless.
- ⊕ Christ performed miracles.
- ⊕ Christ _____ the whole universe.
- ⊕ Christ rose from the dead, conquering sin, death, and Satan.
- ⊕ Christ became the true Adha.

Hebrews 10:12	"This man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."
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Point of Decision

1. Repent (Toub) Repentance is turning away from sin and focusing on God.
2. Confess or _____ (Ish-had) Confess that Jesus is your only Savior from the penalty and power of sin.

John 1:17	"The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
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DISCUSS

Why might salvation by grace be a confusing concept to some Muslims? Why would it be freeing to others?

After understanding Muslim beliefs in depth, what aspect of Christianity do you have a greater appreciation for?

Did you hold any misconceptions about Islam and Muslims that were challenged in this study or by meeting a Muslim? If so, what were they?
