

Tools for Reaching Muslims: Understanding the New Testament's Credibility

Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

After this session you will be able to:

- ✦ Answer the most common question Muslims have about Christianity.
- ✦ Share about the authenticity of the Injeel (New Testament) in a sensitive way.
- ✦ Present theological, logical, and historical reasoning for the Injeel's integrity.

Pray God will:

- ✦ Increase your confidence in the Bible's credibility.
- ✦ Give you natural opportunities to share God's Word with Muslims.
- ✦ Release His Word among Muslims in a way that does not return to Him empty but accomplishes the purposes for which He sent it (see Isaiah 55:11).

Warm-Up

What is the most helpful advice you have received in building relationships with Muslims?

Authenticity of the Injeel

The Muslim says:

"Hasn't the Injeel been corrupted?"

"Isn't the Qur'an the replacement for the Injeel?"

Though most Muslims have never read it for themselves, they claim the Injeel has been corrupted. We need to come to the heart of the issue in Muslim evangelism: the Bible is trustworthy and should be followed. Apologetics is a way to lift the veil of misunderstanding about the Injeel so that Muslims will read it for themselves.

Qur'an 2:146	"The people of the Book know this as they know their own sons; but some of them conceal the truth which they themselves know."
Qur'an 2:136	"Say ye: 'We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that

	given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam).’ ”
Qur'an 3:2-3	“Allah! There is no god but He, the Living, the SelfSubsisting, Eternal. It is He Who sent down to thee (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind.”

God sent the Tawrat, but it was changed	God sent the Zabur, but it was changed	God sent the Injeel, but it was changed	God sent the Qur'an, which cannot be changed
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Common Muslim Understanding

- ✦ The Tawrat of Moses was corrupted, so God sent the Zabur.
- ✦ The Zabur of David was corrupted, so God sent the Injeel.
- ✦ The Injeel of Jesus was corrupted, so God sent the Qur'an.
- ✦ The Qur'an will never be changed since God protects His word. Islamic leaders (imams) teach:
- ✦ The Injeel has gone through many versions, and the real _____ has been lost.
- ✦ Christians have changed many stories and deleted any references to Islam and Muhammad. This accusation is not backed by research.

Christian Perspective

- ✦ God inspired the writing of the Injeel.
- ✦ God will keep His Word to enlighten and _____ the human race.
- ✦ The many versions are merely translations with the same message.
- ✦ Interested individuals may learn Koine Greek and study the Injeel in the original language.

2 Timothy 3:16-17	“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
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What does the Qur'an say about the Injeel?

Qur'an 3:2-3	2. God, there is no god but He, the Living, the Eternal. 3. He sent down to you the Book with the Truth, confirming what came before it; and He sent down the Torah and the Gospel.
2:136	Say, 'O believers,' "We believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us; and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and his descendants; and what was given to Moses, Jesus, and other prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them. And to Allah we all submit."
57:27	Then in the footsteps of these 'prophets', We sent Our messengers, and 'after them' We sent Jesus, son of Mary, and granted him the Gospel, and instilled compassion and mercy into the hearts of his followers.
5:47	So let the people of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed in it. And those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed are 'truly' the rebellious.
5:68	"O People of the Book! You have nothing to stand on unless you observe the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to you from your Lord." And your Lord's revelation to you 'O Prophet' will only cause many of them to increase in wickedness and disbelief. So do not grieve for the people who disbelieve.

APPROACH

1. Theological

When Muslims say the Bible has been corrupted, respond with "Astaghfurallah!"

(_____). If a person believes the Injeel is corrupted, he or she believes _____ are stronger than God. God promised in the Injeel to keep His Word. God must keep His Word so that He will be a just judge.

2. Logical

An objective look at whether the Injeel has been corrupted must answer these questions:

- ✦ Who corrupted the Injeel?
- ✦ Why was the Injeel corrupted?
- ✦ Where was the Injeel corrupted?
- ✦ _____ was the Injeel corrupted?

- ✦ _____ is the original Injeel?
- ✦ What parts of the Injeel were corrupted?
- ✦ Was the Injeel corrupted _____ or _____ the life of Muhammad? Islam does not answer these questions, so we need to help our Muslim friend take a closer look at the history of the Injeel.

3. *Historical*

The following is a historical overview of the manuscript record of the Injeel (New Testament) from A.D. 0 to the present.

a. The Eyewitness Stage (A.D. 1–100)

- ✦ A.D. 33: Jesus Christ of Nazareth was crucified and raised from the dead.
- ✦ A.D. 100: There are no _____ of the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus.

b. The Persecution Stage (A.D. 100–325)

- ✦ The Romans decreed to martyr Christians and burn their books.
- ✦ Partial manuscripts were found.
- ✦ Writings/letters of church fathers
- ✦ Lectionaries
- ✦ Early translations

c. The Translation Stage (A.D. 325–Present)

- ✦ A.D. 325: Codex Sinaiticus, found in Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai
- ✦ A.D. 350: Codex Vaticanus, in the Vatican
- ✦ A.D. 400: Codex Alexandrinus, found in Alexandria, Egypt
- ✦ All present-day translations are based on the Greek manuscripts. The message is one, and the meaning is the same.
- ✦ There are manuscripts available prior to Muhammad's birth in A.D. 570. Muhammad instructed Muslims to believe and therefore read the Injeel as part of following Islam.

Point of decision

Revelation 3:20	"Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me."
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1. Use the bridge as a thermometer. With some Muslims you will need to use the whole bridge, while others will need only parts.

2. You may need to relay information more than once because some will not grasp this the first time.
3. By pointing Muslims to the authenticity of the Injeel, you bring them to the heart of the gospel—that Jesus lived, was crucified, and rose from the dead

Q: Who is stronger—God or humans? A: God is stronger.

Luke 1:37	"Nothing will be impossible with God."
Qur'an 2:148	"Allah has power over all things."

DISCUSS

What does Fouad mean when he says, "Use the bridge as a thermometer"? In what situations do you think sharing only parts of the bridge may be most helpful?

John 1:14	"The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
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