

Session 4: Bridging the Gospel

After this session you will understand:

- ✦ The basic similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity.
- ✦ How some Muslim beliefs can serve as bridges to the gospel.
- ✦ How to communicate the truth of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to a Muslim.

Pray:

- ✦ You will better understand the gospel of Jesus in contrast to what Muslims believe.
- ✦ This understanding will help build bridges of truth to Muslims.

Warm-Up

What are four attitudes that should characterize your interactions with Muslims?

Four Attitudes of an Ambassador

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Discussion

From what you know about Islam so far, what, in your opinion, is the **biggest difference** between Islam and Christianity?

Basic Similarities

God is One

Both Muslims and Christians believe in one God.

Names of God that Muslims and Christians agree on:

- ✦ Al-Barry = the Creator
- ✦ Al-Qudoos = _____
- ✦ Al-Raheem = _____
- ✦ Al-Malek = the King
- ✦ Al-Adil = the Just
- ✦ Al-Wadud = the Affectionate

Man is Sinful

- ✦ While Muslims believe everyone sins, they do not believe in _____. (It is better to focus on people being sinners rather than on Adam's sin.)
- ✦ Prophets (including Muhammad) sin and fall short of God's law, according to the Qur'an.

- ✦ Jesus was the only sinless prophet.
- ✦ Sin = not meeting God's righteous standards

Jesus Christ

Muslims believe Jesus:

- ✦ Was born of the _____
- ✦ Was conceived by the power of God
- ✦ Is the _____ (Kalimat Allah—no difference between God and His Word)
- ✦ Was pure and sinless from birth
- ✦ Raised the dead and healed the sick
- ✦ Will be the _____ on Judgment Day
- ✦ Is coming back to earth

(Qur'an 4:171): "Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him."

Note: Although the Qur'an agrees with the Bible that Jesus is the Word of God and the Spirit of God, Islamic leaders teach he was just a man who was never crucified and will return to earth someday

Holy Books

1. Tawrat—first five books of the Old Testament
2. Zabur—the Psalms
3. Injeel—New Testament, the Book of Jesus Christians look at all other religions through the lens of the New Testament.

Prophets

- ✦ Adam
- ✦ Noah
- ✦ Abraham (God redeemed the son of Abraham with a ram. Muslims call this the Adha sacrifice.)
- ✦ Jonah
- ✦ John the Baptist

What The Bible Says about Jesus
John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
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."
Hebrews 1:1-2 "Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him."

Basic Differences

The Sonship of Jesus

Muslims are taught that Christians believe Mary had a _____ with God.

Trinity

Muslims think Christians worship three gods— God, Jesus, and Mary.

Christians believe in a complex One, while Muslims believe in a simple One.

Crucifixion and Resurrection of JESUS

According to Muslim logic, if Christ was a prophet sent from God, He should _____ and not lose by dying.

Muslims interpret the Qur'an to say that Christ was not really killed but taken up into heaven.

Authority of the Bible

Muslims believe that the Bible has been _____.

Muslims believe the Qur'an replaces the Bible.

The Qur'an tells Muslims to read the Tawrat, Zabur, and Injeel.

The Qur'an says Christians have the power to judge the message of the Qur'an.

Salvation by Grace

Muslims believe that they take _____ for their sins, while Christians just _____ them to Christ.

We Should:

Address the differences. Focus on the similarities.

The Five Pillars of Christianity

- ✚ One God
- ✚ One Savior
- ✚ One Spirit
- ✚ One message
- ✚ One family

DISCUSS

(2 Corinthians 2:14-15) “Thanks be to God, who always puts us on display in Christ and through us spreads the aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”

According to 2 Corinthians 2:14-15, what fragrance does a follower of Christ bring?

What does this mean that “we are the fragrance”?

How does the way we live our lives witness Christ to those around us?
