
ISLAM

TODAY'S PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 2:1-6, John 14:6, Genesis 16:11-2

What do you mean by intolerant?

1. _____ *Tolerance*
2. _____ *Tolerance*
3. _____ *Tolerance*

Key Terms and Beliefs:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Two Main Branches of Islam:

1. _____
2. _____

Five Key Doctrines of Islam:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What's the Difference?

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Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: COEXIST

Message #1 - ISLAM

Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor – May 8, 2022

1. What jumped out at you from this week’s message? Did you learn anything new? Discuss.
2. What do you think of when you hear the word “tolerance?”
3. Shawn talked about three kinds of tolerance. Do you remember what they were? (Legal, Social and Intellectual tolerance). Which one are we to push against? Why?
4. **Read John 14:6**
 - a. How does this verse set the stage for how we are to think about other religions?
5. What do you know about Islam? Has your view of Muslims been impacted by terrorist attacks and media? If so, how? Discuss.
6. Shawn mentioned Seven terms all beginning with the letter “M” that help us understand Islam. Read them out one at a time and have group members define and talk about them. Don’t give them the answers up front – have them try and remember:
 - a. **Muhammad** – (born in 572 and founded Islam. Said he received a revelation from angel Gabriel to preach that God is ONE.....)
 - b. **Mecca** – (city Mohammad was born in, most holy site for Muslims, there is a shrine called the Kaaba, all Muslims are to try to get there at least once in their lifetime....)
 - c. **Medina** – (second holiest site for Muslims. Was the city Muhammad fled to when his message was not received in Mecca. Learned about Ishmael (Read Genesis 16:1-16) there and then gained political and military power and returned and took over Mecca...)
 - d. **Mosque** – (Mosque is the place of worship for Muslims and means “place of prostration.”).
 - e. **Minaret** – (This is a tower located by most mosques where the call to prayer is shouted from).
 - f. **Mihrab** – (That is a niche in the wall of the mosque that tell people the direction of Mecca – for when they pray they always face towards Mecca).
 - g. **Minbar** – (A raised platform from where the Imam (religious leader) preaches from every Friday).
7. What are the two main branches of Islam and what makes them different?
 - a. **Shi’ite** and **Sunni**
 - i. These two main branches don’t disagree on practices or doctrine but on succession. The Shi’ite’s believe that the successors to Mohammad needs to be a blood relative, The Sunni’s believe that the succession should be chosen by the community.
8. What are the five key doctrines of Islam?
 - a. The belief in **ONE God (Allah), Angels, The Prophets, Holy Books** and **the Day of Judgement**.
 - b. Can you expand on any of these doctrines from what you learned on Sunday?

9. What are the five **PILLARS** or **PRACTICES** of Islam? Talk about how they are similar yet different from Christianity.

- **CONFESSION** – (this is the “shahada” which means to bear witness. It is to declare that there is no god but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet – technically that makes you a Muslim).
- **PRAYER** – (Muslims are expected to pray five times a day bowing towards Mecca. And the best place to pray is in the mosque as it makes your prayers count more).
- **FASTING** – (Once a year during Ramadan, is where Muslims celebrate Mohammad receiving the Koran. Ramadan happens for 28 days, and a Muslim will fast from food, alcohol, etc. and only during the daylight hours. In the morning they will have a meal before sunrise and then feast at night after sunset).
- **GIVING** - They give 2.5% of their income and most of their giving is directed towards the poor.
- **PILGRIMAGE** - This is making the trip to Mecca. This is a big deal. If you have made the pilgrimage, you stand out in the Muslim community. That is a big win for your cosmic scale and a pilgrimage to Mecca is a huge weight in your scale.

10. What are some key differences between Islam and Christianity? Share the topic and have your group talk about the differences.

- a. **God** – (They believe in one God and they think we have three...).
- b. **Scripture** – (We believe that the Bible trumps all other writings on the planet because it is God breathed).
- c. **Jesus** – (They do not claim Muhammad is God nor do they worship Muhammad. He is the last and greatest prophet and is a man. We believe that Jesus is fully man and fully God. Because of that he was able to provide the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus himself claimed to be God when he said that “I and the Father are one.” He said that He is the only way of salvation.
- d. **Salvation** – (Islam tells you to follow the doctrine and live out the pillars then on judgement day you MIGHT have a shot at heaven. Things may go well for you depending on how good you were. We believe that you could stand before God and have more good in your life than bad – but that one bad thing is going to tip the scales against you. Muslims put their faith in what YOU DO but Christianity is all about putting our faith in what Jesus has DONE. It by grace that we are saved.

11. How do you think Muslims think of Christians? Discuss.

APPLICATION:

- If the opportunity arises, are you willing to become friends with a Muslim? What would that look like?
- If you have a Muslim friend or know someone who is Muslim will you commit to praying for them to discover Jesus?
- How would you share your testimony with our Muslim friends?
- Memorize **John 14:6** this week.