

Witnessing to Muslims

Overcome cultural and ethnic prejudices

Understand Muslim prejudice against us

Muslim taught that Christians committed atrocities against Muslims during Crusades, colonization

Christian witness viewed with animosity

After Muhammad's death 623, Muslim armies swept Christians out of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. At war ever since.

Colonial period – 1450-1970 – Western nations, considered same as Christian, occupied 90% of Islamic lands – shame, humiliation, need to be avenged.

Loss of Jerusalem to the Jews 1967, after being in Islamic hands for 1300 years, blamed on the west because of creation of Israel in 1948. Perceived as greatest sin ever against humanity.

Contemporary efforts of US in middle-east

Cannot come across as culturally or religiously superior, deny sins of the west, denigrate Islam or Muhammad – intolerable to Muslims

God has not spoken to a single person since Muhammad died - personal testimony, and how God revealed himself to you will be shocking.

Muslims seek to please God, confess God, pray 5 times daily, give to the poor, fast for a month, they see themselves as pilgrims, even in Jihad. They believe in God, prophets, holy books, angels and demons, a judgment day.

Quran and Jesus – virgin birth, healed, raised the dead, both the word of God and the Spirit of God, Messiah, sinless, alive in heaven, will return to judge the earth. Quran points to Jesus being greater than Muhammad.

Muhammad affirmed belief in what God revealed to Moses and Jesus, God confirms and guards all previous scripture, Christians are to stand fast on their own law, and the gospel

Muslims who begin to study scripture need a strong support system, suspicion and rejection by family and friends.

Evangelize Muslims

If you can't witness to friends and family, you won't be able to witness to Muslims.

Share the gospel; be clear about what you believe, and why you believe it, (confident)

Be able to defend the bible, not corrupt

Ask traditional diagnostic questions. Do you know for certain you are going to heaven when you die? How would you answer God if He asked you, why should I let you into my heaven?

Do not compare the bible to the Quran, use the Quran to make points related to the gospel. Talk about beliefs we have in common.

Don't use churchy or denominational words. Don't major on the minor. Don't let the conversation get off track. Don't expect a Muslim to accept Christ with your first witnessing attempt.

Do not be a self-righteous know it all, you are a justified sinner.

Be nice, charitable, forgiving, humble, honest

Do not comment on Islam even if asked; give instead a clear witness to the gospel, OK to ask them questions about their faith that might get them thinking favorably about the gospel.

Do not try to use Muslim friendly translations or tools, just present the gospel clearly from the word of God.

Don't try to win arguments, lead Muslims to Christ.

Speak about what is factually true, not what I believe, or I think. Muslims will respect scriptural quote, but not your opinion.

Muslims sing their scriptures; sing songs that quote biblical scriptures.

Muslims believe that we are born without sin, but fall to sin as we live out our lives. Salvation comes to those who do more good than evil.

Must be sorry for sin and repent, they believe in law, but not assurance

## Sunnis

Leader democratically elected from among closest followers

85-90% of all Muslims

Follow Muhammad the model for all humankind

Muhammad died in AD632 – obsessed with law, but could not foresee need for laws in the future – development of Shariah Law over 200 years.

Keep Shariah law derived from Quran and collected sayings of Muhammad

Paradise awaits those whose good deeds outweigh their bad deeds on Day of Judgment. (law cannot save, Muhammad not perfect model for all)

Complement zeal for the law, 51% not enough

## Quote Quran

Jesus among those closest to God, sinless, Muhammad had to seek forgiveness, Jesus called Messiah, born of a virgin, strength from HS, sight to the blind, cure lepers, raise dead, prophesied His own death and resurrection, called the Word of God and a Spirit from God, coming back with thousands of angels to judge the world. All of this shows Jesus to be superior to Muhammad.

Imam – leader of prayer in a mosque

## Shias

Come from Muhammad family

First three successions: Ali, two sons Hasan and Husayn, all martyred

Husayn celebrated annually on first ten days of month of Muharram – passion plays, parades, self-flagellation lamenting failure of people to defend their leader.

Shed blood of their slain leader atones for their sin. (atonement, unacceptable to Sunnis) use films of crucifixion of Christ. ask about martyrdom of Husayn, emphasize atoning death of Jesus on the cross, odds against Jesus at arrest and trial, atonement by the shed blood of Jesus, promise of eternal life.

Divine light indwelling Muhammad, Ali, Husayn, early Imams, and present leading Ayatullah

Imam- succession of spiritual leaders in the community – succession ended centuries ago – light passed on to lesser order of clerics called Ayatullahs (Khomeini, Khomeini) attribute sinlessness to Ayatullahs today, even though not even Muhammad was sinless.

Divine light good starting point

## Quote Quran

Sin is universal, seek forgiveness of sins, misfortune because of sin, victory occurs so that God can forgive sins.

Jesus is the sinless light of the world.