



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
PRESENTS

Understanding Other Religions: Exploring Islam

Featuring

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“Sister Phoebe”

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Testimony of Sam Naaman

What is Islam?

Radical Islam vs. mainstream Islam: a great tension

Islam in the West is generally peaceful

It's important not to stereotype

Many claim to be Muslim, but not all go to mosque

The history of Islam

Muhammad born in 570 AD

He received a revelation in 610 AD: the first words of the Koran

The message: There is only one God: repent

His followers, persecuted, found safety with Christians in Ethiopia

622 AD: the flight from Mecca, the *hejra*

When Muhammad died, his uncle ruled, and then the guided caliphs

The split between Sunni and Shiite: led by the best, or by the bloodline?

Shiites have a leader, Sunnis less so

Iraqis and Iranians are mostly Shiites; but in the world generally, 80% Sunnis

What it means to be a Muslim

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. *Shahada*, testifying: there is no god but God and Muhammad is his messenger
2. *Salah*: praying five times a day
3. *Zakat*: giving alms, 2.5% of luxury items
4. *Sawm*: fasting during Ramadan
5. *Hajj*: pilgrimage to Mecca

Muslims believe that Christians believe in three gods

The unpardonable sin in Islam is to have a partner with God

It's important to witness about the Trinity correctly

Muslims believe in angels

Muslims believe in three books: the Torah was given to Moses, the *Injil* (Gospels) to Jesus, and the Qu'ran (Koran) to the world

Muslims believe in prophets from Adam through Jesus to Muhammad

Jesus is highly esteemed, but Muslims say he could not have been crucified

The phrase "Son of God" makes Muslims think of God having a physical relationship

Muslims do not have the concept of "sin"

Go back to Genesis to establish the concept and the need for a Redeemer

One bad deed = one bad deed; one good deed = five good deeds, or more

Salvation is not assured

As soon as possible, invite a Muslim to read the living Word of God

Muslims believe in the End Times as motivation for righteous living

- Jesus will come again and preach and marry and die, and then the end will come

Muslims believe everything is directed and determined by God from his power

Christians believe everything flows from God's righteousness

Sister Phoebe's story

How to witness

It isn't necessary to know details of Islam

Have a heart for the Muslim person

See them as people like ourselves

Learn what is the cry of their heart

Muslims love to have spiritual conversations

Invite yourself to the Muslims' home—unannounced

Make time for them

Ask them questions about their culture

Be sensitive as to where the Muslims are coming from

Be a pastor for one Muslim

Resources

The Gospel for Islam: Reaching Muslims in North America
edited by Roy Oksnevad and Dotsey Welliver
bgc.gospelcom.net

Becoming a Contagious Christian
by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg
www.zondervan.com

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