

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 3: Jesus

Yesterday, we talked about the common ground that we share with Muslims. What, then, do Muslims lack in regards to faith? The answer, quite simply, is Jesus. We all need Jesus! Muslims need Jesus. Christians need Jesus. *Everyone* needs Jesus! Muslims need Jesus to transform their lives. They need the Holy Spirit to indwell them and change their hearts. This is the same for every person on earth.

How do Muslims hope to get into heaven?

Part of the answer to this question is found in the most significant tenets of Islamic faith, which are often called the “five pillars of Islam:”

1. Declaration of faith: “There is no god but God and Muhammad is a prophet of God.”
2. Prayer: Five times a day.
3. Giving: 2.5% of one’s yearly income should be given to the poor.
4. Fasting: From sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan every year.
5. Pilgrimage: Whoever can afford it should make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during his or her life.

Some of these “pillars” aren’t bad practices at all – especially prayer, giving, and fasting. Jesus spoke about all three during his time on earth. The problem, then, is the motivation, the heart attitude, and the purpose that someone has in doing these things. Many Muslims hope to earn God’s favor through good works. (Of course, this is not limited to Muslims! Many people in the West believe they will go to heaven if they accumulate more good deeds than bad.)

Muslims desperately need to understand that Jesus is the answer to their hope for salvation. Jesus is the *only* way to God (John 14:6). It’s only through him that we have hope in life after death. It’s only through Jesus that we can have a relationship with God and truly please God. It’s only through Jesus that we can truly be submitted to God. It’s all about *him*!

Make sure in your responses that you talk more about Jesus and less about religions.

A book that goes into this in more detail is *Muslims, Christians, and Jesus*. It’s written by a Christian missionary to Lebanon named Carl Medearis. He discusses the profound yet simple truth that Jesus is what Muslims really need. We highly recommend this book for supplemental reading.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org