

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 21: What Do You Think of Muhammad?

As you respond to emails from Muslim internet contacts, someone is bound to ask your opinion about the prophet Muhammad. This can be a very delicate subject! We would recommend that you don't introduce the topic of Muhammad yourself, but if the seeker asks your opinion, it is good to have a thoughtful response ready. The reason it's good to avoid the topic is that it is far too easy for us to unintentionally show disrespect to the seekers and to offend them. We don't want turn someone off to Jesus simply because we were insensitive or disrespectful. The Apostle Paul preached about Jesus to polytheists in Ephesus for more than two years without blaspheming their goddess Artemis! (See Acts 19:35-37.)

One book that gives a good suggestion of how to respond to a question about Muhammad is *The CAMEL: How Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus* by Kevin Greeson. The following is a quotation from this book:

This is the big question. Muslims take great offense at those who would profane their prophet. The best bridge to overcome the barrier of Muhammad is to simply say: "I agree with what the Qur'an says about Muhammad."

The Qur'an does not say that Muhammad was the greatest prophet. It does say that he was the "seal of the prophets" in surah al Ahzab 33:40; seal only means the last, not the greatest. (Please note: We are not saying that Muhammad is a true prophet or the seal of the prophets; we are only making you aware of what you might face from the Qur'an.)

Then ask your friend to read surah al Ahqaf (the Sandhills surah) 46:9 in which Allah instructs Muhammad to say: "I am no new thing among the messengers, nor know I what will be done with me or with you ... I am but a plain warner."

Likewise in surah al Imran 3:144, Allah says of Muhammad: "Muhammad is but a messenger, messengers (the like of whom) have passed away before him." We see in these passages that neither Muhammad nor his followers claimed that he was the greatest prophet.

Then you can ask your friend: "What is life's greatest question?" The greatest question of life is, "What will happen to me when I die?" We see from surah al Ahqaf 46:9 that Muhammad did not claim to have a certain answer to that question, for himself or for his followers.

Then, you can take your Muslim friend to the Injil. Show him passages such as John 6:47 and especially John 14:1-3, 6: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to

be with me that you also may be where I am.... I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Clearly Jesus does have the answer to life's greatest question.

Once again, the goal is to lead seekers to Christ, not defeat them with our logic and proofs.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org