

Witnessing to Muslims

Muslims Believe:

- Jesus was only a prophet.
(Christianity says He's God in human flesh.)
- Jesus didn't die for us.
(Christianity says He died for our sins.)
- You can't know if you're forgiven until you die.
(Christianity says you can know you're forgiven here and now.)
- You go to heaven if your good works outweigh the bad or if Allah allows it.

(Christianity says you can't earn salvation; it's by grace through faith in Christ.)

Is Jesus God?

Muslims believe Jesus is separate from God, instead of God in human flesh as Christians believe. Many also think Christians worship multiple gods through their belief in the trinity.

Here are a few useful Bible verses to share:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” —Dt 6:4

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” —John 14:9

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”

—Jn 1:1-2

The last verse in particular is interesting because one of Jesus' names in the Quran is “Kalimatu'llah,” meaning “Word of God.”

<https://billygraham.org/story/how-can-you-share-the-gospel-with-muslims/>

Here are five reasons why we can trust what the Bible says:

1. The Bible contains four Gospels, or books about the Good News of Jesus Christ and salvation. Those Gospels are Mt, Mark, Luke and John.

- The authors knew a lot about Jesus' ministry:
 - Matthew was a tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples, or followers;
 - Mark worked with those who started the 1st churches;
 - Luke was a doctor who carefully investigated the life of Jesus and wrote in great detail;
 - and John was also one of Jesus' disciples.
- The Gospels include eyewitness accounts of Jesus' ministry, historically accurate details and were written shortly after His ministry.
- Non-Christian sources and archaeology also confirm historical facts that appear in the Gospels.

2. Between **25,000 and 30,000 handwritten copies** of the New Testament survive today.

- Ancient church fathers quoted from the New Testament so much that even if these copies were destroyed, nearly all the books could be put back together.

Some critics say these copies contain thousands of variants, or differences in text. ⇨ However, nearly all of these variants are minor, like differences in spelling or using "Jesus" instead of "Lord."

- None of them change the core message of the New Testament.

3. All four Gospels tell about Jesus' ministry, but include different details. The authors wrote to different audiences for different reasons.

- Matthew wrote to the Jews to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior.
- Mark wrote to Roman Christians to emphasize Jesus' teachings and heart for serving others.
- Luke wrote to Gentiles (non-Jews) to show that Jesus,

by living a life without sin, paid the price for our own sins.

- And John showed new believers that Jesus is the Son of God and those who believe in Him will have eternal life.

Each author had a different style of writing, but all four accounts present the same basic truth.

- Their differences are actually evidence that the Gospels were not a conspiracy.
- The Gospels also include embarrassing accounts, like the disciples failing at times to understand Jesus' teachings.

Those testimonies would not have been used by those who called Him Lord if they weren't true.

4. Even without copies of the New Testament, people throughout the centuries have passed on stories of Jesus by word of mouth.

Plus, there were so many eyewitnesses to His teachings—think feeding the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish—that an inaccurate detail could easily be crushed.

5. God used the Bible's authors to convey His message, guiding them through visions, dreams, and their own experiences.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed."

- God did not move the pen in the writer's hand, but guided him through the process; He inspired the text.
- Just because humans make mistakes doesn't mean they can't write truthful documents.

Many people reject the Bible without ever actually reading it.

But since the Bible claims to answer life's deepest questions, it makes sense to see what it has to say.

- Even if you read a paragraph at a time, God can teach you the Bible's truth and use it in your life.
- You will also discover that Jesus Christ was a real person who loves you and that life's greatest joy comes from following Him.

- Always remember that you are talking to Muslims.
- Avoid the use of Christian jargon.

Speak about real sin, real guilt, real shed blood!

Do not be ashamed to use Jesus' direct and indirect titles clearly such as 'Son of God', 'Lamb of God', 'New Adam', 'I AM - YAHWEH', 'Savior', 'Almighty God'.

Muslims will ask you to comment on their faith.

- Don't go there; they will not benefit from your criticism (or feigned approval) of other religions.
- Your job isn't to debunk Islam but to give a clear witness to the truth of the Gospel.
- Instead of letting them drag you into the topic, turn the tables and ask them questions.
- Let them articulate their own understandings of the religious themes you are discussing; let what you communicate be the plain truth of Christian doctrines without enumerating how Islam is wrong.

WHAT A MUSLIM BELIEVES

About Islam: Muslims believe that Islam is the only true religion, and they are often radically committed to their faith. At the core of Islam are seven fundamental beliefs that a Muslim must accept as a part of their religion. These beliefs are:

- Belief in God (who, in Arabic, is named 'Allah').
- Belief in the angels (both good and evil).
- Belief in the revealed Books of God.
- Belief in God's many prophets (including Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and others who Christians and Jews are familiar with).
- Accepting that there will be a Last Day/Final Judgment.
- Belief in the divine measurement of human affairs.

● Belief in life after death.

Like those of the Hindu religion, a Muslim's beliefs affect every part of their life including how they spend their time, what they eat, and the types of friends they choose.

About God: A Muslim does not believe in the God of the universe who is revealed in the Bible as Yahweh. Rather, their god is called 'Allah'.

About the Trinity: Muslims wholeheartedly reject the Biblical teachings about the Trinity. They believe there is only one true God, and his name is Allah.

About Jesus: Muslims believe that Jesus was one of Allah's prophets. They reject the notion that Jesus is God. Even on a human level, they believe that Mohammed was a greater man and prophet than Jesus.

About the Bible: They recognize the Koran alone as truly and completely divine in origin. They recognize only part of the Bible as God's Word but believe that even that portion of the Bible is badly corrupted and inaccurate.

About the Afterlife: A Muslim believes that there is life after death, where faithful Muslims are rewarded according to their faithfulness, and unbelievers (called infidels) suffer for eternity.

About Salvation: They believe that salvation (meaning reward in the afterlife) is only achieved through absolute obedience to Allah, the Koran, and the Five Pillars of Islam.

The Five Pillars of Islam are:

Affirmation (Shahada) – Consistent recitation of and belief in the creed that “there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger.”

Prayer (As-Salah) – Praying toward Mecca (their holy city) 5 times a day.

Almsgiving (Zakah): Giving 2.5% of their income to the poor.

The fast (Siyam) – Fasting from dawn till dusk every day during Ramadan (the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar).

The Pilgrimage (Al-Hajji) – Traveling to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

About God: God identified Himself as “I Am” (Exodus 20:2), meaning He is the self-existent (never had a beginning or end) eternal Creator of the universe. He is not the same as Allah, because Allah doesn’t exist.

About the Trinity: There is one God and yet three Persons (Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19).

About Jesus: Jesus is fully God and fully man, and not a prophet of Allah. He is the God of the universe (John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58 ; 10:30. Compare Titus 2:13 and Isaiah 45:21), and He is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

About the Bible: The Bible alone is the Word of God. It is without error. It cannot and should not be added to or subtracted from (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Revelation 22:18-20).

The Koran is not sacred because it was not sent from God.

About the Afterlife: Those who trust in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation will spend eternity in heaven; those who reject Christ will spend an eternity in hell (John 5:24-30; Revelation 20:11-15).

About Salvation: Salvation is by faith in Christ based on His death on the cross. Good works or self-denial have nothing to do with being saved (John 3:16-17, 36; 6:29, 47; Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

Obedience to Allah has nothing to do with your destiny in the afterlife.

<https://www.dare2share.org/worldviews/muslims/>

Some Verses to Share with Muslims

God's Promises to Preserve His Word

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

Isaiah 59:21"As for me, this is my covenant with them' says the LORD. 'My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,' says the LORD."

Sura 5:46 - A Remarkable Verse in the Qur'an

"And in their [the prophets'] footsteps we sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him: we sent him the gospel; therein was guidance and light. And confirmation of the Torah that had come before him: a guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah"

Now this verse of the Qur'an is quite remarkable. If God sent Jesus to confirm the Torah (first five books of the Bible's Old Testament), then at least in Jesus' time, the Torah that people could read and Jesus could confirm was the same Torah God sent.

It goes on. Sura 5:47 goes on to say "Let the People of the Gospel Judge by what Allah hath revealed Therein...." If the People of the Gospel are to judge by what God has revealed in the Gospel, then how can the Gospel they are to judge by not be the Gospel God told them to judge by?

Sura 5:48 says, "To thee (People of the Book) We sent the scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety: so judge between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging from the truth that hath come to thee...."

Since God had the power to give His word, God had the power to guard His word in safety. Do you agree?

The Pre-Eminence of Jesus

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Philippians 2:5-12 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

1 Peter 3:15-16 "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." ... (18) "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,"

1 John 5:12-13 "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (NKJV, NIV)

1 John 2:22-23 "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges

the Son has the Father also. (26) "These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you." (NKJV)

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in our sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (NKJV)

Peace and War

John 16:2-3 "...In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me." (Jesus is speaking)

Jeremiah 8:11-12 "They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; ..."

Revelation 17:5-6 "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON the GREAT, The MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement." (NKJV)

Differences in Tone and Message

Luke 6:27-29 Jesus said, "But I tell you who hear me: Love our enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Do you practice the words of Jesus, the Prince of Peace?

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all

knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have¹⁰ not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient,

love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

All verses are from the NIV unless otherwise stated.

<https://www.muslimhope.com/VersesToShare.htm>

[I, Tappan Hornor, do not use the NIV, nor do I endorse it. All this material was found on various sites on the internet. Feel free to use other versions.]

More:

<https://goingfarther.net/common-questions/is-jesus-god/>

<https://answering-islam.org/>