

# Engaging with Islam

## INTRODUCTION AND SESSION 1

The *Engaging with Islam* training course is a practical introduction to the history and teaching of Islam and a foundation for evangelism and answering common questions. It builds upon the introductory video, *Christianity and Islam - Where to Start* <https://youtu.be/ft5aQyWetBc> If you have not watched this video yet then watch it before doing the course.



The course has two parts:

Part 1: Understanding Islam	Part 2: Talking with Muslims
Love Everyone	Talking with Muslims
The Life of Muhammad	The Gospel According to Muhammad
The Qur'an and Hadith	The Bible and the Qur'an
The Basic Beliefs of Islam	Is Jesus God?
The Pillars of Islam	The Son of God and Trinity
Islam and Politics	The Death of Jesus

The course can be done individually, as a small group, or a larger class. It is a mixture of reading, videos and discussion. Each session has the following parts:

- **Part 1: Preparation and Discussion.** This is where you read some material in preparation for your group time. It is very important you do this because watching videos is not enough; you need to read, think, and discuss as well. If you are doing the course in a school/university context where you only have a 50 minute lesson then this preparation needs to be done as homework and then discussed for the first 15 minutes of the group time. If you are doing the course in a church home group and have more time (90 minutes) then this part can be done at the start of your meeting.
- **Part 2: Video Presentation.** View the video as a group.
- **Part 3: Discussion.** As a group discuss these questions.
- **Part 4: Group Activities**

Watch the introduction video (6 minutes) <https://youtu.be/mVRgMtPmGwk>



## LEADERS NOTES

Thank you for leading the Engaging with Islam course. May God bless your labours and make them fruitful for his glory.

The training course builds upon the introductory video, *Christianity and Islam - Where to Start* <https://youtu.be/ft5aQyWetBc> Make sure everyone doing the course has watched this video first. For those Christians who just want to learn the basics, this video is enough for them. For those Christians who want to know more, this video is an introduction to the training course.



If you want to advertise the course then you can use the promotional video and Engaging with Islam logo found at <http://engagingwithislam.org/training/> The promotional video can be shown at church or sent via an internet message to invite people. The logo can be used to make your own leaflets.



When you have gathered your group of people who want to do the course make sure they understand how the course works. You can do this by getting each person to watch the introduction video <https://youtu.be/mVRgMtPmGwk> at home, or you may watch it together at your first meeting. Discuss how each person will get the course notes and what preparation is expected. If your group is doing part 1 as homework remind them a few days before you meet to do the preparation. If people do not do the preparation the class will not run well because you will be trying to discuss material they have not read.



Prepare for each meeting. Read through all the notes and answer all the questions. There are answers to help you at the end of the notes. Plan how much time to spend on each part and what are the key readings and questions you want to discuss; you may not be able to discuss everything. Do not let the group get bogged down or go off-track.

Think about what other items you could bring to each session to make it more interesting. For instance you may bring a Quran for people to look at, a leaflet published by Muslims, the Barnabas Fund prayer notes, some of the recommended books, or the *Engaging with Islam* evangelistic/FAQ booklets.

Ask your group members regularly how they are going with the course and pray for them.

It is your job to organise the group activities. These can be organised outside of the course meeting times; this will save you time when you meet.

Come back to these notes regularly to remind yourself to do these things.

I regularly update the course notes therefore always print the version from the website after you have refreshed the page.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

Read through the following list with your group and discuss which activities you can do together.

1. Have dinner together at a Muslim restaurant (Lebanese, Turkish, etc.).
2. Visit places where Muslims meet: the Muslim shopping district, clothing store, café, Islamic bookshop, or park. Find out where they meet.
3. Watch a few Muslim movies.

- *The Kite Runner*
- *Fetih 1453*
- *Mary Meets Mohammad*
- *Four Lions*
- The Life of Muhammad <https://www.youtube.com/user/lifeofmuhammad>
- Ask a Muslim for their favourite movie, book, or TV program.



4. Visit a mosque.

This is a highly recommended activity but it needs to be done with caution because we do not want to cause a Christian to stumble (1 Cor. 8:9-13). A visit to a mosque may make some Christians think that all religions are the same or that Islam is true. As the group leader you need to think about the members of your group and how strong their faith is. Visiting a mosque is an excellent activity for overcoming fear and learning about Islam but we need to be careful. After a visit it is important to talk about your experience as a group so that people can discuss the issues raised.

Most mosques are keen to have visitors and some run tours. Contact them with your request, or just visit during Friday prayers and observe what happens. Here are some possible questions for the mosque visit.

- What place does Muhammad have in your life? (Look for the name of Muhammad on the mosque wall.)
- Can you tell us the story of the prophets up to the coming of Muhammad.
- Who are the popular Islamic preachers?
- Can all Muslims read the Qur'an in Arabic? How do they find out what it means?
- What are some of the issues for Islamic youth?
- Do you know what books are in the Bible?
- What does the Qur'an teach about Christianity?
- What does a person have to do to enter paradise?
- How do you feel about the Islamic Jihadists?
- Can you understand why some people are concerned about the behaviour of some Muslims?

5. Organise a social activity.

As with the above activity, caution needs to be used not to make a young Christian stumble. With this in mind, a social event is an excellent activity to foster friendship and good relations with the Muslims on your campus or area. This normally works best if it is a joint event organised by both the Christian and Muslims.

Possible activities are: Simply meeting with Muslim leaders for a chat. A bush walk, halal BBQ,

soccer match, or lunch combined with a cultural presentation, or a simple talk by a leader from each community with Q&A. Just talk with the Muslim community and work out something together.

#### 6. Attend your university *Islamic Awareness Week*.

Many universities have Muslim student groups and it is common for them to run an *Islamic Awareness Week* once a year. During this time Muslims may set up tables with Islamic literature and organise lectures about Islam. This is a great opportunity to meet Muslims.

Visit the Muslim table and talk to those there. Collect the leaflets they are offering and discuss these with your group. Give them some of the *Engaging with Islam* leaflets. Attend their lectures and listen carefully to what is said and politely ask questions.

These events are a great way to make Muslim friends and invite them to read the Bible or start a Christian-Muslim discussion group. Also, look out for Christians you do not know who also have an interest in Islam; you may be able to work together.

With all of these activities make sure you set aside time to debrief with each other afterwards.

#### 7. Organise some evangelistic event for Muslims.

This could be setting up a table with Christian literature, a church event, sporting event, meal, giving a Bible to your Muslim friend, door knocking, or a forum or debate. There may already be a ministry to Muslims that you know of that you could join for a mission. Talk about what opportunities there are for your group to reach out the Muslims around you.

#### 8. Show solidarity with Christians under Islam.

Ask your church for prayers to be said during the service for Christians under Islam and the Islamic world. Provide the information for those who pray so they can do it. *The Barnabas Fund* or *Open Doors* can help you with your planning. Raise the matter with politicians and your church denominational leaders. Organise a gift of money or write to Christians who suffer under Islam.

You need to be careful that you do not get too negative and fearful in the face of this persecution. The gospel is going forth even in the face of great persecution. Balance the persecution information with encouraging stories and prayers from organisations like the *Middle East Reformed Fellowship* <http://www.merf.org>

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# Engaging with Islam

## LOVE EVERYONE - SESSION 1

### PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

Circle the number which represents how much you agree or disagree with these statements. Try to circle a number, but if you don't know then circle Don't Know.

Q1. I understand the basic teaching of Islam and Islamic history.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q2. I feel comfortable to publicly express my opinion about Islam.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q3. Islam is a religion of peace.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q4. I saw a Muslim on my street so it is time to move out of this suburb.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q5. I know people who have suffered from Islam.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q6. All of the problems in the Islamic world started with the Crusades and Western countries like the U.S. just continue this.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q7. Islamic terrorism is to Islam what the Klu Klux Klan is to Christianity.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q8. Muslims are not real Australians.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q9. I love exploring other cultures including Islamic culture.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q10. I am concerned about the future of our country now that Islam is here.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q11. Most Muslims do not follow all the teaching of Islam.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

Q12. Loving all people is easy.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree Don't Know

**PART 2: Video Presentation** (13 minutes) <https://youtu.be/oWLpCn6l5Ok>



**PART 3: Discussion**

Q11. Do you have any comments about the video?

Q12. Who are the Muslims you know?

Q13. How do you feel about talking to Muslims?

Q14. Are you aware of the suffering of Christians in Islamic countries?

Q15. What does the gospel give us the power to do?

Q16. Do Muslims need to hear the gospel?

**PART 4: Activities**

1. Smile at a Muslim.

2. Discuss which of the group activities your group can do.

- Dinner at a Muslim restaurant.
- Visit a Muslim shopping centre and café.
- Watch some Muslim movies.
- Visit a mosque.
- Organise a social activity.
- Attend your university *Islamic Awareness Week*.
- Organise an evangelistic event.
- Show solidarity with Christians under Islam.