

Engaging with Islam

THE PILLARS OF ISLAM - SESSION 5

These are the three key recommended books:

- Nabeel Qureshi, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*
- Mark Durie, *The Third Choice - Islam, Dhimmitude and Freedom*
- Horst B. Pietzsch, *Welcome Home - Caring for Converts from Islam*

PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

Definitions

- Jihad - The struggle to make Islam dominate all world affairs.
- Jihadis/Mujahadeen - Those who militarily fight to achieve the goal of Jihad.
- Jizyah - The payment Christians and Jews must pay once Muslims have conquered them as terms of peace. This payment stops the military Jihad against them. If they stop payment the military Jihad restarts.
- Caliph - The spiritual leader for all Islam.
- Imam - A trained Muslim who leads the Islamic prayers.
- Tawassul & Istighatha - The intercession of those, dead or alive, who because of their righteousness are able to intercede for you before Allah.

The Pillars of Islam

Below are the five pillars of Islam. These pillars are rituals that structure an Islamic community and are considered the basic good works you can do.

1. The confession of faith: *There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.*
2. The five daily ceremonial prayers recited in Arabic.
3. A financial offering for Islamic causes.
4. Fasting during Ramadan.
5. The pilgrimage to Mecca.

Salvation in Islam

In Christianity God has done one thing to save us - the death of Jesus. Because of this we only look to the death of Jesus for our salvation. But in Islam Allah has done nothing to save you. There is no *one* act of God that Muslims look to for salvation. The result of this is that *everything* saves them. Everything they do can earn God's mercy a bit.

Q1. Read the following references and try to construct how a person earns God's mercy and is saved in Islam.

Establish worship (prayer) at the two ends of the day and in some watches of the night. Lo! good deeds annul ill-deeds. This is a reminder for the mindful. (Qur'an 11:114, Pickthall)

Narrated Ibn Abbas: A man came to the Prophet and said, "O Allah's Apostle! My mother died and she ought to have fasted one month (for she missed Ramadan). Shall I fast on her behalf?"

The Prophet replied in the affirmative and said, “Allah’s debts have more right to be paid.” ... (Sahih al-Bukhuri: vol. 3, bk. 31, no. 174)

Then those whose scales are heavy, they are the successful. And those whose scales are light are those who lose their souls, in hell abiding. (Qur'an 23:102-103, Pickthall)

(Whoever brings a good deed will receive tenfold the like thereof, while whoever brings an ill-deed will be awarded but the like thereof, and they will not be wronged. (Qur'an 6:160/161, Pickthall)

Ceremonial Religion

Q2. Islam is a religion of external ceremonies. It has clean and unclean food, holy days, and holy places, and ceremonial washings. God’s people in the Old Testament had these practices too but these practices lacked the power to change them. What does Colossians 2:16-18 saying about external ceremonies?

PART 2: Video Presentation (18 minutes) <https://youtu.be/D7nw5Krx3-s>



1. Islamic Confession of faith - Shahada

Anyone who, after accepting faith in God, utters unbelief - except under compulsion, his heart remaining firm in faith - but such as open their heart to unbelief, on them is wrath from God. (Qur'an 16:106, Yusuf Ali)

Fight those who believe not in God and the Last Day and do not forbid what God and His Messenger have forbidden ... (Qur'an 9:29, Arberry)

Narrated Ibn 'Umar: Allah's Apostle said: “I have been ordered (by Allah) to fight against the people until they testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that Muhammad is Allah's Apostle ...” (Sahih al-Bukhari: vol. 1, bk. 2, no. 24)

The caliph (Islamic Leader) makes war upon Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians ... until they become Muslim or else pay the non-Muslim poll tax (Jizya). ... The caliph fights all other peoples until they become Muslim ... (Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri, *Reliance of the Traveller - A Classic Manual of Islamic Sacred Law*, pp. 602-603, o9.8 & o9.9)

2. Five Daily Prayers - Salaat

3. The Financial Offering for Islamic Causes - Zakat

Charities (zakat) shall go to the poor, the needy, the workers who collect them, the new converts, to free the slaves, to those burdened by sudden expenses, in the cause of God, and to the travelling alien. ... (Qur'an 9:60, Arberry)

The seventh category (for zakat) is those fighting for Allah, meaning people engaged in Islamic military operations. (Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri, *Reliance of the Traveller - A Classic Manual of Islamic Sacred Law*, p. 272, h8.17)

4. Fasting During Ramadan - Sawm

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca - Hajj

PART 3: Discussion

Q3. Do you have any comments about the video?

Q4. What would you say to a Muslim if they said that Islam is the only pure monotheistic worship of God?

Q5. What are some good parables or teaching of Jesus that you could share with Muslims and why?

Q6. It is good to learn about Islamic prayer but far more important that you pray yourself. Discuss your prayer life to someone in the group.

Answers

Q1. In Islam you have to earn Allah's mercy by showing that you are sincere. You do this by doing as many good deeds as you can. Someone else can also do a good deed for you. Then you hope that Allah will multiply your good deeds by ten so that when they are weighed you will have enough to be save.

Q2. God made everything good. There were set times when he commanded ceremonial foods and activities but these cannot make us clean, instead they provide the elementary teaching and concepts to understand Jesus and our salvation. (Genesis 1:32, 9:3, Mark 7:14ff, John 4:21-24, Colossians 2:16-17, 1 Timothy 4:4-5, Hebrews 10:1)

Q4. This is false because Muslims venerate the Black Stone and the Prophets.

Q5. Matthew 5-7, Mark 7:1-23, Luke 18:8-14. Have a look at the leaflets: "Famous Parables of Jesus" and "The Messiah and Ramadan", on the Engaging with Islam website. These parables speak directly to Muslims.

PART 4: Activities

1. Organise a collection of money to give to Christians who suffer because of Islam. (See Leaders Notes in session 1 for details)

2. Have you done the following? Circle an answer.

- Smile at a Muslim. Greet the Muslims you know. Yes/No.

- Pray at home and at church for the Islamic world and the Muslims you know, and for Christians who are suffering under Islam. Yes/No.
- Have you done your group activities? Yes/No.

3. Questions for Muslims

- Ask a Muslim if they know what books are in the Bible. Yes/No.
- Ask a Muslim if they believe in the Day of Judgement. If they do ask if they have done enough good deeds. Yes/No.