



Witnessing to Muslims through the Qur'an

What do you need to know about the Qur'an to help you interact with Muslim friends? Are there ways the Qur'an can help start witnessing conversations? Understand more of Islam's holy book and what it says about Jesus.

**No photos or
videos during this
seminar, please**



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Pick one of these texts and reflect on Paul's approach:

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ... 22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth ...As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ...31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17)

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (1 Cor 9)

- ***What principles undergird Paul's evangelistic approach?***
- ***How would Christians in your community receive Paul's approach?***
- ***How do you think Paul would open up spiritual conversations with Muslims?***



Permission to use the Qur'an?



God is a contextual communicator

- revelation—human history, Israel's history
- incarnation
- jars of clay



God is a contextual communicator

*"The New Testament was not written or dictated by Jesus, and the Greek language in which the Gospels are written is not the language in which Jesus taught or prayed and worshipped. ...**those who adopted the faith often expanded and transformed the assumptions of those who transmitted it.**"*

- Lamin Sanneh, Disciples of All Nations



The Qur'an: challenges & opportunities

- Lack of context within the text itself
- Unclear origins
- A contextualization for the Arabs?

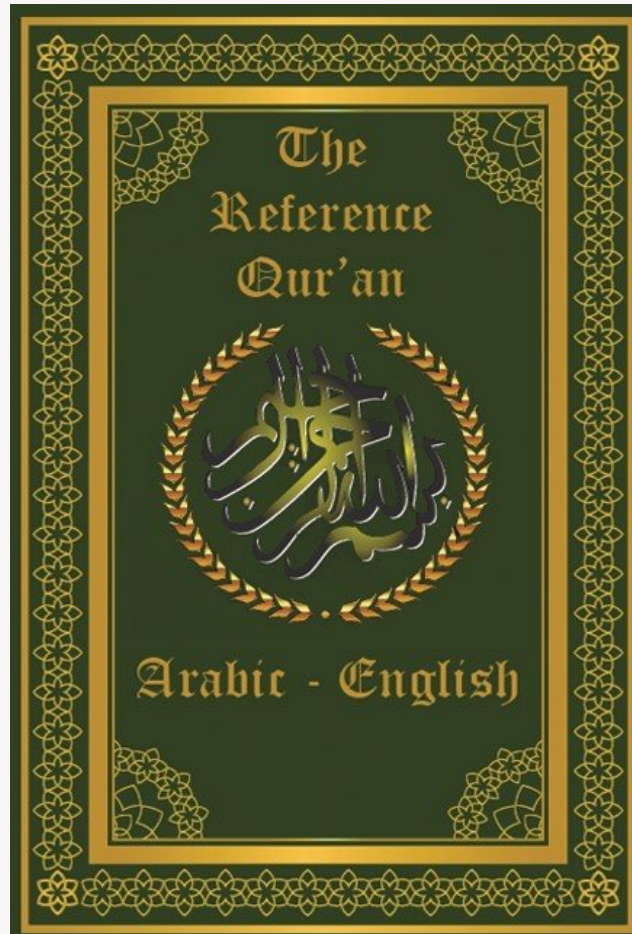
Say, "We believe in Allah and what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yaqub, and the tribes, what was given to Musa and Isa, and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We do not distinguish between any of them..." (2:136)



The Qur'an: challenges & opportunities



The Reference
Qur'an
referencequran.com



The Qur'an: challenges & opportunities

- Lack of context
- Unclear origins
- A contextualization for the Arabs?

*"Qur'anic quotes of Biblical stories ... are almost certainly **based on 'Bible interpretations' floating around Arabia at the time and popular among traders.**"*

- Mark Robert Anderson, *The Qur'an in Context*



The Qur'an: challenges & opportunities

- Lack of context
- Unclear origins
- A contextualization for the Arabs?
- Heretical Christianity?

*Allah said, Isa son of Mariam, did you tell the people: Take me and my mother as two gods in addition to Allah?
(5:116)*



How I use the Qur'an

1. Establishing Common Ground

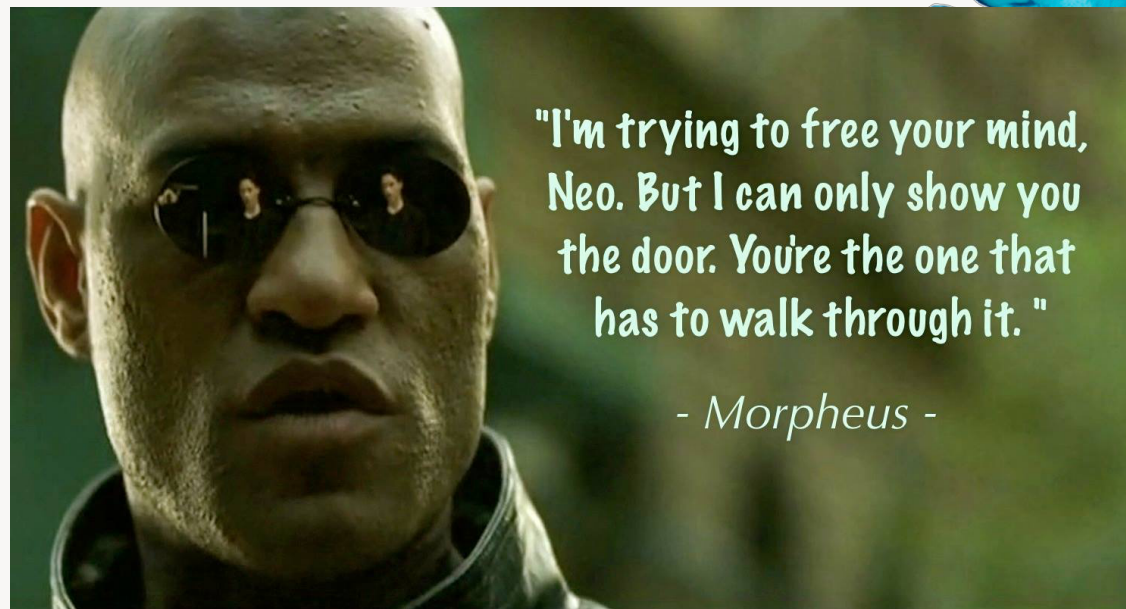
Abraham and son

*When he could walk, he said, "Son, I saw in a dream that I will sacrifice you. Look; what do you see?" He said, "Father, do as you have been commanded. If Allah wills, you will find I endure." When they had both submitted, and he had laid him face down, we called, "Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the vision." Thus we reward those who do good. This was a clear test. **And we ransomed him with a great sacrifice** and left [this blessing] upon him for later ages: "Peace be upon Ibrahim." (37:102-107)*



How I use the Qur'an

1. Establishing Common Ground
2. Deflecting Apologetics
3. Splinter in their Mind



How I use the Qur'an

1. Establishing Common Ground
2. Deflecting Apologetics
3. Splinter in their Mind

*"Using Paul's method, we can introduce accurate verses about Christ from the Qur'an to Muslims, which will naturally ... **open a door of curiosity** about the full identity of Jesus Christ."*

- Fouad Accad, Building Bridges



Jesus in the Qur'an

Read Sura 3, and discuss in threes/fours:

- What is significant about Jesus in this passage?
- How could this be helpful in conversations with Muslim friends?



Jesus in the Qur'an Sura 3

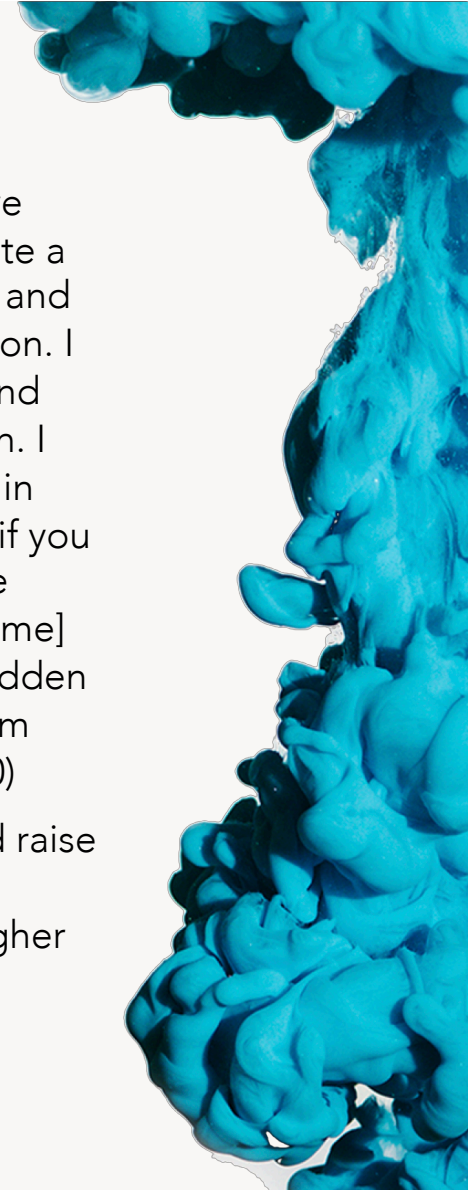
The angels called to him as he stood praying in the inner sanctuary, "Allah gives you good news of Yahya (*John the Baptist*), confirming a word from Allah, a master, chaste, and a righteous prophet." (39)

... When the angels said, "Mariam, Allah gives you good news of a word from him, whose name will be the Messiah, Isa son of Mariam, highly exalted in this world and the hereafter, and brought near [to Allah]. (45) He will speak to people in the cradle and when mature, and he is righteous," (46) she said, "Lord, how can I have a boy when no man has ever touched me?" He said, "Allah can create what he wills. When he decrees a matter, he only says to it: "Be," and [and Isa was] a

messenger to the people of Israel, "I have brought you a sign from your Lord: I create a bird for you from clay and breathe into it and it will be a [living] bird by Allah's permission. I heal the man born blind and the leper and give life to the dead by Allah's permission. I tell you what you eat and what you store in your houses. That is truly a sign for you, if you believe. (49) And [I am] a confirmer of the Tawrah that is in my possession, and [I came] to permit for you some of what was forbidden to you, and I have brought you a sign from your Lord, so fear Allah and obey me. (50)

...Allah said, "Isa, I will make you die and raise you up to me, and purify you from the disbelievers, and make your followers higher than the disbelievers until the day of resurrection. (55)

- **What is significant about Jesus in this passage?**
- **How could this be helpful in conversations with Muslim friends?**



Jesus in the Qur'an

Jesus is the *only one* in the Qur'an...

who is called sinless/holy

who is called holy from before his birth

who is a major prophet or messenger whose sins, or asking for forgiveness, are not mentioned.

who existed before his birth

who was a prophet from birth

who was conceived through the Spirit of God

who was born of a virgin

who spoke from the cradle

whose mother is named

who was called by his mother's name

whose mother was chosen above all women

who is an example/proverb

who is a prophet or messenger and also a sign

who is called blessed

who pronounces peace on himself

who is named as close to God

who is a witness on the day of judgment

who has knowledge of/is a sign of the last day

who is aided by the Holy Spirit

who is the predestined mercy of God

to whom obedience is connected to the straight path

who confirms a book

who heals

who creates

who gives life to the dead

who brings forth the dead

who tells hidden things

who is a woman's seed

who is called Christ or Messiah

who is highly exalted in this world and the next

who is a spirit from God

who is called the statement of truth

who is called a word of God

who is called the word of God

who is raised by God to Himself

who spoke after his death

who was alive after his death

who is currently alive

who is with God now

who senses unbelief in people

who permits formerly forbidden things

who is mentioned more than once as God's

messenger



Jesus in the Qur'an

Jesus is amazingly significant... yet the Qur'an contains very little of his actual life and teachings, so Muslims are often curious to learn more.



The Scriptures which came before

Read these texts, and discuss in threes/fours:

- How do these Qur'anic texts address the question of Scripture corruption?
- How could these be helpful in conversations with Muslim friends?



The Scriptures which came before

- How do these Qur'anic texts address the question of Scripture corruption?
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So when you (*Muhammad*) are in doubt about what we have revealed to you, ask those who are reading the book that was before you. Truth has come to you from your Lord, so do not be a doubter (10:94)

People of the book, you have no foundation unless you uphold the Tawrah and Injil and what was revealed to you by your Lord. (5:68)

The messenger believes in what was revealed to him by his Lord, and so do the believers; they all believe in Allah and his angels and his books and his messengers. We do not distinguish between any of his messengers. (2:285)

Believers, believe in Allah, his messenger, the book he revealed to his messenger, and the book he revealed beforehand. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, his angels, his books, his messengers, and the last day has gone far astray. (4:136)

...there is no exchanging Allah's words. (10:64)

There is no substituting his words, and he hears all and knows all. (6:115)

We made a covenant with those who said, "We are Christians." Then they forgot some of what they were reminded of ... (14) People of the book, our messenger has come to you to clarify to you much that you were hiding from the book (5:14-15)



Keep Learning

- Connect with InterVarsity's Muslim Ministry tiny.cc/gst-ism
"Next Steps" Kickoff, 12/31 @ 2pm in AC 123



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"Next Steps" Kickoff, 12/31 @ 2pm in AC 123
- Building Bridges, Fouad Accad
- The Qur'an in Context, Mark Robert Anderson
- The Emergence of Islam, Gabriel Said Reynolds

paulforrester@intervarsity.org



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- Connect with InterVarsity's Muslim Ministry tiny.cc/gst-ism
"Next Steps" Kickoff, 12/31 @ 2pm in AC 123
- 5(+1) Pillars of Muslim Ministry. tiny.cc/m-ships
- Isa is the only one... tiny.cc/isaistheonlyone
- Eid al Adha guide tiny.cc/eidaladha-outreach
- Isa al Masih in the Qur'an and Sunni Tafsir. tiny.cc/who-is-isa
- Has the Injil Been Corrupted? tiny.cc/injilcorruption

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“If you want the most difficult but most rewarding work in the world, minister among Muslims.”

- Samuel Zwemer



5(+1) Pillars of Muslim Ministry

Spiritual conversations build trust.

Hear - aim for the heart, not the head.

Isa - point to Jesus.

Pray for them, with them.

Scripture - get into the Bible.

Honor their culture - plant seeds, not flowerpots.

