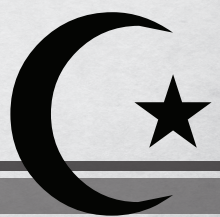




Islam



Session Outline

Islam

1. Life of Muhammad
 - a. Born in Mecca (AD 570)
 - b. First encounter with Gabriel (AD 610)
 - c. Journey to Medina (AD 622); Hijrah
 - d. Conquest of Mecca (AD 630)
 - e. Died in Medina (AD 632)
2. Scriptures and guiding documents
 - a. The Qur'an
 - b. The Bible—considered corrupted
 - c. Sunnah (Hadith, Sira)
3. Six Beliefs
 - a. Allah
 - b. Prophets—including
 - Muhammad
 - Jesus
 - c. Angels (and jinn)
 - d. Holy books (Qur'an, Torah, Psalms, Gospels)
 - e. Day of judgment
 - f. Fate
4. Five Pillars
 - a. Profession of faith (Shahadah)
 - b. Prayers (Salat)

- c. Almsgiving (Zakat)
 - d. Fasting (Sawm)
 - e. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)
5. Salvation
- a. No concept of original sin
 - b. Obedience through repentance and human effort
 - c. Two kinds of jihad
 - Greater jihad (internal struggle to live a righteous life)
 - Lesser jihad (holy war in defense of Islam)
6. Three major expressions
- a. Sunni
 - b. Shi'a
 - c. Sufi
 - d. Other expressions
 - Folk Islam
 - Islamism
 - Jihadism
 - Bahá'í Faith
 - Nation of Islam
7. The appeal of Islam
- a. Simplicity of beliefs and requirements
 - b. Moral clarity
 - c. All-encompassing nature
 - d. Universal brotherhood

8. What does the Bible say?
 - a. Romans 5:8
 - b. 1 John 4:10
9. How to approach Muslims
 - a. Be knowledgeable about Islam and Christianity
 - b. Draw them out
 - c. Emphasize Christianity is a relationship with God
 - d. Be culturally sensitive
 - e. Appreciate the high cost of leaving Islam
 - f. Bear in mind that it's all about Muhammad

Key Terms

Arianism Originated in the fourth century AD and argues that Jesus does not share the same essence with God, and thus does not share in the same divine nature with eternity and authority. The Nicene, Chalcedonian, and Athanasian Creeds are primarily responses to this heresy.

Bahá'í Faith Founded in 1844 in Iran. Teaches that God has revealed himself through nine “manifestations” including Adam, Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, and Bahá'u'lláh. There are an estimated 8 million Bahá'ís worldwide.

Hadith A report of a saying or behavior of Muhammad which sets a precedent for Muslim practice and becomes the basis of shari'a.

Hajj The annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Hijrah Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina in AD 622 which marks the first year in the Islamic calendar.

Injil The “book given to Jesus,” similar to the Greek word *evangel*, meaning “good news.” Muslims do not believe that no Injil remains on earth that hasn't been corrupted. Christians often refer to the Gospels, or a single Gospel, as “the Injil” when conversing with Muslims.

Islamism Broad movement promoting the idea that full and correct implementation of Islam worldwide requires both political power and state control. Sometimes called fundamentalism or Salafism.

Jihad (“holy fighting”) A spiritual struggle that can either be internal (striving in one’s soul to do right) or external (an effort against the enemies of Islam).

Jihadism A radical Islamic ideology. It views Western democracy as a violation of tawheed and an offense to God, and creation of a perfect Islamic state by violent means as necessary.

Jinn (also “Genie”) A type of supernatural, personal being—distinct from humans and demons—said to have been made by Allah from smokeless fire. Jinn can be either helpful or harmful to mankind.

Kaaba (Ka’bah) The cube-shaped structure in Mecca toward which all Muslims must pray. Believed to have been an altar used by Abraham.

Mecca The center of idol worship in AD 610 when Muhammad first challenged the people to forsake idolatry and embrace Islam. Most Meccans rejected his message, and many began to persecute the early Muslims, causing them to flee (hijra) to the town of Medina in AD 622. Located in what is now Saudi Arabia.

Nation of Islam Founded in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan by Wallace D. Fard. Currently led by Louis Farrakhan. Affirms belief in Allah and the Qur’an, but also teaches that millions of “Allahs” have lived and died since creation, and collectively the black race is God. Master Fard is considered the Supreme Allah and Savior.

Qur’an (Koran) (“recitation”) Revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 22 years. In AD 632 the recitations were collected together to become the Qur’an. Considered divine in its original Arabic.

Salat A set ritual of prayer to be done five specific times every day (sometimes combined in three sessions), memorized in Arabic, with ritual washings before each sequence. The head must be covered, the body pointed toward Mecca, and the motions and prostrations must be followed for the prayers to be valid.

Shahadah The foundational Muslim profession of faith: “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”

Shari'a (“way,” “path”) Islamic religious law, based upon the Sunnah. The four schools of Sunni interpretation are named after their founders: Hanafi (d. 767), Maliki (d. 795), Shafi'i (d. 820), and Hanbali (d. 855). Shi'a Muslims also have schools of their own.

Shi'a (Shi'ite) (from Arabic Shi'ati Ali, “party of Ali”) A minority of Muslims (10% worldwide) which believes that the proper successor to Muhammad should be his blood relative, beginning with Ali, his son-in-law. The Sunni-Shi'a split happened shortly after Muhammad's death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community. Shi'a follow ten central practices which include the Five Pillars. Many believe in a series of 12 imams serving as Muhammad's spiritual and political successors. The final one will someday appear with Jesus.

Shirk (“associating”) Committing blasphemy by assigning partners or equals to Allah, thereby compromising his uniqueness.

Sira (from Arabic Sirah Rasul Allah, “life of the messenger of God”) Biographies of Muhammad that provide interpretive insights about his life and the early history of Islam.

Sufism A mystical form of Islam, often viewed as one of its distinct branches but which has both Sunni or Shi'a followers. Emphasis is placed on experiential knowledge of God, sometimes by trances induced through chanting the names of Allah or dancing (as seen in “whirling dervishes”).

Sunnah Literally: the “trodden path” of Muhammad and his close companions. The Sunnah (Muhammad's examples) becomes the basis for shari'a.

Sunni (from Arabic Ahl as-Sunnah, “people of the tradition”) The majority of Muslims (90% worldwide) identify themselves in contrast to the Shi'a. The Sunni-Shi'a split began shortly after Muhammad's death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community. Sunni hold to the Five Pillars and the Six Beliefs. Many believe that a figure from Muhammad's family, known as the Mahdi, will appear with Jesus before the final judgment.

Tawheed (Tawhid) (“oneness”) The central doctrine of Allah's absolute oneness and uniqueness.

Before the Session

☞ *Prepare:*

- Ask God for guidance and pray for each participant.
- Watch DVD Session 6 on your own.
- Review *Comparing Beliefs about the Afterlife* and *Witnessing Tips* on the following pages.
- See *Additional Resources* for further study.
- Read *Rose Bible Basics: Christianity, Cults & Religions* handbook chapter 4.

☞ *Materials needed for this session:*

- DVD Session 6
- Bible
- Qur'an (optional)
- "Islam (Sunni & Shi'a)" section in *Christianity, Cults & Religions* PowerPoint® presentation (optional)

Opening the Session (5 minutes)

Use the *Did You Know?* facts to get participants thinking about today's topic. If you have a projector or whiteboard you can display the facts as participants enter the classroom. You can also read the facts aloud to the group before watching the DVD session.

When everyone gathers together, welcome participants and open the session in prayer. If you frequently have new participants joining the

group, you may want to briefly cover the purposes of this learning about other religions and cults (see Session 1).

Did You Know?

- There are approximately 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide—90% of them are Sunni.
- Muslims consider Jesus a prophet of Allah and believe that he was born of a virgin and will come again someday.
- Muslims believe the Qur'an in Arabic is a copy of an eternal tablet in heaven.

Watch the DVD **SESSION 6** (35 minutes)

- Refer class members to the session outline in their Participant Guides for note taking.

Group Discussion (15 minutes)

If the class is large, divide participants into small groups. If time allows, have a spokesperson from each small group share with the rest of the class some of the insights discussed in their group. (These questions are also located in the Participant Guide.)

1. After watching this session, what did you learn about Islam that you didn't know or understand before?
2. Share about a time that you had an interaction or conversation with a Muslim. What did you learn from that experience?
3. How is salvation in Islamic teaching different than what Jesus taught about how to be saved?
4. How is the gospel of Jesus Christ good news for Muslims?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23. How can you apply these verses in your own conversations and interactions with Muslims?

Expand the Teaching (optional – 30 minutes)

To expand the session to 90 minutes use one or more of the following activities. (Activity sheets for participants are located in the Participant Guide.)

- **KEY BIBLE VERSES** This study in Scripture can be completed individually or in small groups.
- **QUICK QUIZ** The quiz is based on the content in the DVD session, so you will want to have participants complete it only after watching the DVD.
- **PRESENTATION** Teach through the “Islam (Sunni & Shi’a)” section in *Christianity, Cults & Religions* PowerPoint® presentation. Also see sections on “Bahai,” and “Nation of Islam.”

Reaching Out (5 minutes)

☞ *Encourage participants to do one or more of the following during the week:*

- Read carefully through *Witnessing Tips* in the Participant Guide.
- Reflect on these questions:
 1. What can I do to become more knowledgeable about Islam and Christianity?
 2. What steps can I take toward developing a relationship with someone I know who is a Muslim? How might God be leading me to one day share the gospel of grace with them?
 3. If I have only limited contact with Muslims, what can I do to support ministries or missionaries that reach out to Muslims?

(These questions are also found in the Participant Guide.)

☞ *Close the session in prayer.*

Key Bible Verses

ROMANS 8:15–17

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” *NIV*

Q According to this passage, what is the result of receiving the “Spirit of sonship”?

A **We can call God “Abba, Father.” We can be confident that we are God’s children. We are co-heirs with Christ in suffering and in glory. We no longer need to be slaves to fear.**

HEBREWS 4:14–16

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” *NIV*

Q According to this passage, why can believers “approach the throne of grace with confidence”?

A **Because Jesus is our sinless high priest and the Son of God who sympathizes with us in our failings.**

ROMANS 5:8–10

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” *NIV*

1 JOHN 4:10

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” *NIV*

Q According to these two passages, on what do believers base their assurance that they will be saved from God’s wrath?

A **Because of Jesus’ atoning sacrifice we are no longer enemies of God, but are now reconciled to the God who loves us!**

Quick Quiz ANSWER KEY (Answers in Bold)

1. Which of the following is *not* taught in Islam?
 - a. The Qur'an which people have today is a copy of an eternal tablet in heaven.
 - b. The Torah, Psalms, and Gospels have been corrupted.
 - c. "Allah" refers to the Fatherhood of God. (Allah is the generic word for God in Arabic. In Islam, Allah has no sons and cannot be associated with anything.)**
 - d. Muhammad was the greatest man who ever lived.

2. True or False? The entire Qur'an was composed by Muhammad during the angel Gabriel's first visit. **FALSE (The Qur'an was written by Muhammad over a period of 22 years.)**

3. Islam teaches that salvation depends upon:
 - a. A person's good deeds outweighing their bad deeds.
 - b. The will of Allah.
 - c. Both of the above (A person's good works contribute to his or her salvation, but ultimately no one can know in advance what Allah will decide on the day of judgment.)**
 - d. None of the above

4. True or False? In the final analysis Islam is all about Muhammad—what Muhammad says about God and what Muhammad would do in any situation. **TRUE**

5. Islam is a religion of works and merit, but according to the Bible, good works are the **fruit (or outcome, result)** of salvation—not the means of attaining it.

Witnessing Tips (DO'S AND DON'TS)

- *Do make it clear you are a follower of Christ*, by your loving words and righteous lifestyle.
- *Don't assume your Muslim friend understands what you mean* when you say "Christian."
- *Do take time to build a relationship*. Practice hospitality.
- *Don't be surprised if you are rejected at first*. It is best to offer Muslim friends store-bought sweets and to avoid anything with pork or alcohol.
- *Do approach your encounters as a learner*. Ask questions.
- *Don't take notes* and treat Muslim friends like an academic project.
- *Do correct their misunderstandings* of your beliefs.
- *Don't argue*. If they want to debate with a Christian, refer them to the web site www.debate.org.uk
- *Do talk about Jesus*. Use his title, Isa Al Masih.
- *Don't insult* the prophet Muhammad.
- *Do pray out loud with your Muslim friends*. Ask if you can pray for their practical needs, healing, and worries. Look for opportunities and pray in Jesus' name.
- *Don't start your prayer with "Our Father..."* because Muslims misunderstand the fatherhood of God (as sexual). Wait until you correct this misunderstanding before using "Father" or "Abba." At first address your prayer to "Almighty God" or "Lord God."
- *Do use your right hand* in giving and receiving gifts.
- *Don't use your left hand for eating food* (especially when learning to eat with your hands). The left hand is used for toilet cleaning; the right hand for eating.
- *Do treat your Bible with respect*. Store it high on a shelf. Some wrap it in a beautiful cloth.

- *Don't put your Bible on the floor or in the bathroom* as reading material. Many Muslims are superstitious about the bathroom.
- *Do be gender-sensitive:* interact man to man, woman to woman.
- *Don't allow any compromising situation,* even just to protect from a possible rumor. An Arab proverb says, "A man and woman alone together are three with the devil."
- *Do be careful with your body language.* Remove your shoes when entering a home or place of prayer (especially if you see shoes at the threshold).
- *Don't sit so that the sole of your foot or shoe is facing someone.* Women, don't look men directly in the eye, or at least quickly avert your glance.
- *Do practice modesty,* even among Westernized Muslims. For women this is especially important, since family honor is tied to their behavior and reputation.
- *Don't assume that Muslims think the same as you do,* even if they dress the same.

(Excerpt from *Islam & Christianity* Rose Publishing www.rose-publishing.com)

Comparing Beliefs about the Afterlife

	What Muslims Believe	What Christians Believe
Judgment Day	Everyone should fear judgment day, in which each person's deeds will be weighed on a scale. Each person has two "recording angels" who keep a list of every deed, both good and bad. Islamic teachers assign credits to deeds related to the pillars of Islam. It is unthinkable for many Muslims to abandon their accumulation of credits and trust a savior.	After death, all people await the final judgment when both believers and unbelievers will be resurrected. All will be judged according to the deeds they have done, but believers will be saved because God removed the record that contained the charges against them. He destroyed it by nailing it to the cross of Jesus (Colossians 2:14).
Salvation	In Islam, there is no savior. Salvation is possible, for Allah can always forgive (his will is supreme)—but he is primarily the judge. There are many descriptive warnings about hellfire and punishment in the Qur'an. Jihadists use the Qur'an to teach that paradise is guaranteed for their martyrs. Most Muslim scholars and leaders reject the terrorists' definitions of jihad and martyrdom.	Even if one's list of good deeds outweighed their list of bad deeds, it would not make them acceptable to God. The Bible says this would only cause boasting and pride, as though someone could impress God by their good deeds (Ephesians 2:8–10). Instead, God has credited believers with the righteousness of Christ, so salvation is a gift, not earned by anyone—not even martyrs—but bought with a great price (Jesus' blood).
Paradise	The Qur'an says, "For those who reject Allah, there is a terrible penalty: but for those who believe and work righteous deeds, there is forgiveness and a magnificent reward" (Surah 35:7). This great reward is janna, a garden paradise, an eternal place of both sensual and spiritual pleasures.	God the Father adopts those he saves into his family so they may live forever with Jesus in heaven. To be saved involves being "born again" into a new relationship with God (John 3:5).

(Adapted from *Islam & Christianity* Rose Publishing www.rose-publishing.com.)

Additional Resources

🔖 Books

Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross by Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb (Baker, 2002)

The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror by Bernard Lewis (Random House, 2004)

Encountering the World of Islam, Keith E. Swartley, ed. (Authentic, 2005)

The Prophet & the Messiah: An Arab Christian's Perspective on Islam & Christianity by Chawkat Moucarry (InterVarsity, 2002)

Glad News! God Loves You, My Muslim Friend by Samy Tanagho (Authentic, 2004)

Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror by Mary Habeck (Yale, 2006)

Muslims Next Door: Uncovering Myths and Creating Friendships by Shirin Taber (Zondervan, 2004)

Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims by Ron Rhodes (Harvest House, 2002)

🔖 Internet

Muslim-Christian Debates www.debate.org.uk

Answering Islam www.answering-islam.org

🔖 DVD

Christianity and Islam (Vision Video, 2008)

The Cross or the Crescent: Understanding Islam (NAMB, 2001)

More than Dreams (Vision Video, 2007)

Behind the Sun (Narrow Path, 1995)

🔖 More from Rose Publishing

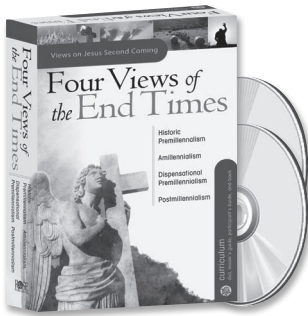
Islam & Christianity PowerPoint® (ISBN 9781596361324)

The inclusion of a work or web site does not necessarily mean endorsement of all its contents or of other works by the same author(s) or organization.

Four Views of the End Times

DVD-Based Study

For Individual or Group Use

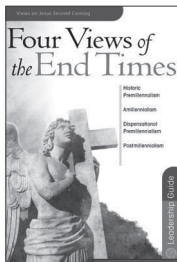
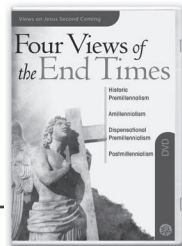


Complete *Four Views of the End Times* DVD-Based Study Kit

- Contains one each of everything below
- ISBN: 9781596364127

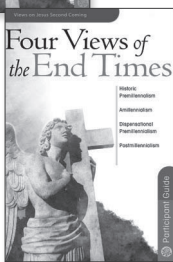
Four Views of the End Times DVD-Based Study Leader Pack

- All six DVD-based sessions
 - Leader Guide on disc as a printable PDF
 - Fliers, bulletin inserts, posters and banners as PDFs on disc
- ISBN: 9781596364240



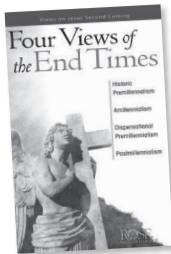
Leader Guide

- Leader Guide gives step-by-step instructions for group hosts or facilitators so you don't have to be the expert
- ISBN: 9781596364257



Participant Guide

- Each participant will need a guide
 - Guide contains definitions, charts, comparisons, Bible references, discussion questions, and more
- ISBN: 9781596364264



Four Views of the End Times pamphlet – fold-out chart

- Side-by-side comparison chart compares 4 views
- 12-page pamphlet fits in the back of a Bible cover
- Perfect for quick reference;

includes color diagrams of each view

- Contains Scripture references for each view
- Lists names of notable Christians who support each view

ISBN: 9781596360891

PowerPoint® presentation

- Contains more than 100 slides to expand the scope of the teaching

ISBN: 9781596363014

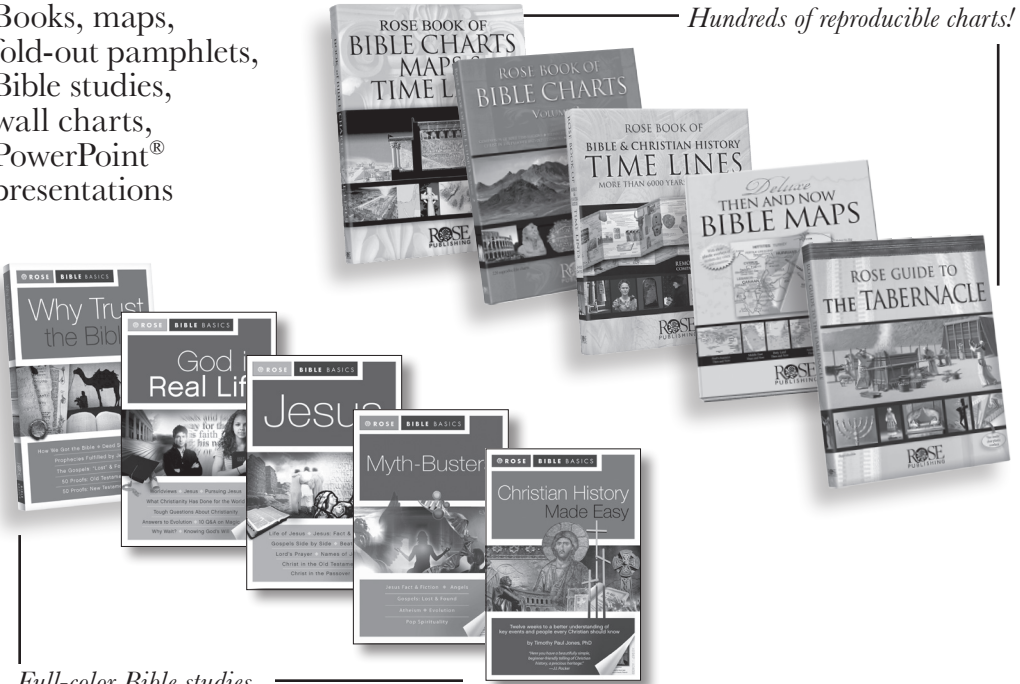


Other Products from Rose Publishing

Bible Reference Made Easy

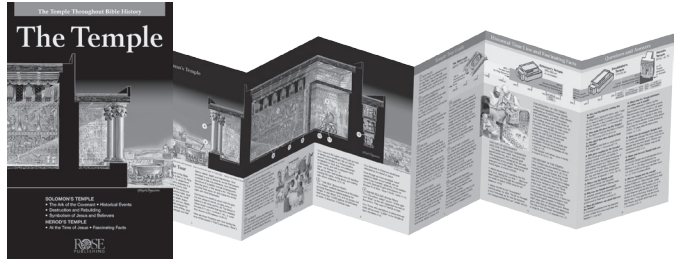
Books, maps,
fold-out pamphlets,
Bible studies,
wall charts,
PowerPoint®
presentations

Hundreds of reproducible charts!

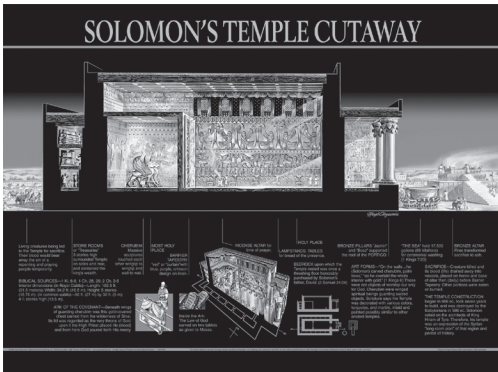


Full-color Bible studies

Fold-out pamphlets
These high-gloss plastic-coated fact sheets contain hundreds of facts and fit inside the cover of most Bibles. They include the most important information on the topic at a glance.



Full-color wall charts



ROSE
PUBLISHING

www.rose-publishing.com

Found wherever good Christian books are sold.