



## Reaching Out to Muslims in Your Community

There are 1.3-1.6 billion Muslims in the world who have not had the opportunity to hear the “good news” of Jesus Christ. While some remain opposed to the gospel, today many are more open to hear and learn from Christians than anytime in their 1400-year history.

Relationships are very important to Muslims. By prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit we can gain their trust and begin to build friendships with them. (Because of their culture, it is wisdom for men to reach out to men and women to reach out to women.)

Muslims do not know the unconditional love of God. Feeling loved, forgiven and accepted by God is perhaps their greatest need. They will be blessed by simple acts of kindness done with a heart of love. Honoring and serving them speaks volumes.

Become acquainted with their basic beliefs, and then ask honest and sincere questions. For example, ask them to share what their faith means to them. Often the Muslim community feels attacked by Christians and they are initially cautious. They will open up if they sense you are sincerely interested in them, rather than trying to get a conversion commitment at the first possible opportunity. You may discuss the Christian similarities to Islam such as moral living, godly families, fasting, etc.

Do not assume their ideas of the character of God, Jesus, and the Spirit are the same as yours. Muslims are taught that Christians believe in three gods; God the Father, God the Son and God the Mother (Mary). They believe Jesus is a great prophet but that it is blasphemy to believe Jesus is the Son of God. Do not argue that point; give the Holy Spirit time to reveal the truth. Muslims believe in a Messiah, so let them know we believe Jesus is the Messiah. They also believe that Christians and Jews have changed the Bible. Because of pornography from the West and the Western media, they equate Christianity with free sex, drugs, alcohol, divorce . . . all the evils of the West. They do not understand that to be born in our society does not automatically make us Christian. You may express that you do not approve of the evils that we see in society and explain how one becomes a true Christian.

Discuss, but do not argue or speak negatively about their religion. We must endeavor at all times to be patient and gracious and not become flustered or lose our temper. Muslims are people for whom Christ died, not opponents. There will be times when we cannot answer their questions. Simply admit it and if needed, search for the answer.

Muslims are required to pray five times a day. They may not realize that Christians pray as prompted by the Holy Spirit, and we continually “talk” to God through our prayers as we would a dear friend. They will respect that you are a person of prayer. You can offer to pray with them or tell them you will pray for them. Let them know that Jesus answers prayer and you pray in His name. (Isa, the Arabic name for Jesus is in their Qur’an.) They will appreciate it.

One of the most powerful things is to share your testimony of God’s love and goodness in your life. Tell them how Jesus gives you peace, hope, joy, victory over circumstances, answers to your prayers, and an assurance of salvation. They will realize that they do not receive that from Allah.

They esteem their Qur’an. Always show that you esteem your Bible. They have a respect for Christians whose walk is godly and who live their beliefs. Be honest, loving and respectful, but bold and open about your faith. As you are led by the Holy Spirit, share the living and powerful Word of God - realizing it has the power to go into the depth of their hearts.

Finally, it is reassuring to remember that it is our responsibility to pray for them and share our faith, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convert them. When we realize it is God who draws them to Himself (I Cor. 3:6) and He is the one to build His kingdom, we can walk in peace as we reach out to them!