



The Challenge of

Islam

(PART TWO): DEFENDING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Bible Study Discussion Guide

Getting the Most From This Discussion Guide

This is an interactive study guide. We designed it to be flexible so you can fit it to your own group and personal use. It includes boxes (like the one below) which include extra information and links to Internet sites where you can browse and dig as deep as you want.

DIGGING DEEPER: Islamic stuff
Suggested Links: [www...](#)

Group Discussion: Please feel free to move at your own pace through this study and take as much time as you need for each lesson. You are welcome to dig in as deep as you want, but you might find it helpful to skip over these boxes and use just the Bible passages and discussion questions.

Individual Study: If you want to dig deeper and all you have is a paper copy of this study guide, it's not going to be very interactive. So here is a step-by-step guide to finding and using the Internet links:

- 1) Log on to [www.lhmmen.com](#).
- 2) Click on "Bible Studies" in the left column.
- 3) Choose this study from the page by clicking the underlined title (located to the right of the study's graphic).
- 4) On the bottom of this page, click "download videos & materials."
- 5) Enter your e-mail address and password (and register, if necessary).
- 6) Find this study guide, then click the "download now" button.
- 7) In the File Download box, click the "save" button.
- 8) Save it to your desktop.
- 9) Click on the file to open it.

Now you can use the online discussion guide to its fullest. Click the hyperlinks (underlined words or phrases) that interest you and start digging.

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Introduction:

In part one of this **Men's NetWork** Bible study, "What is Islam?", we learned what Muslims believe and how they practice their faith. In part two, "Defending the Christian Faith," we will assess Islamic challenges to the Bible and the Christian worldview in six lessons.

1. **"Your Bible is Corrupt."** - The first lesson considers what Muhammad had to say about the Bible in his day. Did he think it was corrupt?
2. **"Would the Qur'an Appeal to a Corrupt Bible?"** - The second lesson examines specific Bible passages, which are also in the Qur'an. Are they bridges to lead our Muslim neighbors into the Bible?
3. **"God has No Children."** - The third lesson revolves around the Islamic challenge to the fatherhood of God and calling human believers, "God's children."
4. **"There are not Three Gods."** - The fourth lesson confronts the Islamic challenge to the Triune God of the Bible. Are we even talking about the same Trinity?
5. **Jihad** - The fifth lesson turns to the political and military challenge of Islam: *jihad*. We will study how Muhammad practiced *jihad* in various circumstances he faced, and what the Qur'an says about spreading the Islamic faith throughout the world today.
6. **Subjugation** - The sixth lesson explores the challenges Christians face in nations under Islamic authority. How would you live?

May the Lord bless and equip you to answer the challenge of Islam.

Qur'anic Passages Used In This Study:

Lesson 1: "Your Bible is Corrupt."

The Qur'an verifies the Bible that came before it (3:3-4)

"3.3": He has revealed to you the Book with truth, verifying that which is before it, and He revealed the *Taurat* and the *Injeel* aforetime, a guidance for the people, and He sent the *Furqan*.

"3.4": Surely they who disbelieve in the communications of Allah they shall have a severe chastisement; and Allah is Mighty, the Lord of retribution.

The Jews should consult the Torah (Law of Moses) for judgments (5:43-48)

"5.43": And how do they make you a judge and they have the *Taurat* wherein is Allah's judgment? Yet they turn back after that, and these are not the believers.

"5.44": Surely We revealed the *Taurat* in which was guidance and light; with it the prophets who submitted themselves (to Allah) judged (matters) for those who were Jews, and the masters of Divine knowledge and the doctors, because they were required to guard (part) of the Book of Allah, and they were witnesses thereof; therefore fear not the people and fear Me, and do not take a small price for My communications; and whoever did not judge by what Allah revealed, those are they that are the unbelievers.

"5.45": And We prescribed to them in it that life is for life, and eye for eye, and nose for nose, and ear for ear, and tooth for tooth, and (that there is) reprisal in wounds; but he who foregoes it, it shall be an expiation for him; and whoever did not judge by what Allah revealed, those are they that are the unjust.

"5.46": And We sent after them in their footsteps *Isa*, son of *Marium*, verifying what was before him of the *Taurat* and We gave him the *Injeel* in which was guidance and light, and verifying what was before it of *Taurat* and a guidance and an admonition for those who guard (against evil).

"5.47": And the followers of the *Injeel* should have judged by what Allah revealed in it; and whoever did not judge by what Allah revealed, those are they that are the transgressors.

"5.48": And We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, verifying what is before it of the Book and a guardian over it, therefore judge between them by what Allah has revealed, and do not follow their low desires (to turn away) from the truth that has come to you; for every one of you did We appoint a law and a way, and if Allah had pleased He would have made you (all) a single people, but that He might try you in what He gave you, therefore strive with one another to hasten to virtuous deeds; to Allah is your return, of all (of you), so He will let you know that in which you differed;

Lesson 2: "Would the Qur'an Appeal to a Corrupt Bible?"

Similar passage to Exodus 21:23-25 (5:45)

"5.45": And We prescribed to them in it that life is for life, and eye for eye, and nose for nose, and ear for ear, and tooth for tooth, and (that there is) reprisal in wounds; but he who foregoes it, it shall be an expiation for him; and whoever did not judge by what Allah revealed, those are they that are the unjust.

Similar passage to Psalm 37:29 (21:105)

"21.105": And certainly we wrote in the Book after the reminder that (as for) the land, My righteous servants shall inherit it.

The Bible is the authority, which verifies the Qur'an (10:94)

"10.94": But if you are in doubt as to what We have revealed to you, ask those who read the Book before you; certainly the truth has come to you from your Lord, therefore you should not be of the disputers.

Allah set Christians above unbelievers until Judgment Day (3:55)

"3.55": And when Allah said: O *Isa*, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return, so I will decide between you concerning that in which you differed.

Lesson 3: "God has No Children."

Anyone who says Allah has a son blasphemes (19:88-93)

"19.88": And they say: The Beneficent God has taken (to Himself) a son.

"19.89": Certainly you have made an abominable assertion

"19.90": The heavens may almost be rent thereat, and the earth cleave asunder, and the mountains fall down in pieces,

"19.91": That they ascribe a son to the Beneficent God.

"19.92": And it is not worthy of the Beneficent God that He should take (to Himself) a son.

"19.93": There is no one in the heavens and the earth but will come to the Beneficent God as a servant.

The Qur'an asserts God could only have a son through a consort.

"6.100": And they make the *jinn* associates with Allah, while He created them, and they falsely attribute to Him sons and daughters without knowledge; glory be to Him, and highly exalted is He above what they ascribe (to Him).

"6.101": Wonderful Originator of the heavens and the earth! How could He have a son when He has no consort, and He (Himself) created everything, and He is the Knower of all things.

Jesus is conceived of the Virgin Mary without a human father (19:20-22)

"19.20": She said: When shall I have a boy and no mortal has yet touched me, nor have I been unchaste?

"19.21": He said: Even so; your Lord says: It is easy to Me: and that We may make him a sign to men and a mercy from Us, and it is a matter which has been decreed.

"19.22": So she conceived him; then withdrew herself with him to a remote place.

Lesson 4: "There Are Not Three Gods."

The Qur'an identifies the Christian Trinity as Father, Mary, and Jesus (5:73, 116)

"5.73": Certainly they disbelieve who say: Surely Allah is the third (person) of the three; and there is no god but the one God, and if they desist not from what they say, a painful chastisement shall befall those among them who disbelieve.

"5.116": And when Allah will say: O Isa son of *Marium*! did you say to men, Take me and my mother for two gods besides Allah he will say: Glory be to Thee, it did not befit me that I should say what I had no right to (say); if I had said it, Thou wouldst indeed have known it; Thou knowest what is in my mind, and I do not know what is in Thy mind, surely Thou art the great Knower of the unseen things.

Jesus is God's Word to Mary, a pre-existent spirit from God (4:171)

"4.171": O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, *Isa* son of *Marium* is only an apostle of Allah and His Word which He communicated to *Marium* and a spirit from Him; believe therefore in Allah and His apostles, and say not, Three. Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one God; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector.

Allah breathed his spirit into Adam (15:29)

"15.29": So when I have made him complete and breathed into him of My spirit, fall down making obeisance to him.

Lesson 5: Jihad

Stage One ~ Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerant Jihad: (109:1-6)

"109.1": Say: O unbelievers!

"109.2": I do not serve that which you serve,

"109.3": Nor do you serve Him Whom I serve:

"109.4": Nor am I going to serve that which you serve,

"109.5": Nor are you going to serve Him Whom I serve:

"109.6": You shall have your religion and I shall have my religion.

Stage Two ~ Defensive Jihad (22:39-41)

"22.39": Permission (to fight) is given to those upon whom war is made because they are oppressed, and most surely Allah is well able to assist them;

"22.40": Those who have been expelled from their homes without a just cause except that they say: Our Lord is Allah. And had there not been Allah's repelling some people by others, certainly there would have been pulled down cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques in which Allah's name is much remembered; and surely Allah will help him who helps His cause; most surely Allah is Strong, Mighty.

"22.41": Those who, should We establish them in the land, will keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and enjoin good and forbid evil; and Allah's is the end of affairs.

Stage Three ~ Offensive Jihad (9:28-33)

"9.28": O you who believe! the idolaters are nothing but unclean, so they shall not approach the Sacred Mosque after this year; and if you fear poverty then Allah will enrich you out of His grace if He please; surely Allah is Knowing Wise.

"9.29": Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.

"9.30": And the Jews say: *Uzair* is the son of Allah; and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah; these are the words of their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!

"9.31": They have taken their doctors of law and their monks for lords besides Allah, and (also) the Messiah son of *Marium* and they were enjoined that they should serve one God only, there is no god but He; far from His glory be what they set up (with Him).

"9.32": They desire to put out the light of Allah with their mouths, and Allah will not consent save to perfect His light, though the unbelievers are averse.

"9.33": He it is Who sent His Apostle with guidance and the religion of truth, that He might cause it to prevail over all religions, though the polytheists may be averse.

Unfamiliar Arabic Terms and Definitions (italicized in text):

ARABIC	ENGLISH	DEFINITION
<i>Jihad</i>	Holy war	Struggle to subjugate Allah's enemies, comprised of three different phases of activity
<i>Shari'a</i>	Way, path	Body of Islamic laws governing both public and private aspects of life—daily routines, family and religious obligations, financial dealings, sex, hygiene, etc.
<i>Haddith</i>	Traditions	Records of the words and deeds of Muhammad written by those who were close to him
<i>Taurat</i>	Torah	Law of Moses
<i>Zabur</i>	Psalms	Songs of David
<i>Injeel</i>	Gospel	Teaching given to Jesus
<i>Isa</i>	Jesus	Arabic name for Jesus
<i>Ibrahim</i>	Abraham	Arabic name for Abraham
<i>Furqan</i>	Criterion, standard	Refers to the text of the Qur'an as a decisive factor between good and evil
<i>Jinn</i>	Genies	Supernatural spirits or beings in Arab mythology
<i>Uzair</i>	Ezra	Individual mentioned in the Qur'an and said to be worshipped by the Jews as a son of God
<i>Marium</i>	Mary	Arabic name for mother of Jesus

Common Arabic Terms and Definitions (not italicized in text):

Qur'an	Recitation	Muslim holy book (Koran) given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel
Allah	God	Arabic name for God
Muhammad	Muhammad	Founder of Islam
Islam	Submission	Religion founded by Muhammad (refers to the faith)
Muslim	One who submits	Adherent of Islam (refers to the believer)

LESSON 1: “Your Bible is Corrupt.”

NOTES

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, this world is filled with darkness, confusion, and lies. Thank You for sending Your Son to reveal Your truth. Give me confidence in Your Word, that it may expose my false assumptions and unbelief. Teach me to share Your truth to scatter the darkness of false belief from the hearts of those around me. I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Personal Assumptions and Conclusions: All of us reach our own conclusions about how things work in the world and why. Sometimes we stick to false conclusions until sufficient truth is presented that changes our minds.

- Describe a false conclusion you once reached about life (marriage, fatherhood, work, etc.).
- What things convinced you that your conclusion was wrong?
- What happened when you reached a new conclusion?

Satan led Eve to reach a false conclusion about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When she disobeyed God and ate the fruit, all of us became subject to sin and false conclusions. Jesus Christ came to guide us into the truth, and He suffered and died to remove the curse of our sin from us. Unfortunately, the truth of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is still twisted and misunderstood today. This lesson exposes a false conclusion Muslims have lived under for more than a thousand years.

Keep This In Mind: The Arabic word “Allah” is the Arabic term for “God.” In these videos, the English translation of the Qur’an usually translates Allah as the English God. Other English translations leave it in its Arabic form—Allah. (Note that Arabic-speaking Christians typically refer to God as Allah, and mean the Holy Trinity—i.e. the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)

For an example of this Islamic challenge, [click here](#).
For Christian responses to this challenge, [click here](#).

Watch The Video: Lesson 1 - “Your Bible is Corrupt.”

Misreading the Situation

“Your Bible is corrupted.” Muslims reached that false conclusion because they misread the situation. The Israelites did the same thing when Moses turned up missing on Mount Sinai. They figured he was gone, so they needed a new leader to take his place.

Read Exodus 32:1-35.

¹ When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."

⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.

⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁰ Now leave Me alone so that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should Your anger burn against Your people, whom You brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?

¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that He brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on Your people.

¹³ Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom You swore by Your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"

¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

¹⁸ Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear."

¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.

²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'

²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

²⁷ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' "

²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

²⁹ Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.

³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book You have written."

³³ The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me I will blot out of My book.

³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and My angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for Me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

The Israelites had seen their God overpower the gods of Egypt with one plague after another until Egypt lay in ruins and Pharaoh was forced to send the Israelites away. They had watched as the mighty hand of God divided the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to pass through on dry ground and drowning Pharaoh's army when it pursued them. Even here in the desert of Sinai, they saw the dark cloud and the lightning and thunder on the top of Sinai where Moses was meeting with their God. But still they misread the situation.

- Why were the Israelites so quick to give up on Moses? Why did they need a new god?
- Moses had put his brother Aaron in charge before he left. Why do you think Aaron caved in to them?
- What should he have done instead?
- In an effort to turn God away from His fierce anger, Moses offered to sacrifice himself to save the Israelites.
- How is that similar to what Jesus did for us on the cross on Mt. Calvary?

Challenging Islam's False Assumptions and Conclusions:

- Imagine you are having a conversation with a Muslim.
- How would it help your witness to discuss what Muhammad believed about the Bible's authenticity?
- In what directions could you turn the discussion if he persisted in rejecting the Bible's authority?
- When you witness to a Muslim (or anyone for that matter), why is it important to listen, clarify each other's point of view, and make sure your conversation remains a discussion?

Digging Deeper: Textual Variants In The Bible

Today, we do not have any of the original, handwritten books of the Bible. We only have ancient copies or manuscripts in the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). But among these manuscripts we find minor variations from one text to another. These variations are usually minor differences in spelling, names, or numbers. None of these differences negatively impact any major doctrines or teachings of the Bible.

For more detailed information, [click here.](#)

(On August 1, 2009 the Men's NetWork will release a new Bible study on this topic titled, "Where Did the Bible Come From?" At that time, you can find it [here.](#))

Sam Shamoun encourages us to follow this line of reasoning when speaking with Muslims:

Establish that Muhammad declared the Bible authentic in his own time.

Explain that many ancient manuscripts (including the Dead Sea Scrolls) have been recovered that pre-date Muhammad. Some are even older than the period of Jesus' earthly ministry. It is from these texts that modern-day versions of the Bible are translated, including English.

Muhammad judged these ancient Scriptures to be authentic. Therefore, our Bible, which translates from these texts, must also be authentic.

Since the Qur'an itself confirms the Bible's authenticity, we need to study the Bible's teachings along with interpretations in the Qur'an and examine our own conclusions.

Questions to Consider:

- What weaknesses or holes, if any, do you find in Sam's line of reasoning?
- What challenges could a Muslim still raise to these assertions about Scripture's believability? How would you answer them?

And from a different angle,

- What false assumptions or conclusions had you made about Muslims before these studies?
- Have you modified any of your views due to these studies?

Recognizing our own false assumptions and conclusions makes it easier for us to gently address the false assumptions and conclusions of our Muslim friends and neighbors.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Word stands firm through all generations. Humble me to believe in the Holy Scriptures and to submit myself to Your truth. Prepare me to truly hear my Muslim friends and neighbors and speak to them through me that they may hear Your truth and believe in You. I pray in Jesus' holy Name. Amen.

Need More Ammunition?

Check out this Web link to read a written discussion of the Bible and the Qur'an: [What the Qur'an Says about the Bible](#). Information here provides a listing of many verses stating the Bible was accurate prior to and during the life of Muhammad.

LESSON 2: “Would the Qur’an Appeal to a Corrupt Bible?”

Opening Prayer: Father in heaven, each of us wanders from the right path in life. Thank You for sending friends who care enough to show me where I have strayed. Give me the love, tact, and wisdom to be such a friend to others. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

- Discuss a time when you wandered from the right course in life.
- Who helped you see the error of your ways? How did they do it?
- Discuss the various forms of persuasion people use (force, threat, friendship, pleading). Which do you think works best?

Jesus declared, “I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). Through Jesus’ suffering and death, God removed the punishment of our wandering and sin from us. He raised Jesus our Good Shepherd who continues to guide us in green pastures and in truth. As you consider the best ways to persuade your Muslim friends to consider the Bible’s claims about Jesus, you might be surprised to see what the Qur’an claims about the Bible.

Watch The Video: Lesson 2 - “Would the Qur’an Appeal to a Corrupt Bible?”

- If you learned your best friend was caught up in something extremely destructive (an affair, an addiction), how would you try to help him/her see the light?

Easter afternoon, Jesus guided two of His followers to understand the Old Testament’s message.

Read Luke 24:13-32.

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them;

¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing Him.

¹⁷He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast.

¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹“What things?” He asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him;

²¹but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning

²³but didn't find His body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive.

²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the Prophets have spoken!

²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?"

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther.

²⁹But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them.

³⁰When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight.

³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Note how before Jesus revealed Himself or explained His suffering and death, He first listened.

- Why is it important for us to listen before we witness to other people?
- Describe a time when you had a discussion where the other person wasn't listening to you.
- When they thought back over Jesus' words the two disciples said, "were not our hearts burning within us?" What aspects of Jesus' death and resurrection make your heart "burn" within you?

Which Form of Persuasion is Best?

When witnessing to a Muslim friend or neighbor, we can consider many different ways to persuade them: forceful arguments, threats of God's wrath, friendly persuasion, pleas for them to save themselves from God's wrath, using logic and reasoning to break down their resistance to the Bible and God's plan of salvation.

- Can you think of a situation where any of these would work better than another?

Imagine you are speaking with a Muslim. You have the option to share Bible passages, verses from the Qur'an, or a combination of the two.

- What advantages would using only Bible verses give? What disadvantages?
- What advantages would using only passages from the Qur'an, which confirm the accuracy of the Bible give? What disadvantages?
- If you chose to use both Biblical and Qur'anic passages, which would you want to use first and why?
- Can the Holy Spirit use words from the Qur'an to create faith? If so, which words would those be?

Digging Deeper: Ways Christians Have Interacted With Muslims

- [A Muslim who converted to Christianity through International studies](#)
- [Should Muslims who convert to Christianity leave their Muslim culture?](#)
- [Video: A Muslim's Journey to Hope](#)

Sam Shamoun encourages us to follow this line of reasoning when speaking with Muslims:

Establish that Jesus was sent to confirm the Torah (Law of Moses), the Old Testament. Since the Dead Sea Scroll texts of the Old Testament, which were written *before* Jesus' birth, are identical in content to texts from which we translated the Old Testament we have today, our Old Testament is confirmed as uncorrupted and authentic.

The Qur'an told Christians of Muhammad's time to judge by the Gospel Jesus was given by Allah. The only Gospel the Christian community had in Mohammad's day was the entire New Testament—the same we have today. Thus the Qur'an affirms the truthfulness of the New Testament.

Since many of the passages in the Qur'an are found in the Bible, this further solidifies the argument that the Qur'an asserts the truthfulness of our Scripture.

Qur'an 10:94 ~ *"But if you are in doubt as to what We have revealed to you, ask those who read the Book before you; certainly the truth has come to you from your Lord, therefore you should not be of the disputers."* This passage identifies the Bible as the authority with which to verify Muhammad's teachings in the Qur'an. But the central teachings of the Old and New Testaments in the Bible contradict those of the Qur'an.

In Qur'an 3:55 ~ *And when Allah said: O Isa, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return, so I will decide between you concerning that in which you differed.*

Allah promised to give victory to the true followers of Christ until the end of the age. The only form of Christianity that prevailed through two thousand years confesses Jesus is Christ, the Son of God who died and rose again.

Closing Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, thank You for opening my heart to understand Your word and the salvation You have given me in Your Son Jesus Christ. Now open my heart and mind to share that saving news with everyone I meet. Let my life and conduct match my words and open the hearts and minds of all Muslim people to truly hear Your word and believe in Jesus by Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LESSON 3: “God Has No Children.”

NOTES

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for creating mankind in Your image, and adopting us as Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ. Guide us as we discuss the relationship You chose to have with us, that we may know how to share it with those who deny our mighty Creator could be our Father. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

- Describe an ideal earthly father.
- How did your father measure up?

When Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, He began by saying, “Father” (Luke 11:2). When He was dying for our sins on the cross Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34) and “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit” (Luke 23:46). When He rose from the dead He told Mary Magdalene to tell His disciples, “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God” (John 20:17).

The only reason we can call God “Father” is because Jesus took our sins on Himself and died in our place on the cross. Through faith, we are reconciled to God and He adopts us as His own children.

The Qur’an claims it is impossible for Allah to have children. In today’s video we will discover the false premise that lies behind this claim.

Watch The Video: Lesson 3 - “God Has No Children.”

God does many of the things for us that good earthly fathers do for their kids. He provides for our needs, protects us from danger, teaches us how to live our lives, and disciplines us when we are reckless and rebellious.

- What are your short-term and long-term goals when you discipline your children?

The Jewish Christians who received the letter to the Hebrews were seriously considering returning to Judaism. The Roman government was savagely persecuting Christians, but not Jews. Like Muhammad, they assumed God would never punish His own children, so they wondered if God might be telling them Judaism was the right faith after all.

Read Hebrews 12:5-11.

⁵And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you,

⁶because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”

⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.

¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

- What is the difference between punishment and discipline?
- Why is it important for earthly fathers to set limits for their children and consistently discipline them when they cross those limits?
- What are some ways your father disciplined you?
- If you are a father, what ways do you discipline your children?
- Would you discipline an adopted child differently than you discipline your own birth children? Why or why not?
- What ways has God disciplined you?
- What benefits did His discipline bring you?
- Why do we need the assurance of God's acceptance and salvation through Jesus Christ when we are undergoing discipline?

Points to Consider when Discussing God's Spiritual Fatherhood with a Muslim:

- Discuss what his father was like. Discuss which of his father's characteristics can be compared to God and His care, protection, providence, and discipline of us.
- Share a passage from the Qur'an, which denounces the idea of God taking a consort or wife and sexually conceiving a son. "*and then agree wholeheartedly!*" For instance, look at Qur'an 6:100-101 - "*And they make the jinn associates with Allah, while He created them, and they falsely attribute to Him sons and daughters without knowledge; glory be to Him, and highly exalted is He above what they ascribe (to Him).
Wonderful Originator of the heavens and the earth! How could He have a son when He has no consort, and He (Himself) created everything, and He is the Knower of all things.*"
- Ask them to share passages from the Qur'an that describe Allah's attributes and point out how these parallel fatherly attributes. This is how the Bible and Christianity attribute spiritual fatherhood to God.

Sam Shamoun encourages us to follow this line of reasoning when speaking with Muslims:

The Qur'an states that God is not the father to anything because the only way God can have a son is to have a wife (Qur'an 100-101 above).

To Islam this is a horrible blasphemy: see Qur'an 19:88-93, "*And they say: The Beneficent God has taken (to Himself) a son. Certainly you have made an abominable assertion the heavens may almost be rent thereat, and the earth cleave asunder, and the mountains fall down in pieces, that they ascribe a son to the Beneficent God. And it is not worthy of the Beneficent God that He should take (to Himself) a son. There is no one in the heavens and the earth but will come to the Beneficent God as a servant.*"

Establish a complete agreement that it is horrendous blasphemy to believe God took a wife to become a physical father.

God is only a spiritual Father to us, not a physical one. Our relationship with Him is spiritual, i.e. it reflects His nature, righteousness, holiness, and love.

The Qur'an claims Jews and Christians can't be God's children because He punishes them. It says in Qur'an 5:18, *"(Both) the Jews and the Christians say: 'We are sons of Allah, and his beloved.' Say: 'Why then doth He punish you for your sins? Nay, ye are but men,- of the men he hath created: He forgiveth whom He pleaseth, and He punisheth whom He pleaseth: and to Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between: and unto Him is the final goal (of all).'"*

Ask if a Muslim father would ever discipline a rebellious Muslim child? When? Why? Does that mean the child no longer has a father?

The Bible asserts that God disciplines His children as an earthly father disciplines his children. Look at [Proverbs 3:11-12](#); [Hebrews 12:5-11](#).

Discuss examples of parenthood without sex in the Qur'an.

Jesus' birth of the virgin Mary: ask which man Mary had sex with to conceive Jesus? Check out Qur'an 19:20-22, *"She said: When shall I have a boy and no mortal has yet touched me, nor have I been unchaste? He said: Even so; your Lord says: It is easy to Me: and that We may make him a sign to men and a mercy from Us, and it is a matter which has been decreed. So she conceived him; then withdrew herself with him to a remote place."*

If Allah could use His power to conceive Jesus of a virgin, why couldn't He use His power to spiritually have a son?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, I praise You for creating me and adopting me as Your own son through Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son. Help me to rightly understand and speak of the relationship between me and You. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LESSON 4: “There Are not Three Gods.”

NOTES

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to me through Your Son Jesus Christ. Clear my heart and mind from all false thoughts and ideas and speak through me to clear away the misinformation and errors that lead my Muslim friends to reject You. I pray this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

“I Never Said That!”

- Were you ever accused of saying something you never said? Describe an argument based on someone else’s misunderstanding.

Marriage counselors often use active listening; they encourage couples to listen to each other, and then repeat back what they heard their spouse say. This way they make sure they understood what their partner actually said. As we will see in the video, Muhammad needed a counselor like that.

Watch The Video: Lesson 4 - “There Are not Three Gods!” to see what Muslims think we mean by the Trinity.

During the Last Supper, Jesus gave one of the clearest glimpses into the Holy Trinity.

Read John 14:15-31.

¹⁵“If you love Me, you will obey what I command.

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

¹⁷the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.

²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

²¹Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love Him and show Myself to him.”

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show Yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love Him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

²⁴He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.

²⁵“All this I have spoken while still with you.

²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸"You heard Me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

²⁹I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

³⁰I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on Me,

³¹but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what My Father has commanded Me."

We do not, in deed, we cannot understand the God of the Bible. The Bible describes God both as one ("I the Lord your God am one God") and as three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.) In order to help our puny human minds wrestle with this revelation from Scripture, we use the word "Trinity"—a word that never appears in the Bible. The word Trinity involves two parts: tri and unity, which portray the Biblical teaching that God is three Persons united in one divine essence.

When confusions inevitably arose about the nature of God, the Apostles' Creed helped clear up misunderstandings and more accurately described the Bible's revelation of God. The creed does a wonderful job of distinguishing the three Persons. But as we learn the three articles of the Apostles' Creed, we might compartmentalize the three Persons of the Trinity, almost ending up with three Gods.

For instance, we might get the false impression from the First Article—"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth"—that creation was the work of God the Father alone, and that the Son and the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with it. But Scripture clearly shows us this is not the full picture.

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made."

- What part did the "Word," God's Son, Jesus Christ, have in creation?

Genesis 1:1-2, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

- How would you describe the Holy Spirit's contribution to creation?

Clearly all three Persons were united as one God creating the heavens and the earth. But if we compartmentalize the three Persons of the Trinity and fail to see each Person as involved in every work God does in this world, we end up distorting the unity of God. In our efforts to reach a Muslim, we need to stress the unity of God just as much as we stress the three Persons of that Triune God.

Describe the role the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each played in the following works of God:

- Jesus' baptism ([Matthew 3:16-17](#))
- Jesus' death on the cross ([Hebrews 9:14](#))
- Jesus' resurrection ([Acts 10:40; 1 Peter 3:18-19](#))

God the Father so loved the people He created, that He sent His only-begotten Son. Jesus, the Son of God saved us through His perfect life, His innocent suffering and death and His glorious resurrection. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to create this faith in Jesus within us, that we might be saved and live as God's children here on earth and eternally.

Questions for a One-God-in-Three-Persons Discussion:

As Sam points out, Muhammad had the wrong impression of who the Trinity is. As you begin a discussion of the Trinity and Allah, it is helpful to ask your Muslim friends who they understand the Trinity to be. You might want to ask these questions:

- I understand Allah to be one undivided God. Do I understand correctly? What am I leaving out?
- Do you think Christians worship one God or three Gods?
- Who are the three Gods you think we worship?

The key to discussing the Trinity with your Muslim friend is to first expose Muhammad's errant view of the Trinity (Father, Mary, and Jesus, their Son). Next discuss whether or not the Qur'an teaches there is plurality within Allah's unity. Finally, show the parallels between the plurality in unity in the Qur'an's revelation of Allah, and the trinity in unity in the Bible's revelation of God.

Muhammad's Mistaken View of the Trinity:

Muhammad assumed we believe Christ is the physical offspring sired by God through a woman, Mary.

Make clear that we don't believe this: instead we call Jesus the Son of God because the Bible teaches He existed before creation in intimate communion with God ([John 1:1-3; 17:5](#)).

Discuss the Qur'an's distorted understanding of the Christian Trinity. God the Father, Mary His consort, and Jesus their offspring. Qur'an 5:73, *"Certainly they disbelieve who say: Surely Allah is the third (person) of the three; and there is no god but the one Allah, and if they desist not from what they say, a painful chastisement shall befall those among them who disbelieve."*

Historically, the Christian Church has never believed this.

Clarify what Christians Mean by the Trinity:

We do not mean there are three Gods, but one eternal being who exists eternally as three distinct Persons sharing intimate communion—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Of the Son, the Qur'an says Jesus is Allah's Word, a pre-existing spirit from Allah, which He conveyed to Mary. Qur'an 4:171, *"O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, Isa son of Marium is only an apostle of Allah and His Word which He communicated to Marium and a spirit from Him; believe therefore in Allah and His apostles, and say not, Three. Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one God; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector."* Though the Qur'an denies Allah has a Son, it teaches that Jesus is the eternal Word of God who was conceived by God's power in the virgin Mary.

Of the Holy Spirit, the Qur'an describes the life-giving Spirit Allah breathed into Adam. God's Spirit is the agent of life, the means by which Allah gives life to His creation. Qur'an 15:29: *"So when I have made him complete and breathed into him of My spirit, fall down making obeisance to him."* The Bible teaches the same about the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.

Digging Deeper: The Holy Spirit

The Hebrew word for "spirit" is "ruah." This word can be translated as "wind," "spirit," or "breath."

- In Genesis 2:7 He is the breath of life breathed into the nostrils of Adam.
- In Ezekiel 37:9 He is the breath that comes from the four winds and breathes into the slain that they might live.
- In John 20:22 He is the breath the resurrected Jesus breathed onto His disciples.
- In 2 Timothy 3:16 God breathes out all Scripture, inspiring (breathing into) the prophets and apostles who wrote them.

The Qur'an says God exists with His eternal Word and eternal Spirit: does that make three Gods? Or one God in plurality?

If the Bible teaches there are three gods, so does the Qur'an! Instead the Bible teaches one God in plurality—just what the Qur'an teaches!

Closing Prayer: Holy Trinity, we praise Your unity in trinity and Your trinity in unity. We praise You for being the one eternal God who created this world, redeemed it, and will restore it again on the Last Day. We glorify You for revealing Yourself to us as the Father who created and cares for us, the Son who died and rose again for us, and the Holy Spirit who gives us life and faith. Give us clarity and precision to faithfully share Your revelation to all those around us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Reasons Muslims Convert To Christianity:

[Top Five Reasons Muslims converted to Christianity](#): these come from a survey of 750 converts from various countries.

Problems Facing Muslim Converts To Christianity:

[Read these stories](#). Read about the difficulties faced by Muslim converts to Christianity in America.

LESSON 5: *Jihad*

NOTES

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, open my heart and mind to Your word, that I may carry Your light throughout this world of darkness. Open my ears that I may hear my neighbor, and my mouth that I may speak Your truth to him. Finally, open my neighbor's heart and mind to hear and believe Your Word through me. I pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***Jihad*: What's it all about?**

- When you hear the word *jihad* what do you think?
- How much of a threat do you think Islamic *jihad* poses to you, your family, your community, and your nation?
- How suspicious should you be of your Muslim neighbors?

Watch The Video: Lesson 5- *Jihad*

Christian Warfare: The Old Testament is filled with military language that reflects the situation Israel faced living in the midst of many enemies. But the New Testament also has a significant number of passages speaking of battle and warfare. [Colossians 2:15](#) speaks of Jesus winning a great victory over Satan, sin, death, and hell for us all. This fulfills God's promise to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15) that Jesus would suffer and die to destroy Satan's work and set us free from our sins. Because He has already won the war for us—and always guards and protects us—we fight a different kind of battle with different weapons.

Read Ephesians 6.

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace.

¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

In Muslim *jihad* any human who is not subjugated to Allah is the enemy. But according to verse 12 above, the Christian's enemies are not "flesh and blood," but "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- Describe how each piece of "armor" protects us from the attacks of the devil, sinful people around us, and our own corrupt nature.

The only offensive weapon in our arsenal is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 reads, "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

- Discuss how you can use the Word of God offensively.
- Describe the difference between how a Muslim and a Christian would fight the battle against their enemies.

***Jihad* and its Impact on Free Speech:**

In Western culture we place great value on freedom of religion and personal expression.

- In what ways does this work in favor of Christianity and Islam?
- Do you think there is an Islamic *jihad* going on in our country? Why or why not?
 - If so, which stage is it in—peaceful coexistence, defensive, or offensive?
 - Do you expect it to move to the next stage? Why or why not?
- In the peaceful coexistence phase of Islam, Muslims would be expected to uphold freedom of speech and religion. Why?

Some think Muslims in Europe are waging defensive *jihad* by using "political correctness" to curtail freedom of speech (laws prohibiting things which would offend Muslims).

Digging Deeper: Is Political Correctness Helping Spread Islam?

This question can be difficult to answer fairly. Here are a few Web sites, which explore that possibility:

- [Jerusalem Post](#)
- [NPR article on Danish Anti-Immigration Backlash](#)
- How might political correctness serve defensive *jihad*?
- How can it hamper our Christian witness?
- Would you expect Muslims to openly attempt to curtail freedom of religion and expression in America? Why or why not?
- If so, what urgency does that add to sharing our faith with our Muslim neighbors today?

"When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist. Then they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat. Then they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, I did not speak out; I was not a Jew. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me."

Martin Niemöller

Questions to Consider when Discussing *Jihad* with Your Muslim Friend:

Ask him to tell you about Muhammad's life and how he dealt with unbelievers.

Ask if it is difficult living as a Muslim in this country. What would he like to see changed, and how does he think that change should come?

Ask which groups are most difficult for Muslims to deal with and why.

Ask him to explain *jihad* to you and ask what he thinks about *jihad* in this country and around the world.

Digging Deeper:

[Timeline of Muhammad's life](#)

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, Jesus used the Word of God as a powerful sword to drive out demons and to resist Satan's temptations. Through His suffering and death on the cross He vanquished the devil, and in His glorious resurrection He gives us that same victory through faith. Remember Your children in this world as we continue to fight battle against the enemy today. Strengthen our grip on Your Word, that we may use it to resist Satan and bring the saving Gospel to all our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ we pray this. Amen.

LESSON 6: Subjugation

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, remember Your sons and daughters who live under persecution wherever they may be scattered under the heavens. Guard their faith, strengthen their resolve, and bless the witness of their words and lives. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

There is no greater news for people to hear and to share than the story of God's love for us in Jesus Christ His Son. Our glorious Savior became human, lived a perfect life for us, died on the cross as our Substitute, and rose again to guarantee us eternal life. There has been a battle across the United States to remove that story from the public sphere. Those of us who live in the West often take for granted the freedoms we have to express our religion. What would you do if you completely lost your freedom of speech and religion?

Watch The Video: Lesson 6 - Subjugation

God's people have often found themselves living among those who were hostile to them.

Read Daniel 3:1-30.

- ¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
- ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.
- ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.
- ⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language:
⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.
⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."
- ⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
- ⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.
- ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!
- ¹⁰ You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold,
¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.
- ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."
- ¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,
¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?
¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"
- ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.
¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual

²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.

²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,

²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, O king.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,

²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

- Is Christianity oppressed in your country? If so, how?

Digging Deeper: Oppression In North America?

Consider the following Men’s NetWork Baloney Shop videos from Pastor Ken Klaus: [Click here](#).

- Don’t Pray.
- S-h-h-h-h! Don’t say that!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not know whether God would choose to save them through a miracle or not. They were prepared to die in that furnace.

- How can a Christian decide what changes he should or shouldn’t make in response to oppressive laws against Christianity? Should we consider what effect our actions will have on those who are weak in faith?
- When should Christians openly defy the law like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did?
- If you were to face severe persecution, what encouragement could you draw from their experience in the fiery furnace?
- Stephen was put to death by the Jewish high court and God did not intervene with a miracle to save his life ([Acts 7:51-60](#)). What encouragement could you draw from his experience if you faced persecution for your faith?
- How does knowing Jesus’ victory over sin and death encourage you?

Life in a Muslim World:

Consider for a moment yourself in a world where Islam dominated—like the one in the video where the Christians in Judea had to surrender to Ibn Kathir.

- Discuss how your daily life would be different than it is today.
- Discuss how you would try to practice your Christian faith.
- How would you share your faith with your children and neighbors?
- How much would you cooperate with the Islamic authorities and where do you think you would have to draw the line?
- What things can you do now to prepare for the possibility that Christianity will be illegal in your land one day?

Digging Deeper: Shari'a Law In Western Countries

- [Shari'a Law in Europe](#)
- [Shari'a Law in the United States](#)

Questions to Consider when Discussing Subjugation with a Muslim:

Ask your Muslim friend the following questions:

- What would our community look like if subjugated to Islam?
How would that glorify Allah?
What benefits would that bring to people in our community?
What would be the best way for that to happen?
- Ask if he thinks Christians want to subjugate the world to Christianity?
Discuss God's patience. How does it give Christians time to spread the Gospel and allow the world time to believe in Jesus Christ?

But on the Last Day, we believe God will send Jesus Christ to subjugate the world, judge all people, and restore His perfect creation. He will share eternity with all those who believed in Him.

Examples Of Islamic Persecution Of Christians:

The Armenian Genocide is a controversial and confrontational issue involving Christian Armenians who were subjugated and persecuted by Turkey's Ottoman Empire during and after World War I.

- [Armenian Story](#) of the Turkish oppression and genocide
- [Armenian National Institute](#) gathers evidence to prove the Armenian Genocide actually took place
- [Questions about the Real Intentions of the Turks](#)

Sudan:

- [Sudanese Christians under attack](#)
- [Restrictions faced by Christians](#)

Ethiopia:

- [Ethiopian persecution](#)

Saudi Arabia:

- [National Laws against non-Muslims](#)
- [Persecution in Saudi Arabia](#)

Bangladesh:

- [Conditions in Bangladesh](#)
- [Persecution in Bangladesh](#)

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for being patient with us and forgiving our sins and faults for Jesus' sake. Empower us to share Your truth with all our friends and neighbors, that they may come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ and by the power of Your Holy Spirit put their trust in Him alone. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

In Part Two of this **Men's NetWork** Bible study, Sam Shamoun continues the examination of Islam begun in *The Challenge of Islam (Part One): What is Islam?* Assessing key texts from the Qur'an and the Bible, Islamic presuppositions concerning the priority of the Qur'an and the supposed textual corruption of the Bible are considered. In addition, he reviews and clarifies topics like the sonship of believers and the Muslim concept of the Trinity. As the idea of jihad or "holy war" has frequently been in the news the last few years, Shamoun elaborates for non-Muslims exactly what the phases of jihad are. These insights show how—according to the Qur'an—*jihad* is actually a dynamic, three-stage process. Whether *jihad* is expressed as peaceful co-existence, a defensive stance, or an offensive posture, depends on the prevailing social and political milieu Muslims find themselves in. The study's final lesson offers a view of how society might be altered if non-Muslims' conduct and beliefs were subjugated to Islam. Finally, Christians are offered encouragement and talking points when encountering Muslims on faith issues and sharing the hope they have in Christ Jesus.

The contents of *The Challenge of Islam (Part Two): Defending the Christian Faith* include six lessons:

- "Your Bible is Corrupt."
- "Would the Qur'an Appeal to a Corrupt Bible?"
- "God has No Children."
- "There are not Three Gods."
- *Jihad*
- Subjugation

About Sam Shamoun:

As an Arab Christian, Sam Shamoun navigates two worlds. Born in Kuwait but raised in the United States, he's familiar with the tenets of Islam but believes in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Challenged for his beliefs during his adolescence by those espousing Islam, Shamoun dug deeper into Scripture. Applying himself to diligent study in both the Bible and the Qur'an, he has become a vocal apologist for the Christian faith—particularly when dealing with Muslim objections.

Today, Shamoun speaks out on matters of faith and is an active witness to the goodness of God's saving grace in his life. He has engaged in spirited debates nationwide, refuting accusations and attacks leveled by Muslims against Christianity. As a writer, he contributes to a Web site covering topics relevant to both Christianity and Islam:

<http://www.answering-islam.org>

Anything You Want To Say?

Topics such as those addressed in this Bible study are considered daily on the **Men's NetWork** Forum at www.lhmmen.com/foruminfo.asp.

Check it out, sign up, and join in.



www.lhmmen.com

The Men's NetWork is a Christ-centered, Scripture-guided, service-oriented fellowship committed to equipping and motivating men to greater levels of leadership and service as they become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ. At our Web site, www.lhmmen.com, we offer video Bible studies, ministry tools to deepen men's faith, practical and easy-to-use resources for hands-on service projects, and other useful information for men's groups.

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