Witnessing to Muslims

Developing a productive and ongoing discussion of faith with a Muslim takes patience and great diplomacy. It is easy to be misunderstood.

Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind:

1. **Love Muslims sincerely and be gentle**, they will sense this. Understand that the objective is to win the person, not the discussion. The goal is not to defend Christianity but to present Christ.

2. **Listen patiently to what they say** and you will understand them better. Your turn will come to talk. Usually, Muslims must hear the gospel many times before they believe.

3. **Explain the Gospel very simply**, in everyday terms, and do not forget to define words such as sin, prayer, Son of God, and faith. These often have other meanings to the Muslim. (Please refer to the page "Commonly Misunderstood terms among Muslims").

4. **Stress the unique being of Jesus Christ**:
   - His miraculous birth and the prophecies concerning His birth.
   - His sinless life and extraordinary teachings.
   - His unique names (the Koran calls Him: the Word of God, a Spirit of God).
   - The fact that He is alive in Heaven.
   - The fact that Jesus is returning.

5. **Encourage the Muslim to read the Bible**, starting with Luke, John and the Psalms.

6. **Let the Muslim know where to find** Christian Radio Broadcasts, Christian TV programs, and Christian websites. Suggest that he/she sees the Jesus film. Offer to supply a tract, booklet, Christian music or New Testament – and always be ready with more material. The best pieces of Scripture to use are the Sermon on the Mount, the Psalms, and the Gospels.

7. **If a Muslim gives you a Koran or a tract**, accept it politely. Read it and be willing and ready for a friendly discussion.

8. **Share how you found peace and assurance and salvation** through Christ.

9. **Answer Objections with gentleness and kindness**, at the same time ask:
   - How do you know that the Gospel is not true? Have you read it?
   - Have you ever studied the Bible for yourself, or are you just repeating what you heard others say about it?
   - How can you know if God has pardoned you? Do you have assurance of salvation?
   - Do you have eternal life?

10. **Be focused**: Try to limit the discussion on each occasion to one or two definite points. It is preferable if you talk one-on-one, not in a group.

11. **Set an example in Courtesy**: If you are polite and kind in your words and manners, a Muslim, generally, even against his/her will, will be forced to do the same. Never let an argument degenerate into a quarrel.

12. **Share the great facts**:
   - **God loves you**: Islam emphasizes the greatness of God, Christianity emphasizes God’s love.
   - **You can have a personal relationship with God**: In Islam, you are a slave to God. We know God as our Heavenly Father.
   - **You can always be sure of salvation**: In Islam, all Muslims will have to pass through hell before Allah decides their final destiny. Muslims don’t know when they will be delivered. In contrast, Jesus guaranteed us eternal life through the cross.
WHAT NOT TO DO

x Never attack the person of Mohammad: be careful to give some respect to him, like saying “your prophet Mohammad....”

x Do not argue to win: Remember that your aim is not to silence objectors and not to gain mere logical victory, but to lead souls to Christ.

x Never let an argument degenerate into a quarrel: Behave with respect and good manners, and then the Muslim, generally, will be forced to do the same.

x Never get angry: Remember that the Muslim may be trying to make you angry. In his opinion, if he succeeds he would have gained victory.

x Do not be misled by the Muslims’ belief in Jesus or the Bible. Normally their belief has an Islamic perspective, not a Biblical one.

x Do not speak right away about Jesus “The Son of God”, as they have no concept of God the Son and will not accept it.

x Never enter into discussion without knowledge, love, and prayer.

Commonly Misunderstood Terms among Muslims

Sin (Khatiyya), is what God has declared to be haram (unlawful). It might be an evil act that is good in certain circumstances. An example of this is what they call the “white lie”, or killing a person who has denied his religion, Islam.

Faith (Iman), is saying the Shahada (the Muslim Confession of faith), so every Muslim is a “believer” (mu-emen).

Prayer (salat = ritual prayer), the Christian salat is not considered a prayer for a Muslim, it is (du-aa, calling out to God). The reason is because we do not have specific cleansing preparations before we pray, and we don’t have specific postures. So instead of saying (let us pray) we can invite the Muslim to (seek God’s face) or (call on God). Muslims understand these expressions.

Revelation (wahi), indicates the revelation of God by means of the angel Gabriel. It is therefore advisable to use the word (e-e-laan) in the biblical sense, inspiration by the Spirit of God.

Heaven (janna), heaven and the Kingdom of Heaven are not understood. It is better to use the word paradise (firdaus).

Messenger (rasul) is understood as profit, so for them Jesus was a messenger, but Jesus’ disciples were Apostles.

Bible (al-kitab al-muqaddas) (the Holy book), may also refer to their Qur’an or other holy books, so it is better to use (Injil); the Gospel of Jesus.