



# PROFILE: ISLAM

An Introduction to Sharing Christ with Muslims

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# Muslim Beliefs Are as Varied as Their Communities

Muslim beliefs, practices, and norms can be as varied as the communities in which Muslims live. Cultural values of power, shame, and upholding traditions tend to carry precedence in governing the lives of many Muslims — at times over and against Islamic orthodoxy.

While the **Five Pillars of Islam** may be regarded as the purest form of the religion, animism and other influences may form a syncretism that reflects cultural traditions more than the Qur'an.

## THE FIVE PILLARS

- Confession of one God and Muhammad his prophet
- Prayer
- Almsgiving
- Fasting
- Pilgrimage to Mecca



# Take Genuine Interest in Their Lives

*As opportunity arises, turn the conversation to spiritual matters using any of the following prompts:*

- 1 ASK** "If you asked God for a miracle in your life, what would that be?" Pray in faith for them right there.
- 2 FIND** Where your lives intersect and share a testimony of how God met you. *(Example: "I too have struggled with X, but God met me by...")*
- 3 ASK** "Where are you from? What is the most popular religion there? Is that your religion?"



*"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." — John 6:29*

## Humbly Steer the Conversation to the Following Topics

- 1 In all religions, man is trying to rid himself of sin. Has Islam removed your sins from you? Does anyone you know follow Islam perfectly? How many sins can you do and still attain paradise? Remember — it took only **one sin** for Adam and Eve (Hawwa, "Ha-WAA") to be sent out of the garden.
- 2 Share stories of sacrifice: the **Passover story** (Exodus 12), the **sin offering** (Leviticus 4), and the **suffering servant** (Isaiah 53). Make the connection between these stories and Jesus' sacrifice of His own life on the cross.
- 3 Tell them the only reason you are going to paradise is because you are following God's way — to trust in **Isa al-Masih** and His atoning self-sacrifice that removes the sins of the world.



# Practical Wisdom for Engaging Muslims

## 1 GENDER SENSITIVITY

Generally, engage only with someone of your own gender to respect cultural and religious boundaries.

## 3 RESPECT THEIR PRACTICES

Be mindful of their religious observances. Don't eat pork or drink alcohol in front of them.

## 2 LISTEN FIRST, DON'T ASSUME

Do not assume all Muslims have the same beliefs. Ask them to share their story. Invite them to your home for hospitality (ask about dietary restrictions) or to an Al Massira (المسيرة) group.

## 4 AVOID POLITICS

Keep the focus on spiritual matters and personal testimonies. Don't enter into political conversations.

# Pray for Muslims in Your Community

May God give you boldness, love, and compassion as you share the love of Christ with your Muslim neighbours, coworkers, and friends. The church has an unprecedented opportunity as the Lord continues to bring unreached people groups to our shores.

*"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth... that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him."*

PRAY FERVENTLY · SHARE BOLDLY

# Prayer Changes Everything.

Your prayers for Muslims are powerful — and you don't have to pray alone.

Let FFM equip and connect you with resources to keep going.



**WEBSITE**

[www.ffmna.org](http://www.ffmna.org)

Prayer bulletins & resources

**EMAIL**

[ffm.toronto@sympatico.ca](mailto:ffm.toronto@sympatico.ca)

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