

Starting a Bible Study in a Mosque

The premise of this article may seem absurd at the start. Why in the world would Muslims in a mosque ever agree to study the Bible? What could possibly be gained by such an effort? Let me explain to you how I start Bible studies in mosques and perhaps you will begin to see the point.

I go to the mosque to find Muslim friends who are searching for God. Showing great respect and taking off my shoes I ask to speak with the spiritual leadership of the mosque. After we have sat for a while and exchanged pleasantries I take out my Qur'an and ask the oldest, most respected of the Muslim leaders the following question:

I have found a very interesting verse in the Qur'an. It is found in Surah 10 ayah 94. It says: "If you are in doubt as to what we have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Book from before you." This verse says that Muslims should consult the other holy books which were revealed before the Qur'an. Would you like to study the other holy books with me?

The Muslim response to this question is usually "No, I cannot study those other books because they have been changed." To this I express astonishment and say,

This seems to deny what the Qur'an itself says. Look in the same Surah, ayah 64, where it says, "No change can there be in the words of Allah." If God cannot protect His own holy word then he is impotent and unworthy of worship. God's Word can never be changed because God himself is the protector of His Word. Is there anyone stronger than Allah who could change His Word?

Please forget Josh McDowell at this point. Muslims are much more impressed with arguments based on the nature of God than with human historiographical arguments about the reliability of scripture. You may get into these later, but at this stage please resist the temptation to get embroiled in such disputes.

When I went into a radical Saudi funded mosque and had this discussion, the imams agreed to study the Bible with me. As I was exiting the mosque an older gentleman pulled me aside and whispered, "Did you know that there are verses that have been changed in the Qur'an?" I smiled and said briefly, "Yes." I had found what I had come to look for, a Muslim who was seeking the truth! You may eventually be thrown out of the mosque, but in the meantime you will find many who are seeking the truth.

Once they have agreed to study the Bible, where do you begin? You start by starting right through the Bible beginning with the story of Adam and Eve. Muslims know this story but they don't know the main point. What does it mean that Adam and Eve are created in the "Image of God?" Well, chapter two explains it. Adam walks with God in the garden. He names the animals. He is vice-regent with God and friend of God. He is involved in intimate personal relationship with God. A Muslim cannot have a personal relationship with God.

A Muslim cannot experience God. (I am quoting the great Muslim scholars when I say this.) Muslims desperately need this message of relationship, forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

Do you feel that this is stepping in over your head? Well, of course it is! But you will not learn unless you take the first step. This is how Jesus trained his disciples. So I am not going to tell you more. Until you have tried out the first step it is useless for me to tell you the second step. But I will make you a promise. If you take this first step and go into the mosque and make this invitation, I will mentor you through the next steps. My email is at the end of this article and I will respond and guide you if you are willing to take the first step.

In conclusion, let me share some other verses in the Qur'an if you feel you need or can use them in your first discussion:

Qur'an 4:136: "O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His messenger, and the scripture which he has sent to His messenger, and the scripture which he sent to those before (Him). Any who denies Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the day of judgment has gone far far astray." This verse shows that Muslims must believe in the other holy books.

Qur'an 2:136: "Say ye: 'We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the descendants (children of Jacob) and that given to Moses and Jesus and that given to (all) Prophets from their Lord.'" This passage also shows that Muslims must believe in the message of all the previous Holy Books.

Qur'an 57:27: "We sent after them Jesus the son of Mary, and bestowed on Him the Gospel." This passage emphasizes that the Gospel specifically must be believed in.

Qur'an 6:34 & 115: "There is none that can alter the Words of Allah," and "None can change His Word." This shows again that God's Word cannot be changed. A similar statement is found in 10:64.

By the way, you could use the same approach with a Muslim you meet in the supermarket. You will find that Muslims, especially those wearing clear religious clothing, are easy to approach. Do not be afraid of them, but go out and meet them. Say you have a question about something you have read in the Qur'an and invite them to your home. There you can have the same question for them as you show them hospitality and love.

When you take your first step, email me and I will walk you through the next step. I also promise to pray for you. Step out in faith and you will be surprised what doors God will open for you. This will be the greatest adventure of your life.

For contact with the author, email me your request along with information about yourself which I can pass to him. Thanks!

— Robby Butler <RobbyQButler@gmail.com>.