



MISSION CITY

LONDON

10 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SPEAKING WITH MUSLIMS

Many of us have Muslim contacts in our lives: the young mum at the school gate, the colleague at work, the neighbour down our street. Many of us have a heart to get alongside them – to get to know them as friends, to share our lives and share the gospel. But sometimes it seems hard to move towards them. Sometimes the stereotypes of our culture, the challenges of a language barrier or the sin of our hearts gets in the way. So here are 10 things to remember when moving towards the Muslims we know – 10 things to help us move towards them in love and in truth.



1 EVERY MUSLIM IS AN INDIVIDUAL

There's no such thing as a typical Muslim. They come from many countries, speak many languages and enjoy a variety of cultural traditions. There are different strands of Islam and some people follow their religion more strictly than others. If we want to love our Muslim neighbours well, a good first step is to listen to them – to get to know who they are, what they enjoy, what they hope for and what they believe.

2 EVERY MUSLIM IS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

All humans reflect a little of God – at the beginning of time the Lord said, “Let us make mankind in our image” (Genesis 1:26). And whilst that image – in each person - has been tainted by sin, it’s still there in every one of us. Because of that we treat our Muslim friends with respect. We allow Christ’s love to compel us when we interact on gospel matters (2 Corinthians 5:14).

3 EVERY MUSLIM IS CALLED TO TAKE SCRIPTURE SERIOUSLY

The Qur’an encourages Muslims to take seriously the law, the Psalms, the prophets and the gospel (which they call the *Injil*). While some Muslims will be convinced the Bible has been corrupted, many Muslims are open to hearing more about Jesus. We can give them a Gospel to read (the Gospel of Mark is a good place to start) or offer to sit and read it with them.



4 GOD CALLS US TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH ALL PEOPLE

The Great Commission is an exciting call: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations”, Jesus said (Matthew 28:19). It’s a reminder that God’s grace is for people of every land and our call is to share the gospel with people of every culture, including the Muslims who God has brought to live and work near us. Doing so is a wonderful privilege!

5 GOD EQUIPS US TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

When God gives us a job, he makes sure we’re equipped. In fact, he promises that ‘His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness’ (2 Peter 1:3). We don’t need to be experts or to have had some special training to point our Muslim friends to Jesus in small ways – we can simply rely on God’s Spirit at work in us and the power of God’s living and active word (the Bible).

6 GOD OPENS PEOPLE’S HEARTS

Sometimes we find talking about Jesus hard because we think it’s our job to convert people. Nothing could be further from the truth! As we see in the missionary journeys of Paul, ‘The Lord opened [the person’s] heart to respond’ (Acts 16:14). Our job is to share the good news of Jesus. It’s worth getting to know our Bibles well so we can share that good news clearly but God takes care of the rest.



7 WE CAN SHARE OUR LIVES WITH MUSLIMS

Jesus ate with those of faith and those who did not believe in him (Matthew 9:10). Many Muslims have no close Christian friends – offering an invitation to a meal (that avoids pork and alcohol) can be a wonderful step towards building bridges. Enjoying time together as families can be a real way of deepening relationships.

8 WE CAN SHARE OUR TESTIMONY WITH MUSLIMS

God calls us to be willing to gently explain our beliefs and answer people's questions (1 Peter 3:15). A simple way to begin is to tell our Muslim friends how we started to follow Jesus. They may think being born in the UK automatically makes us a Christian – they may be surprised to hear that there is a decision to be made.

9 WE CAN INVITE MUSLIMS TO GLIMPSE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

One of the most powerful witnesses is seeing Christian community in action – we can introduce our Muslim friends to our church family and allow them to glimpse what it means to follow Christ (Acts 2:46-47). Many Muslims will be intrigued by a visit to church or an invitation to a less formal gathering.

10 WE CAN BE UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

We can be confident in what the Bible says, knowing that the gospel has the power to save. Sometimes we might not know all the answers to the questions that Muslims ask – on those occasions, it's fine to say we'll get back to them at a later stage. But even if our Muslim friends find it hard to understand the Trinity or the divinity of Jesus, we can share the wonder of Jesus' death and resurrection. We can join with Paul in saying, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Romans 2:16).

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THE LEAST REACHED SINCE 1835

London City Mission exists to serve the Church of London in sharing the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ with the least reached of London.

Our staff go to those those living in poverty, on the margins of society or from other cultures. We show God's love in practical ways, continuously seeking opportunities to share the life-changing gospel message. We work in partnership with churches, to ensure that individuals who make a commitment to follow Christ are embraced by a loving church family. The gospel is at the heart of all we do.

BECAUSE LONDON NEEDS JESUS



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