

Muslim Evangelism

Introduction:

My sending agency provided numerous secular books about my target region's culture as well as many resources regarding the knowledge of Islam. After this initial training time I knew more about the five pillars of Islam and the history of Muhammad than most Muslims, but sadly our knowledge will not lead to a conversion. My desire was to find information from Christian laborers who had a burden for souls and were already in the area. I was seeking diaries that recorded which verses and methods the Holy Spirit was blessing in the region. Only a few people had experience in the region and none were able to guide me to effective evangelism methods in contrast to merely building relationships. A stirring within me led to study the Quran and to search for bridges to the Gospel.

My hope is that sharing the methods that I found effective will provide all those who go after me with useful information for evangelism and church planting efforts among Muslims and will save their ministry valuable time (Eph. 5:16). Learn from my trials and errors so that you may start on "first base" instead of starting at home plate in as you labor to see an indigenous work birthed in your region,

The Holy Spirit blessed these methods from 1997-1999 among Sunni Muslims in an area in central Asia, Faithful witnesses will have to test and retest each verse to discern which Quran verse (ayet) are more helpful in their local setting. Adjusting evangelism methods to every local setting will require the ability to learn from both negative and positive feedback. The methods that worked in my local area are presented for a resource, but each locale will vary depending upon the sect of Islam that dominates the area and the degree of deviation from the strict adherence to the Quran. Make no mistake about a any method that helps, in the end a clear understanding of the Gospel contained in 1st Cor. 15 will need to be presented before asking for a decision.

Death by stoning is the penalty for evangelism in my target area and has hindered efforts. It was best for me to disassociate from a few ten year missionaries to not contaminate their work and an unwillingness to relent on my focus. The love of Christ compelled me as one of His followers and fear of being ashamed of the His Gospel led me to ignore their concerns and push on. In their defense, my association with the government protected me more than most religious workers. A secular job in the medical and veterinary field, which were under government control, brought me in contact with men of peace and influence. In the end, the first indigenous work in two thousand years emerged and three years later it is surviving (Acts 11:17).

Biblical Precedent for Evangelistic Methodology:

A believer from outside the area challenged my using the Quran and teaching in a Mosque as acceptable bridges to the Gospel. My conscience was appeased by a few examples from the scriptures that seemed to reveal a precedent.

Old Testament:

In the Old testament Naaman is told to “go in peace”. He wishes to take Holy ground back to a pagan temple so when his earthly master is worshipping he will at least be on Holy ground. The precedent here seems to be that it is the faith in the one true God and not the place that makes worship acceptable or unacceptable.

And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way. And he said unto him, Go in peace...

2nd Kings 5:17-19 (KJV)

New Testament:

Paul's used the synagogue as his platform for reasoning from the Old Testament scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah. He worked from what they already knew toward the unknown truths of Christ in order to lead them to Christ. This linear thought pattern of going from known to unknown also worked well in my region. Assuming even small logical conclusions and thus a point was made led to ineffective evangelism.

Acts chapters seventeen and eighteen provide the best “proof text” for non-biblical material and topics as a bridge to the gospel. Paul uses the pagan's knowledge of an unknown god as well as their own poetry as a bridge. Paul demonstrates the effectiveness of using, not condemning, an unknown god as a bridge to the gospel truths. Finding the unknown god with Muslims begins with the Quran.

The following is how I train evangelist to use Acts 17-18 for evangelism and Church planting:

1. Study their culture and religion. Look for natural bridges to the Gospel. Acts 17:22-23

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore you ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”

2. Ask them to show you in their book how to be right with God, how to receive forgiveness of sin and how to defeat death. This is the key question.

If they cannot show you proof, they may become seekers when their unknown god cannot produce. If they can show you, it will open up the opportunity for you to learn a bridge and/or share Biblical truth.

3. Being willing to use cultural and non-religious material. Paul even used their poetry as a bridge. Acts 17: 28 “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”
4. Go to the people, even if it is in their place of worship. Acts 17:17-19
5. Christ’s resurrection from the dead is a crucial part of the Gospel and must not be neglected (Acts 17:31-33). This is the part that forces a decision. “Some will believe, some will mock, and some will delay a decision.” Islam has no problem with you praying in the name of Jesus or using His name.
6. Sometimes the divine appointment is next door. (Acts 18:7-8)
7. Leave clean. (Acts 18:6)
8. We are obligated to also disciple those who chose Christ. (Acts 18:9-11)
9. The bottom line is Paul kept focused on the main thing. (Acts 16:10)

I stayed focused on Romans 1:16 is true, “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to those that believe...” All our social work and humanitarian aid does not change their eternal destiny of being bound for hell (John 3:18). Merely helping physical needs will result in a few more people living on earth a few more years, in slightly better living conditions, with slightly more knowledge. We must introduce them to Jesus, and they must choose to be His friend or not. They deserve the choice to say “no“. Acts 11:17-18 was the final test of our efforts and that was the verse that evaluation was done on a daily basis. Peter is being grilled by the powers that be and they ceased their questioning when proof that God was actually the source behind it was evidenced by the report of salvations.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.
Acts 11:17-18 (KJV)

The methods are broken down by the amount of time you have to share.

If there is a five minute opportunity to share:

In most cultures there is a growing use of bottled water. Bottled water provides a great visual illustration of sin's effect and an opportunity to share the gospel. When opportunity and boldness cross paths, stating, "How great it is to have pure clean water," tests the door for a divine appointment. After agreement upon the value of pure water to avoid sickness, a simple question is asked. "What if one drop of invisible AIDS virus is added, would you drink it?"

Expect the answer to be "No" and then ask "Why not?" This will emphasize the point that a small amount of bad ruins all the good.

"What kind of person would I be if I knew the water was bad and then let you drink it?"

This question assists in clarifying your reason for sharing gospel with them in the moments to come. The messenger is now understood as wanting to offer assistance and help. Motivation is concern and only a bad person would not try to tell.

"Just as you would not drink knowingly something that is partially bad, God cannot accept us if there is any bad (sin)."

This illustration drives home God's standard and that committing one sin means death and no hope of entering heaven.

"Just as you would not drink it, God will reject you and me at the gates of heaven with just one sin. If God compromised and allowed just one sin into heaven, that one amount of contamination will ruin all of a perfect heaven."

"Just as no amount of additional good water makes the bottle 100% perfect again, so it is with us."

"The only solution is a new bottle of water for me to avoid death and have life."

"This correlates to lost soul's need of perfection to enter heaven. If our blood is disqualified by one sin, then we need a 100% transfusion of innocent blood to fix

our problem. My numerous sins and those of all the world necessitates the innocent blood have infinite value.”

Depending on the possibility of opening the scriptures and literacy of the person, proofing this message with verses is obviously best. If only the use of a Quran is possible, then Sura 7:1-15, 20.74 and 19.71 show the wages of just one sin is separation from a perfect God, death to a relationship with Him. Romans 3:23 and 6.23, Matt. 5:48 confirm these verses.

Tract to follow if an hour or two is possible:

When time was short with a divine appointment as in a bus ride or picking up a hitchhiker, the Holy Spirit blessed using the Quran to lead souls to the truth. The following example lists the verse/ayet and transition to the next ayet for evangelism.

“The Quran’s Right Path to God”

(Comments to aid in explaining the ayets in a Biblical view are in parenthesis.)

The Quran Sura 4.82 states, "Do they not then ponder on the Quran? If it had been from other than Allah they would have found many errors."

(If one says these truths following truths are errors, then he is calling the Quran a lie and not from Allah!)

Quran Sura 20.74 "Whoever comes guilty to his Lord, for him is hell. There he will neither die nor live."

(To approach a perfect God one must be perfect. Just one act of disobedience towards God removes our standard as perfect, makes us guilty of sin and sentences us to hell. Romans 3:23 and 6:23 confirm this as truth.)

Quran Sura 2.62, "Those who believe in what is revealed to thee (Muhammad) and those who are Jews, and Christians, and Sabeans-whoever believes in (1.) Allah and (2.) the Last Day and does right-their reward is with their Lord, and there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve."

(It does not matter what religion we claim. God knows what we believe in our heart and this will determine our fate at the judgment. We must believe in one God and the Last Day to have nothing to fear. I totally ignored the works part at the end of the verse.)

We must go to Quran Sura 43.61-66 to learn of the Last Day of judgment for the whole world.

43.61 There is knowledge of the Hour of judgment. So doubt not, but follow me. This is the right path.

43:62 And let not Satan lie to you. He is your enemy.

Sura 7:15 Satan lies to get men off the right path so they will go to hell with him on the Last Day.

(The Quran reveals there is a right path to God and there is a path of Satan. It also teaches the truth of the second coming of Christ to fix this mess. At this point I would ask for agreement that we should follow the one God has sent to lead us on the Last Day. Who is this one God has sent "to follow and be on the right path" according to the Quran? We must continue to read to find out.)

43:63 When Jesus came with clear proofs he said, "I have come unto you with wisdom and to make plain some of that concerning which you differ. So fear Allah and follow me.

43:64. ...This is the right path.

(The Quran reveals that Jesus is the one who God has sent to follow. Jesus is the right path). This agrees with John 14:6.

Quran 43:65. ...Then woe to those who do not believe and will suffer the doom of a painful day.

43:66. Await the Hour, it shall come upon them suddenly, when they know not.

(What if this sudden judgment happens in your sleep? You must be ready. You can only be ready by trusting that God has given us this One to follow to heaven and He will save you from fear and hell. The right path to God according to the Quran and the Gospel is following Jesus. You cannot tell God you were not warned. We are without excuse.)

Quran Sura 3:3, 4 "He has revealed to thee (Muhammad) scripture with truth, confirming that which was revealed before it, even as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel.

(One must study this Gospel that Muhammad confirms in order to learn how be ready at the judgment by following Jesus.)

Quran Sura 6:115-116 claims that no man can change God's word. (This truth along with Muhammad's confirmation of the Torah and Gospel means nothing has been altered.)

(The Gospel is in the Ingeel also called the Bible (1st Corinthians 15:1-4 is referenced in the Quran.)

Sura 19:33, 34 states, "Peace on me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive! Such Was Jesus, son of Mary: (This is) a statement of truth concerning which they doubt."

(In Medina a tomb holds Muhammad and the tomb of Jesus is empty because God has raised Jesus from the dead. Death could not hold the sinless Jesus (Sura 19:19). Those who repent and believe (Quran, Sura 13:27 and Bible Acts 20:21) that Jesus is the right path to God and died in payment for their sins will also have nothing to fear. Not choosing God's right path is belief in the lies of Satan which leads to eternal hell.)
("Which path do you choose?")

After going through the above Quran tract, a religious Mullah (similar to what Christians call a pastor) said "The answer is not in here is it?" I affirmed his realization that the answer is not in the Quran and when he asked "Where it was?" I provided a Bible(Ingeel). We met weekly and studied from creation to Christ and Muhammad. His goal initially was not that of a seeker, but learning Biblical truths contained in his unknown god (the Quran) produced a longing in his heart. The stories continued to drive home that only innocent blood is acceptable in heaven, confirmed and based out of information from his own unknown god (the Quran). He became convicted him of the need for a substitute, or a cure.

Sadly, even after studying the Bible he still has not converted. However, he became a man of peace and allowed me to teach in his mosque on an ongoing basis. Death threats for continuing to teach in the mosques emerged and reduced my translator pool from five men to one. Of all things, I neglected the ceremonial washing before entering the service one Friday and it created an issue and subsequently my end as an "interim Mullah". The error here was presuming continued visits to the Mosque and not going the shorter tract to share Christ. After the story of Abraham, the teaching ended and the offer to choose Christ was not presented. The goal was to see if self realization of the problem would emerge before giving them the answer. Man's problem that no one is acceptable to God unless they are perfect innocent blood was made known, but not the cure.

Fortunately, this was an area we held a week-long medical triage clinic. We were able to share in homes with families during this time. A friend of mine held weekly Bible studies using New Tribes Missions[1] materials. For new believers the Bible alone was taught emphasizing Jesus as their innocent blood substitute, but the Quran was always cited for confirmation as it was never clear exactly who maybe a militant posing as a believer.

In the following Bible based stories also found in the Quran, a New Tribes Missions chronological picture[2] number is in parenthesis to aid in visually teaching the lessons. Copies were about a penny a piece in my area. Using Quran references on the pages made the pictures the interest at the local copy shops.

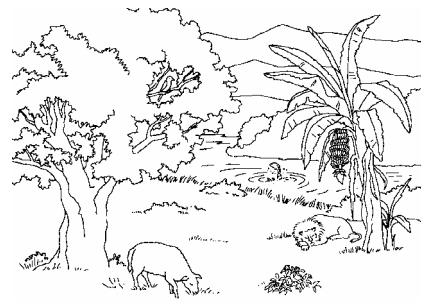
Tract to follow if weekly lessons are possible:

When weekly visits were possible we taught chronologically from creation to Muhammad.

New Tribes Missions chronological photos are listed by number beside each story listed below. Use of these photos was very helpful with illiterates and literates alike. I did white out the faces in all of the pictures before handing them out as a few had issue with showing the face of a prophet. Each week the stories were reviewed and if possible, the students were asked to tell me what each story was about as a picture that was held up. For the sake of space, only the Sura and Ayet for each passage is listed. Open any Quran and read to verify the translation affirms what is being said and be aware there is a missing verse/ayet controversy in the Quran and Sura 3;3 may be 3:2 or 4 depending on the version you have.

1. Creation:

The New Tribes Photo number 3 shows a photo of the Garden of Eden with the lion and a lamb at peace. The focus of the teaching is that in God's creation everything God made was perfectly good because God is good and perfect. God made the earth, the heavens, and all living things. God also created spirit beings called angels. This was all good. God only creates good and perfect things. Genesis of the Torah



chapters 1 and 2 and Quran in Sura 10.1-8 and 41.9-14 agree and were cited. Both accounts of creation in the Quran are used because one says it was six days and the other eight days, but an issue was not made of it. Just hoping for a subliminal message, seeds of doubt in their unknown god or a question asked by them.

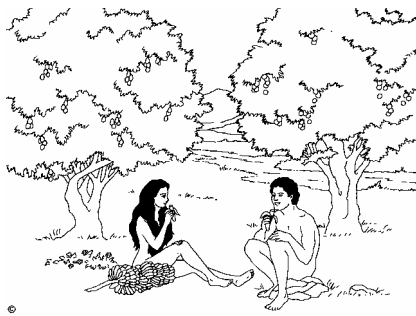
2. The fall of Shatan (Satan) and source of evil in Sura 7.11-18 and Sura 43.60-62:

A black piece of paper was used for this story as no visual image was desired due to the amount of mysticism in the area. The focus was one of the created spirit beings named Shatan rebelled against God. One bad choice, one act of rebellion

or disobedience made this spirit being no longer perfect, a sinner. God made this non-perfect created angel leave perfect heaven. Sin separates sinless God and sinful Shatan. In the Quran the sin was pride. With his fate set until the day of the resurrection, he now has one goal of getting souls off the right path and on a path to hell. This lesson provides a warning that Shatan will lie and do anything to get souls off the right path. Sura 43:60-62 are read, but not dealt with much as intro to what will happen on the day of resurrection.

The Bible/Ingeel agrees in Revelation 12.9-10 (KJV). "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

3. The New Tribes Missions Photo number 4 shows innocent Adam and Eve in the garden.



This lesson has several pictures on it and we reduced the size to get them on one sheet of paper. The goal was each week to have another story pasted on the wall of the house of peace we had access to.

Paradise was perfect. There was no evil or pain, just a perfect relationship with God. God made man and the first man was named Adam.

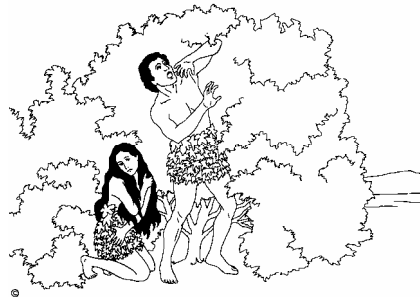
Adam only had one rule to remain in God's perfect paradise and love. That rule was to agree that God was worthy of obedience. Adam believed the lies from Shatan and disobeyed God's plan for a perfect relationship.

Adam and Eve's shame is covered by innocent blood.

Sura 7:18-30 and 2:24 are the main passages for in the Quran.

Sura 7:25-6 that God provided raiment to cover the shame of one sin by Adam. It does not say it was the innocent blood of animals that was shed to pay the price for the clothes, but with the photo it was a doable transition. Because of disobedience man was no longer perfect and he was ashamed.

Adam man attempted to hide his shame with his own efforts. In the NTM photo Number 6 Adam uses leaves that he fashioned to cover his shame. This was human work to hide his rebellion and these human acts to pay for sin and disobedience are not acceptable to God. God rejects the clothing made by works of imperfect beings. The focus was one sin and no one is innocent and thus



banned from perfect presence and relationship with God. God does provide coverage for shame by the shedding of innocent blood.

Suras 19:71-2 and 20:74 are used here to teach one sin makes one guilty and thus banned from entering heaven.

4. The New Tribes Missions Photo number 9 shows the story of Cain and Abel.



Sura 5:27 And (O Muhammad SAW) recite to them (the Jews) the story of the two sons of Adam [Hâbil (Abel) and Qâbil (Cain)] in truth; when each offered a sacrifice (to Allah), it was accepted from the one but not from the other.

As with each story, the photos really opened up the potential to interpret and teach Biblical truth with a Quran verse as a spring board. The creator of man has one way to be right with Him. God demonstrates this only way by the shedding of innocent blood. God's plan for one sacrifice for all is demonstrated by innocent animal blood being a substitute for sinful man. Each person must choose to follow God's right path or to reject it. Abel approaches God by shedding innocent blood and Abel approaches God by human works. This story is confirmed in the Torah book of Genesis in the Ingeel.

Cain kills Abel:

Sura 5:27 And (O Muhammad SAW) recite to them (the Jews) the story of the two sons of Adam [Hâbil (Abel) and Qâbil (Cain)] in truth; when each offered a sacrifice (to Allah), it was accepted from the one but not from the other.

The latter said to the former: "I will surely kill you.[]" The former said: "Verily, Allah accepts only from those who are Al-Muttaqûn (the pious - see V.2:2)."

28 "If you do stretch your hand against me to kill me, I shall never stretch my hand against you to kill you, for I fear Allah; the Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinns, and all that exists)."

29. "Verily, I intend to let you draw my sin on yourself as well as yours, then you will be one of the dwellers of the Fire, and that is the recompense of the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrongdoers)."

30 So the Nafs (self) of the other (latter one) encouraged him and made fair seeming to him the murder of his brother; he murdered him and became one of the losers.

31 Then Allah sent a crow who scratched the ground to show him to hide the dead body of his brother. He (the murderer) said: "Woe to me! Am I not even able to be as this crow and to hide the dead body of my brother?" Then he became one of those who regretted.

32 Because of that We ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land - it

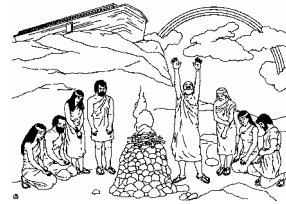
would be as if he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. And indeed, there came to them Our Messengers with clear proofs, evidences, and signs, even then after that many of them continued to exceed the limits (e.g. by doing oppression unjustly and exceeding beyond the limits set by Allah by committing the major sins) in the land!.[1]

Cain is told by God his offering of good works is not acceptable as a sacrifice. Cain decides if God wants innocent blood I will kill my brother and offer that to God. God rejects humans as sacrifices as they are not perfect. Only perfect innocent blood is acceptable to God. Over and over the question was asked to hearers, "are you perfect? Are you acceptable to God?" Ayet 32 opens up the option for one to save all even if it is just a springboard for a topic.

5. Noah and innocent blood.

NTM photos 11

God judges sin after man refuses to repent and come to God His way. The great flood was God's judgment for sin and past history is the best indicator of future performance I know of. God will judge us and are you ready and innocent is the challenge that is presented.

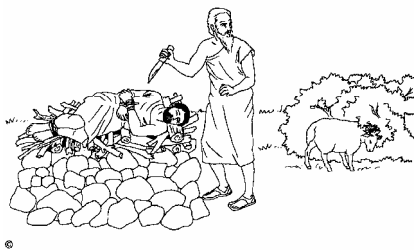


Sura 19.69-71 Because of rebellion and stubbornness. There is not one of you that shall approach it (paradise). Sura 20.74 Whoever comes before the judgment with sin, for them is hell. These verses are taught to help souls understand the standard by which this sure coming judgment will be based.

Noah was also guilty of not being perfect and deserved judgment. He put his faith in God's right path for removal of judgment and sacrificed innocent blood after the flood ceased.

If use of the Bible was possible we studied the two side by side. Hebrews of the Ingeel 11.7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

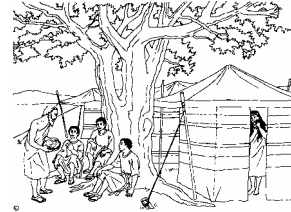
6. Abraham and his son.



NTM photos 18

The Quran in passages Sura 2:121-6 is the miracle birth, 15:62-77 is destruction of Sodom, 37:99-113 is story of sacrifice on Mt. Moriah.

NTM photos 15 Abraham when he was very old had a child. This was a miracle birth and nothing is impossible for God. Gospel of Luke 1:37. This opens the possibility of clarifying the miracle birth of Christ in a later lesson. The two will be contrasted as the Quran also states it was a virgin birth. Local tradition teaches Christians believe God and Mary had sex to produce Jesus (a Mormon teaching).



The prophet's son who later was a leader of his people was not acceptable to God. Even prophets are not perfect, they are not innocent blood. Only innocent blood is acceptable to God.

The Quran alludes in context it was Isaac on the altar, tradition says it was Ishmael. Actually the use of Ishmael is best as it drives home the point of no one, even names they are more familiar with, is acceptable as none is innocent blood.

Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son as a test his faith. God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son because only innocent blood is acceptable to God. To demonstrate this for us, God provided the innocent blood of a ram for a substitute for Abraham's son. It was Abraham's faith that God was pleased with and what made Abraham a friend of God.

Human blood is not acceptable to God because it is not perfect. A bottle of pure water is perfect. When a tiny amount of pollution is added the whole bottle becomes polluted. Man has polluted any good in him by adding rebellion and disobedience to his life. Disobedience makes his blood not perfect and thus not acceptable to God.

Sura 20:74 Any man who comes before God with any guilt, for him is hell. There he will never die. The Ingeel, Romans 6:23. The wages of sin is death.

7. Moses and innocent blood. NTM photos 27



The Quran passages in Sura 2:12-82 (mainly 40-62) and 7:103-46 are used.

This biblical character and lesson on innocent blood is one of the weakest when trying to proof text it from the Quran. The shedding of innocent blood is alluded to but never explicitly stated. The use of Yuseph Ali's Arabic English translation of the Quran is of help here. He uses commentary at the bottom of most pages using the Torah. This opens the potential for use of the Biblical account without you having to be the one that introduces the Bible as a source. In

the Quran it refers to “signs” that Moses would perform to show Pharaoh he should let Israel go.

Moses does “strike the Rock” in Sura 2:59-60 if this bridge is one you think pursuing would help. It’s use would be most relevant if the forum is one in which open use of the Bible is acceptable.

Moses and those who had faith in the Word of God were spared the death angel because of innocent blood covering their imperfection.

8. Jesus and the Last Day of Sura 2:62, 43:60-66:

Jesus is taught along with the Last Day, explained in the Quran’s right Path to God tract already mentioned. This allows us to teach the main thing which is can one be made right with God and join in a relationship with Him.

Sura 19:27 tells of Jesus special position. Then she brought him (the baby) to her people, carrying him. They said: "O Mary! Indeed you have brought a thing Fariya (an unheard mighty thing).

Sura 19:31-4 teaches of His blessed status. "And He has made me blessed wherever I be, and has enjoined on me Salât (prayer), and Zakât, as long as I live."

32."And dutiful to my mother, and made me not arrogant, un-blest.

33."And Salâm (peace) be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive!"

34.Such is 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary). (it is) a statement of truth, about which they doubt (or dispute).

Sura 19 talks of a sinless, never touched by Shatan Jesus. It also quotes Jesus speaking in past tense of the death burial and resurrection of Christ. The hadiths will say that is referring to when he returns a second time and dies on that visit, clearly as out of context as many of the points I am driving home with Quran ayets.

The virgin birth and resurrection of Christ is taught in Sura 3:42-55.

Sura 19.19 (The angel) said: "I am only a Messenger from your Lord, (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son." 20 She said: "How can I have a son, when no man has touched me, nor am I unchaste?" 21 He said: "So (it will be), your Lord said: "That is easy for Me (Allah): And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us (Allah), and it is a matter (already) decreed, (by Allah).'" 22 So she conceived him[], and she withdrew with him to a far place (i.e. Bethlehem valley about 4-6 miles from Jerusalem). “

The question of whether one man can die for the whole world's sins is discussed in Sura 5.32. Because of that We ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land - it would be as if he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. And indeed, there came to them Our Messengers with clear proofs, evidences, and signs.

This can only be possible if the one dying had infinite value and was not dying for his sins (they are innocent/sinless). We asked over and over in each story, “can you limit God? “

“Who would try and limit God?” They would reply Shatan.

For those who come to God by innocent blood the Quran states in Sura 44.56 They shall not taste death, save the first death. The introduction of being born again as a need for being right with God and Rev. 21:8 are tied into these ayets.

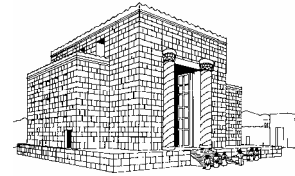
Sura 5:100 teaches of the divine attributes of Jesus in His ability to heal and raise the dead. We would ask can you raise the dead? Who can? When God was the answer we would teach that Jesus did. Thus Jesus had divine attributes and that is why His blood, one red cell could have infinite value.

8. Muhammad:

New Tribes Mission photo number 43

Sura 3:3 is the main one we cover as it quotes Muhammad as confirming the gospel in 600 or so A.D.

The story of Muhammad is used to complete the teaching and if questioned by authorities show the teaching is all inclusive. One positive result from teaching on Muhammad is ayets help validate what we are trying to introduce. Muhammad in Sura 3:3 validates the Gospel and the Torah. Sura 6:115-116 assures readers that nothing can be changed in true God-given scriptures. Antichrist elements would either say the Quran is in error or has been changed when we used it to make a point or that the Bible had been changed. Sura 6:115, 116 nullifies that position. Sura 14:4 is used in this teaching section. It affirms each prophet spoke in the local language of the area. This refutes the objection that only the Arabic can be trusted as true. This lie is a great tool of Satan that keeps less literate people from testing what is written. A common objection is “But that is not the Arabic!” When asked if they could read Arabic, they would respond “No”. This ayet allowed us to overcome the block that keeps people hearing the truth. Picture #43 of the New Tribes photos was of Solomon’s temple. We used this one here to represent the burial site of Muhammad. When teaching about Mohammed, we would teach he is buried in Medina in 632 A.D. Also in Medina is the empty tomb for Christ. Those who make the Holy pilgrimage, Hajj, to Mecca will often visit these two sites. If they have seen both sites then it helps in reaching them for



Christ. The question would be asked, “Why is Muhammad in his tomb awaiting the return of Jesus from heaven?” Then, “If I was to follow one, who was the way to heaven and to defeat death, just on this info, whom do you think the right one might be?” The story also allowed us to teach that it was not the first or second, but the third Caliph after Muhammad that compiled the writings into what they now have as the Quran in 656 A.D. It had to be a Caliph as Muhammad had no male heirs despite numerous wives. At this time a short history on why the Sunnis and Shiites differ is taught here as Ali and Hussein emerged in power after Muhammad’s death, both claiming to be the choice to carry on. The Holy Spirit used the teaching on Muhammad as a “foundation shaker” for those who trust in the Quran as an unknown god. As with each lesson, Sura 4:82 is repeated to show if there is an error, the Quran is not from God.

Conclusion:

How to Start.

When entering a community to do veterinary or medical training the goal was to find men of Peace and Houses of Peace. This new search for men of peace and houses of peace was repeated time and time again. Over and over the Holy Spirit provided both. This is a pattern that has since been used successfully in inner city Memphis and the Dominican Republic.

How to finish:

Our discipleship method was not original or complex. Great faith in the Holy Spirit and the Word of God combined with little faith in cultural relevant commentaries and my abilities led us to our choice of discipleship training. Working with converts and learning how their linear thought patterns functioned, we mutually agreed upon questions to use in our reading and only the Word of God as a resource. We met everyday for ten months and scripture reading consisted of no more than eight verses, with four as a more optimum number. After the reading of them we would individually answer five questions. Then jointly discuss what the Holy Spirit had revealed to us. No answer was wrong, but as a moderator, would be written out for testing by future scripture readings if on the fringe. If there was a verse we had studied already that corrected the misunderstanding, it was cited. The future pastor of the group especially, but all bloomed like flowers opening up as they realized they could hear from the Holy Spirit. Based on this is what the Holy Spirit is telling me gave them confidence to speak more and as a result made them more bold and effective as evangelist.

The instructions that worked well for us are to read each section of verses over as each question is answered:

1. What do these verses reveal about the nature of God/Jesus/Holy Spirit ?
2. Which part could comfort someone I know and why?

3. Which part may help me reach my friend for Christ?
4. In response to 1,2, and 3 above, what is my response to God?
5. What section would I like to write down and meditate upon and memorize today?

Tips:

Recording both positive and negative results from sharing the Gospel allows evaluation for adjusting to a more effective tract to follow. Analysis should result in a pattern explaining what worked and why, what did not work and why, and what verses of Biblical truths bridge to the people group. This method is promoted by David Harley in his book Preparing To Serve. Based on Harley's methodology which is similar to Paul's in Acts 17, the best resource for expanding Christ's kingdom is diaries of evangelism attempts based on actual experience. The information in diaries is not valuable in Muslim worlds but in the United States. For local churches a valuable resource might be a list of which verses the Holy Spirit is blessing in a ten block area. These verses could be used to create a customized tract to reach a specific region of town. A written record will prevent having to relearn what someone has already spiritually discovered.

Any good fisherman would ask another fisherman who is at a lake "What bait is working?" or "What are they biting?" The understanding is that the bait may be a relationship or a felt need, but the hook that saves and catches is the Gospel of Christ. Bait alone cannot save and at this point evangelism often stalls. Many of the *ayets* that were used from the Quran came from interviewing believers or reading testimonies of Muslim converts. Answering-isalm.org records many such conversions and it is listed on the title page as "Why they converted." To start a work in a Muslim dominated culture one must focus on male conversions and the most recent testimonies of new believers will provide us clues into what the Holy Spirit is blessing.

Focusing on the errors in the Quran is an approach of many books on Islam evangelism. They focus on pointing out *ayets* like Sura 18.86 which states the sun sets in a mud puddle and people live there. It is referencing Alexander the Great and his finding of this site. In my area of work these verses were only effective after determining the person was not open to seeing truth, but just wanted to argue. The use of these *ayets* was also addressed with a convert to assist removing the Quran as a reliable source of further truthful information.

. To discourage new converts of studying the unknown god limits them from reading to find bridges that I would not pick up on as a westerner. New believers that held a negative attitude toward the Quran limited their ability to treat it with respect and lost a useful tool in evangelism. They will be better able to reach friends and family who trust the Quran as an unknown god if trained to use it, not reject it

I was advised at my missionary training center to avoid the Mullahs and those educated on the Quran. By studying it and being able to recite it, I was given a position of respect and allowed audience with a group that was most receptive to hearing the Gospel, especially out of the Quran.

Charting the first 300 witnesses led to objectively discovering patterns. Of the first 100, seven gave intellectual consent it was true. Of the next 100, thirty five gave intellectual consent that it was true. Of the last 100 charted, fifty gave intellectual consent it was true. Intellectual consent and submission to the Quran does not equate to salvation.

In the end the most responsive to intellectual conversion were adult males who were literate enough to read the Quran for themselves. If possible witness to no more than two at one time. The most receptive of the males were those who had studied the Quran. Others had to convert to being decent Muslims and trust their unknown god before I could move on to seeing them become believers in the last day. Followers of Christ was a good term, but the term “Last day Muslim” opened immediate options to share. Last Day Muslim refers to being submitted to the will of God on the last day for return of Christ. This is found in Sura 43:60-66 and is the topic to focus on. The term Christian was a negative in the area.

Unfortunately due to the patriarchal culture, the conversion of a female before her husband would potentially damage my ability to enter communities. Males conversion, especially conversion of a local elder, made the gospel a downhill battle and then followed natural lines of authority. The fringe members of the community, like lepers, were shared with, but were not the focus of our efforts for starting a reproducing church. For the millions of men and women in my area to be reached in the next fifty years it would have to be from indigenous male believers reproducing themselves as evangelists. I physically could not get in everyone’s home.

A good friend one day said he was concerned about my constant memorization of the Quran passages that I used for evangelism. If it would have helped, I would have memorized the whole book. It never became anything to me other an unknown god. This unknown God was one that the Holy Spirit used and can again. I am a veterinarian, not a theologian and my goal is evangelism, not setting a single paradigm for work among Muslims. My hope is something in this work helps you see a path that Paul the apostle may have also followed by using “unknown gods” to reach a lost soul for Christ.

[1] New Tribes Missions

[2] Firm Foundations