

Session 1

Welcome to the Camel Workshop

Part 1: Welcome to Camel Training

"Then Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.'"[Acts17:22-23]

Today, one billion people pray to a God they do not truly know. There was a saying among Muslims: That there are ninety-nine names for God, and only the camel knows the one hundredth name, many have been born to Islam know no other way. They are seeking, longing for something Islam can't offer them.

Just as Paul did, we can use the words and symbols familiar to their faith and point them to Jesus, the Messiah or as they might imagine the one hundredth name, the one they do not know. Using Muslim's own language and scripture to introduce them to Jesus, the Messiah, is something we call riding the Camel. Welcome to The Camel Method training. May God bless you as you learn to ride well and prepare to tell others of Jesus the Messiah. Helping them to find him for whom they search.

Part 2: Understanding the Muslim Worldview

Mohammed, the founder of Islam, died in 632AD. During the almost 1400 years since his death, there has been very few converts from Islam to faith in Jesus, but that is beginning to change. God is visiting many Muslim with dreams, especially in places where it is difficult for workers to go. A common dream involves the holy book with the message of salvation. Other Muslims are having dreams about prophet clothed in bright light who is the way of salvation, or who brings the message of salvation.

Some know he met Isa. Others are waiting for someone to tell them who he is. In one Muslim country, more than 100,000 Muslims have come to faith in Jesus, been baptized, and are meeting in small house churches and studying the Bible. And in

other countries, God is moving, and Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus. You may be asking yourself: “how is that possible!” Speaking to Muslims is intimidating. How would I even begin to talk a Muslim about Jesus? What would I say?

Hi, my name is John. I am here to help you answer those questions. I will be leading you through this training, what we call The Camel Method. I want to begin by asking two questions. Here is the first question, *when I say “Muslim,” what do you think?* Here is the second question, *when you consider talking to Muslims about Jesus; you think that *would it be relatively easy or very difficult?** Many times when I ask this first question, people are hesitant to be completely honest. They say what they think I want to hear. I hear answers like these: *“They are people for whom Christ died.” “They are people in need of the Gospel.”* Those things are very true. But in all honesty, they are not the first thing we think about when we see a Muslim. As I continue to press this question, challenge people to be honest, I begin hearing words like *“fearful, intimidating, harsh, and hardened to the gospel,” and of course “terrorist.”* Honestly, most people think that talking to a Muslim about Jesus would be at the very least, very difficult, and probably very dangerous. Believe me, I know what it feels like to think about Muslim would be mostly terrified. And the age 54, I sense the call of God of my life to go to work among Muslims.

Before I went South Asia, I worked in a European city, distributing Bibles to Muslims. Since I was only there for a few months, I did not learn the language. Near our apartment was a Muslim restaurant. Here was open air place with a grille for meeting in front, so I can see the workers inside as I walk by. They were all in their full Muslim dress, with full beards and two piece Muslim caps on their heads. And be honest, their appearance was fearful and intimidating to me. At that time, as I would walk by that place, remember looking in and wondering, even if I could speak the language, how would I begin to talk to them about Jesus? I have some good news for you though. Our imagines of Muslims are for the most part misconceptions. I can say this from first-hand experience. Over a period of about two years, while doing this training, I have taught face to face with over 500 Muslims about Jesus. I’ve had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with many of them. I found them to be gracious, hospitable and very open to hearing about Jesus. I am not saying there is no danger in working with Muslims. There are extremists among them, they can be very dangerous, neither am I saying that is

easy to bring a Muslim to faith in Christ. But they are very open to hearing about Jesus. And there are many genuine seekers among them. God is definitely working in an extraordinary way to prepare Muslims to hear the Gospel.

Despite of almost 1400 years, since Mohammed the founder of Islam died, and Islam began to spread. Much of advanced Muslim came about military congress, especially in the beginning. but later, some further advance of Islam influence came as Muslims moved into areas and won converts there. During that long history of Islam, there have been very few converts to faith in Jesus. The hold of Islam over these people has been very strong. In strictly, Muslim countries the pressure is intense for both in society and government for Muslim to remain in Islam. But things are beginning to change. Listen to what God is doing in one Muslim country.

About 20 years ago, a missionary in a Muslim country in Asia, gave a 16 year old Muslim boy a copy of New Testament. We call him Abdur(人名). We do not use his real name, because he is still living and working in that country. Through that New Testament Abdur came to faith in Jesus. Because of his new faith in Christ, he was threatened, beaten, driven out of his home by his family and forced to flee to a new city. Years later, Abdur led a close friend to Jesus. Together, they begin to talk to their friends and families about Jesus. Because they came out of Muslim background, they were very familiar with the Qur'an. They knew that in the Qur'an, there were some amazing things about Jesus, or Isa as he is called in the Arabic of the Qur'an. So they began to use the Qur'an as a bridge that is they used the verses about Isa as a beginning point to talk Muslim about Him. Once they found those were interested in hearing more about Isa, they took them from the Qur'an to the Bible and ultimately to faith in Isa. Most of the time they would take several months. They led many Muslims to faith in Jesus and the movement began to grow and multiply. These new followers of Isa, as they called themselves, did not have church buildings. Because they met in houses, new churches could be started very quickly. We call this kind of rapidly multiplying house church movement—A Church Planting Movement. It is estimated now that from this church planting movement, there are *more than 100,000 Muslim-Background believers* in this Asian country. Several years ago, a foreign missionary who also worked in that country, heard about many Muslims coming to Christ. So he started shaping this method of using the Qur'an as a bridge into a more reproducible model, so

the others workers would have access to this valuable tool. He called the model he developed ----the camel method.

I mentioned earlier that in period of about two years, I talked face to face with over 500 Muslims. How did I go from an intimidated man who had no idea about what to say to a Muslim, to someone who could go into mosques, Muslim schools, businesses and homes all over Asia to talk to them about Jesus? It is simply because I have learned what to say. I learned how to use the camel method and it has enabled me to begin to talk to Muslims openly about Jesus. We hear reports about other workers experiencing the very same blessings.

A worker from Africa sent an email recently, saying, that he'd been on the field for over ten years, and seen no Muslims come faith in Jesus. But he began to use the camel method, and now has seen 11 Muslims came to Christ. Now he is busy training the 11 to use the camel method to tell other Muslims about Jesus. A worker in an Asian country reported that after going through the camel training, he had led 30 Muslim to faith in Jesus, and was training them to use camel method. He said, let several others doing the same thing. Volunteer teams are finding that they can go into Muslim countries, and actually talk to Muslim about Jesus. *The purpose of this training is to teach you how to use the Camel Method.* But before we get to the Camel Method, we need take some time to consider these questions:

● *What is a Muslim?*

● *What do Muslims believe?*

Many people think that they must become an expert on Islam before they can begin to talk to Muslims. That is simply not true. When you finish this training, you will be well-equipped begin to talk to Muslims about Jesus. So this course is not designed to be a seminar of what Muslims believe, but there are some basic things you need to know about their beliefs. We can see that in their beliefs are some things will help us as we talk to Muslims. They believe there's only one God. They know that they will have to stand in judgment before God one day. Some people go to heaven and some will go to hell. They know there is a spiritual Realm, there are angels, and that Satan seeks to lead them astray from God.

Muslim believe

◆ *In one God*

- ◆ *They will stand in judgment*
- ◆ *Heaven and Hell*
- ◆ *Spiritual Realm*
- ◆ *Angels*
- ◆ *Satan*

Muslims Believe

- ◆ *Adam*
- ◆ *Abraham*
- ◆ *Noah*
- ◆ *Moses*
- ◆ *David*

When you talk about Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, they too believe these are prophets of God. They also believe the Bible is made up of Holy Books. They call this books Taurat means the Torah, this Zabur Wisdom which means Psalms, and Injil which means The Gospel.

MUSLIMS BELIEVE

- *The Bible is made up of Holy Books*
- *Taurat—Torah(Old testament)*
- *Zabur—Wisdom(Psalms)*
- *Injil—Gospel(New Testament)*

So we can see that we have some points of connection. However, the most significant belief of Muslim is his belief in the Qur'an. This Qur'an is made up of 114 surahs, which are chapters like divisions. **THE QUR'AN** is made up of 114 surahs—chapter—like divisions. Mohammed claimed that these were the revelations he had received from God through the angel Granbury, whom Muslims call Jaberah. A Muslim believes that the Qur'an is the perfect, complete, and final revelation of God. If it is written in the Qur'an, he must believe it. Interestingly, there are some significant truths about Jesus in the Qur'an. It is these truths that will enable you use to begin to talk with your Muslim friends about Jesus. For centuries, the Qur'an was a closed book for Muslims. It was written in Arabic and most Muslims do not read Arabic. But the recent years, the Qur'an has become readily available in most languages. If you are serious

about working among Muslims, I would suggest that you get a copy of the Qur'an in English and begin to get familiar with it. I *recommend the Muhammad Pickthall translation; the passages from the quran included in this study are from the Muhammad Pickthall translation.*

DO

"What DO Muslims Believe?" pages 23- 26 in the Camel Rider's Journal

Part 3: Why use the Qur'an?

People are sometimes uncomfortable about using the Qur'an. Why do we use the Qur'an? As you know Muslims believe the Qur'an is a holy book equal to the Bible. Let me make this clear, we do not believe that, neither do we believe the Qur'an alone can reveal enough about Jesus for a person to be saved. The Bible tells us *"so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*(Romans 10:17NKJV) So our Muslim friends must come to the Bible to hear the truth about the forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life in Jesus. Why then don't we just begin with the Bible? All of his life, your Muslim friend has been taught that the Qur'an is the final, complete revelation from God. He has been taught that if it is in the Qur'an, he must believe it. If I come to him with my Bible and say, the Bible says this or that, he simply replies:" Yes, but the Qur'an says this. I have only succeeded in establishing the confrontation the battle lines are drawn. What if I come to him and say, look in your Qur'an, there he finds some amazing truth about Isa. Then I show him that his Qur'an encourages them to find out what the Torah and the Injil say to him. It tells them to check out the Bible. Since we are starting with the Qur'an, the door is now open for the Muslim to hear the truth about Jesus from his own book. But someone might reject that Qur'an is not true. There are many false things in it. We agree with that, and we realize that. But if something is true, is it any less true because it is found in the Qur'an? We do know how to verify what is true and what is not, we have the Bible. This is what we are doing; using what is true, and staying away from the rest. Kind of like a way in the territory of the Quran to rescue the man of peace. We are using truth about Isa found in Qur'an as a way to find the man of peace. We are going to go to a particular place in the Qur'an to ask some questions that will cause a Muslim friend to think about what the Qur'an actually says. Once we've found the man of peace, we take him to the Bible where

he can find out all the truth he needs to be saved. We leave the Qur'an behind; we use it as a bridge to get our Muslim friend to the Bible. Someone might say, isn't that giving credence to the Qur'an? We've not found this to be true. In practical experience what we found is that once Muslim gets into the Bible, he embraces it and rejects the Qur'an,

except this bridge to reach other Muslim.

Georges Banks once said the Bible likes a lion, you don't have to defend it, you just let it loose. We have found that we can completely trust the Holy Spirit to confirm the word of God in the hearts of new believers. As we said earlier, Isa is the Arabic way to say Jesus, and Mayria is the Arabic way to say Mary. The Arabic way to say God is Allah. Some people have a problem with the use of Allah. They perceived this as being the name of a false God. Actually, Allah simply means the God in Arabic. It is also a in the plural just as elhim in Hebrew. In the early Arabic translations of the Bible before Mohammed was even born, the word "GOD" was translated into the Arabic as "Allah." When you talk to Muslims who speaking English they often use God and Allah interchangeably. In Indonesia, the word for God in their language is Allah. We are convinced that the term Allah is simply the way to say God in Arabic. Just as *Dios is a way to say God in Spanish; Dieu is a way to say God in French*. Does this mean that the God of Islam and God of Christianity are the same God. Of course not, the problem is not how Muslim say God, the problem is that Muslims do not understand who God is and what he is like. And they will not understand who God is, until they come to understand what is done for them, through his son—the lord Jesus Christ. So we use these Muslim friendly terms in order to be able to meet the Muslim where he is in language that he is comfortable with. So that he can begin to see what the true God, or the true Allah is really like. When our Muslim friend understands who Jesus is, and what he has done for him. He will know what God is like. And as the Bible says, *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*[2Corinthians 4:6 NKJV]

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Camel Reflections on pages 26-29 in the Camel Rider's Journal

Part 4: Getting Beyond the Wall

Unfortunately, there seems to be great wall which Christians must get over in order to sow the seeds of the gospel among Muslims. What is keeping us from taking the Gospel to Muslims? Basically, there are two obstacles that keep Christians from taking the Gospel to Muslims, ignorance and fear, the purpose of the camel method is to overcome your ignorance by teaching what you want to say. The fear can only overcome as you learn to completely trust in God, and experience his love for Muslim people. In my first two months using Camel method and training others to do it, all of my experiences have been in a country in which Muslims are a minority. The perception was that the Muslims there were not that radical. I will never forget, the first time I went to a particular country, that is known for being a staunch Islamic country. Before the flight, I got a news-week magazine, the cover article that week focused on the city I was flying into. The article claimed that it was the most dangerous city in the world, especially for westerners. God had been expressing upon me that we needed to go in and try the camel in schools, in businesses, yes, even the mosques. Once you got into a mosque and talked to Muslims there, you breakthrough the fear; get the sense you can talk to them everywhere. As I approached the city I was hearing another voice inside my mind, in my heart. This voice says, "If you try this stuff here, they will kill you." I had to choose, would I go obey God and go into mosque? Or Would I back down and play it safe? **Could I teach others, if they will suppose going to speak to Muslims, but not do it myself?** In those moments, I said, "yes" to God. I agreed to obey him, and go wherever he sent me in that city. What followed was one of the most incredible days in my life. I met with the volunteer team, and we went all over the city talking to Muslims. We went into Mosques, Muslim schools, businesses, and homes all over town to talk about Jesus. We marveled at what God allowed us to do, that week opened the door for all other opportunities that God has given me to talk to Muslims about Jesus. Jesus told his disciples as he sends them out "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." Sheep have no natural defenses what so ever. They are soft; they have no claws, sharp teeth, they can't even groan. That would be helpless except for one thing, they have a shepherd. Jesus said, "I am the shepherd of sheep, as we go out, we can know that nothing can happen to us apart from the will of our shepherd. Does that mean nothing can happen to harm us? No, but it does mean we can't be touched outside the will and eternal purpose of God. When you truly understand that the fear evaporates like morning

mist and the amazing things begin to happen as you obey God and go to Muslim people. He starts filling your heart with His love for them. As we read 1John 4:18, “there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...” God’s love can overwhelm the fear in their hearts. Many others had overcome the fear and ignorance to do the work of the kingdom of God.

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“Getting Beyond the Wall” pages 29-30 in the Camel Rider’s Journal