

Conversation Starters

- What comes to mind when you hear "Islam" or "Muslim"?
- Are any of these false stereotypes?

Discuss

Islam began with the prophet Mohammed, who was said to have received a revelation from the angel Gabriel. The heart of the message was that there is one God and only one God instead of many gods, contrary to the culture of the day. Islam means obedience, surrender or submission to Allah (Arabic term for God) and Muslim means someone who is surrendered or submissive.

- What common ground do you see between Christianity and Islam?
- How does this learning change any stereotypes you may have toward Islam?

While there is some common ground between Islam and Christianity, there are stark differences that separate the two. This is true particularly regarding the nature of God, Jesus and salvation. Christianity believes in a triune God, of which Jesus is a part and salvation through Him. Islam views Jesus as a prophet only, and not the greatest prophet and that salvation is earned through obedience.

- Why is the difference in belief of the identity of Jesus important?
- How does what we read in the Bible about Jesus's identity claim
- What are the implications of salvation based on the two differing views?

These two faiths also differ when it comes to human nature. Muslims believe that humans are born good, only to be corrupted by non-Islamic culture. Christianity says we are born in sin and face the same sin struggle. Naturally, these fundamental beliefs lead to different logical patterns of thinking and reactions, particularly when it comes to the use of violence, politics and society. While most Muslims do condemn violent acts in the name of Islamic faith and advocate for peace, the Qur'an has some alarming passages that encourage violence towards non-believers and honor those who incite violence, which many extremists have done.

- What are your own observations about human nature?
- What political and socio events have been impacted by Islam and Christianity? How does this conversation shape your thinking about both Islam and Christianity?

Next Steps

The differences between Christianity and Islam create a large divide between some very important, fundamental beliefs. How have you applied critical thinking to some of the deeper spiritual questions you have? Want to learn more about Christianity? A great place to start is in our upcoming class:

[Genesis: In The Beginning \(The Big Picture Series\)](#)

Further Reflection

Read John [5:17](#); [10:30](#); [Philippians 2:8-9](#).

Pray

God, thank you for your grace and love. Thank you for allowing us to have important conversations like this. Please give us wisdom as we learn and help us to show the same grace and love to others as you have shown us, regardless of any differences we have.