

GIGs with Muslims

There is no better way for Muslims to come to faith in Jesus than through discovering him in the Scripture, which is why all of our outreach aims for Bible study. In one sense, *anything* you do that helps your Muslim friends explore God's word is a success! Any *passage*, any *format*, any*time*... But here are some tips to help you make the most of the opportunity.

1. Inviting

Muslim internationals are often quite curious about Jesus and the Bible, and more ready than you'd expect. So don't be afraid to ask early on, even casually:

"Would you like to read about Isa (Jesus) in the Injil (Gospels)?"

"Have you ever read the Injil for yourself? I have one and would enjoy discussing it."

or coming out of telling a Jesus story:

"Jesus said a lot of other interesting things. Would you like to read more together?"

Group GIGs (seeker Bible studies) are best! But we want groups your Muslim friend feels comfortable in. If they don't, even a genuinely curious friend may back out. It's best to give an individual invitation to your friend, then ask *"Who else might enjoy reading and discussing with us?"* That way you know the people they suggest are trusted. And if your Muslim friend is already attending a mixed small group that's great, but it's still worth starting a separate GIG on the side built around their questions and pace.

2. Carpe diem

If God provides a moment of curiosity, use it! Most Muslim cultures do spontaneity well. When sharing a Jesus story, pull out your smartphone Bible and let them read along. If they agree to start studying the Scriptures with you, suggest beginning right then or tomorrow. If you are too rigid with your schedule ("I can meet Tuesdays at 1pm") you might find your friend is never available at your pre-planned time.

Many Muslims are hesitant to commit up front to meeting for multiple weeks. No problem: simply invite them to meet once. When that finishes, say "That was fun! Let's do this again." Then repeat...

3. Setting and Scripture

You want your friend to feel comfortable and safe. Ask your friend where they'd like to meet: in a home, coffee shop, on campus, etc. If they are hesitant about handling the Bible (either out of respect for the book or fear of being seen) you can use smartphones or printed handouts. The NIRV is an excellent English translation with simple vocabulary. Try to have both the English and their language on hand. As your GIG progresses and they become more curious, get them a Bible of their own.

4. What to study, and how

Your friend may throw out a number of verses or topics they're curious about. While we don't discourage you from discussing those, it can become chaotic. Try to set a plan:

What?

- [Who is Jesus the Messiah](#) helps friends discover Jesus' full identity bit-by-bit, in Luke.
- [Jesus and Women](#)
- [Shared Prophets GIG Guide](#) uses the Qur'an and the Bible, looking at prophets from Adam, Moses, Abraham, David, and Jonah and pointing to Jesus as the greatest.

How?

- [Discovery Bible Study](#) is a simple method focused on obeying Jesus and discipling to faith. It's easy to learn and prepare, and adapts well to different people.

Don't forget this is a *spiritual battle*! Deepen your own prayer times, and offer prayer to your friend frequently. May the Holy Spirit awaken their hearts to surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Stay connected for more help as your GIG advances! - Paul paulforrester@intervarsity.org

Get this and much more in our handbook! tiny.cc/cwmis