



FRONTLINE ACADEMY

*"Equipped to Share: A Biblical & Apologetics Approach to
Online Evangelism"*

Session Seven - 2025

Ryan Lowe MDiv.



Responding to World Religions

Responding to:

- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam

Main Goal?

Confidence and Excitement

Modern Judaism and Jesus

- Falsely proclaimed Messiah 
General western view, just a good teacher etc.

Modern Judaism (1)

- Remember modern Judaism is very different / divorced from the Old Testament.
- Ask questions, don't make assumptions remember there is a wide variety of Jewish people.
- The person you are speaking to may not be a “law” follower etc. And may not know what you are talking about.
- They are a heavily persecuted people, and this fuels pride in their heritage.

Modern Judaism (2)

- Don't get distracted by our pre-conceived notions of Judaism, share the Gospel, our sin and need for a savior as usual.
- Judaism is part of Western culture, many responders here can be comfortable within this worldview.
- Emphasize accepting Jesus does not remove ethnic identity.

Hinduism and Jesus

- "Another "Avatar" that can be added to the "pantheon""
- Avatar = manifestation of a deity

Hinduism (1)

- Knowing they are a Hindu, tells you almost nothing about their practices and beliefs
- Hinduism prides itself on a tolerant attitude to all religions. Getting a Hindu to become a Christian “externally” is extremely easy. (However, the tolerance is only surface level)
- Goal of escaping sin very different from goal of escaping “the cycle”
- Evangelism can be perceived as Western arrogance
- Words are not neutral be careful when attempting to contextualize

Hinduism (2)

- We contextualize using culture not religion
- Hinduism is looking towards fulfillment, but Christianity offers factual salvation from sin.
- Present facts
- Christian love
- Hinduism has too many false promises that fall short

Hinduism (3)

- Prabhupada, man who popularized the Krishna movement on his death bed spoke about sin...
- Fear and enslavement to false gods and spirits, Christ can set them free
- Some strands of Hinduism talk about grace, same word but very different things in mind

Buddhism and Jesus

- "Not Divine, but certainly a very enlightened being."

Buddhism (1)

- Big overlap with reaching Hindus!
- Emphasize historical events
- Might need to be convinced that history matters
- May look down on a religion based in reality, and not on “pure thought”

Buddhism (2)

- Emphasize assurance and confidence, hope
- Some Buddhist teachings have a sense of grace, but rooted in speculation and myth, not in facts or from Christ
- Grace in Buddhism is not real, because “sin” is freely forgiven with no payment for sin (Christ)

Islam and Jesus

- "Teacher, prophet, one of God's greatest messengers, born of the virgin Mary. Not divine, did not die, did not rise..."

Islam (1) Qur'an

- They say “Qur'an directly from God, the Bible has errors”
- Textual history of the Bible is very important. variants of the Qur'an
- Qur'an only in Arabic, so your friend might not know it, and your English translation has no authority
- Islam is more than the Qur'an they draw from four sources; ijma (community), hadith (canonical tradition), qiyas (analogy), Qur'an
- Qur'anic verses speaking of corruption in the Bible, are usually in agreement with us! eg. Pharisees etc.

Islam (2) Abrogation

- **Law of abrogation (Naskh)** : What comes after annuls what comes before
- Used to negate Bible. But also functions within Qur'an
- Causes as many problems as it “solves” for Islam
- Various views of abrogation within Islam
- Bible Progressive vs Qur'an contradictory

Islam (3) Muslims

- Islam is a “missionary” religion, “you are trying to convert them, they are trying to convert you.”
- They are trained in their beliefs, expect debate.
- “The nearest in affection are those who say we are Christians 5:82” however also states, “fighting is prescribed to you 2:216”
- They are not taught to love their enemies

Islam (4) Muslims Cont.

- Many Muslims are more concerned with the social and cultural hurdles, than theology
- Muslims respect courage
- It is not our place to judge those who are facing persecution for becoming Christians
- To the chagrin of Muslim leaders, folk religion is rife. Praying to keep “jin” (spirits) at bay

Islam (5) Trinity

- They say, “God cannot have a Son, God cannot be three, Jesus cannot be God”
- Christians need at least a fundamental grasp of the Trinity.
- Difficult to understand does not = polytheistic
- We do not worship man as God, but the God who became man, incarnation

Islam (6) Trinity

- Simplicity **cannot** be the sole or even primary criterion for truth
- For example, there are much easier models of physics etc. But doesn't mean they are true
- The god of Islam and our Triune God are not the same person
- “the first Christians confessed Christ to be divine without contradiction with their monotheism, because their experience of Christ was consistent with their prior covenantal knowledge of Yahweh.”
- Islamic monotheism differs to Hebrew monotheism.

Islam (7) Trinity

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Islam (8) Our Posture and Practice

- Always focus the conversation on what Christians believe, keep teaching the truth and what the Scripture teaches, (personal experience is effective)
- Focus on grace, Muslims always seeking an unattainable perfect standard
- Make sure they feel valued as human beings
- Use your testimony
- Link your testimony to a Bible story

Islam (9) Our Posture and Practice

- If you have time, tell Bible stories as they are without addition or subtraction
- Use the term peace
- Use Eid al- Adha, substitution
- The Iman or the thief, which one will go to heaven?
- Story telling is key, drawn into debate and we become too “specific”

Islam (10) Our Posture and Practice

- We need skill in responding to Muslim claims Jesus did not die, in fact Qur'an also states Jesus **did** die, 5:1117, 19:19, 3:55
- Be careful however with qur'anic knowledge, when sensing "defeat" they will just break into "faith-mode" (paraphrase RL)
- Islam considers anger one of the great sins, so they will try to wind up Christians deliberately. Smiling and laughing it off, will do more than eloquent speaking
- Muslims respect people who know their topic by memory *
- Dialogue is better than a "cold war"

Islam (11) vs. Christianity

- Submission to Allah vs. Faith in Christ
- “salvation in Islam is by merit not by grace”
- People can be a part of the Muslim community whilst not holding Islamic orthodox beliefs, as long as they don't share these views with others, very different to Christianity

Useful Resources:

- Neighboring Faiths – Winfried Corduan – Text book –
Easy to understand overall
- Engaging with Muslims – John Klaassen – very short
- Communicating Christ Cross Culturally – David Hesselgrace -
dense
- Envisioning Effective Ministry: Evangelism in a Muslim Context
 - On kindle

Useful Resources:

- Please make use of the fantastic and thorough resources on Responder Training Portal! (Especially on Islam)