

February 4 | Sunday

Islam and Christianity

Read [Genesis 16:1-16](#); [Genesis 21:8-21](#)



05 | Mon – Common ancestor | Read [Genesis 17:17-21](#) and [21:9-20](#) and [25:7-9](#)

Islam was founded by Mohammed, a descendant of Ishmael, who was born about 500 years after the final New Testament book was written. Abraham had two sons, Isaac from whom the Jews descended and Ishmael, father of the Arabic people. God promised the covenant would continue through Isaac but also promised that Ishmael would become a great nation as well. When Abraham died, both sons put aside their differences and buried him together. What do the above verses tell you about God's love for Ishmael and his descendants?

06 | Tue – Common belief: submission to God | Read [Romans 12:1-2](#); [Matthew 16:24-26](#)

When praying in Arabic, you would use the word 'Allah' which is the Arabic word for 'God' not some Islamic deity. A Muslim is defined as 'one who is submitted to God' (Allah). Christians are also called to submit to God, just as Jesus did when he went to the cross. Paul reminds us that our bodies want to be in charge. So although God does not ask you to sacrifice your body on a cross, there are times when you have to make sacrifices to live the way God wants you to. When have you experienced this truth?

07 | Wed – Common ideal: a prayer-filled life | Read [Matthew 6:5-13](#); [1 Thess. 5:16-18](#).

Muslims pray five times a day, facing the direction of Mecca. As a captive in Babylon, Daniel faced the direction of Jerusalem and prayed three times a day. Jesus gave his followers an example of *how* to pray (attitude) and a model of what to say. Paul challenged his readers to pray continually. How have you found prayer to be important in your life as a Christian?

08 | Thu – Common value: helping the poor | Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Once a year, Muslims give a percentage of their income to the poor and needy. In this story, Jesus shows the high priority he places on helping the hungry, the stranger, the poorly clothed, the sick, and those in prison. You would expect to meet Jesus at church but on the street? What could happen if you decide for today to look at every person you meet as a brother or sister of Jesus? Why not try it...and maybe keep a record of any interesting results.

09 | Fri – A warrior and a Prince of Peace | Read [Matthew 5:38-45](#); [Romans 12:14-21](#)

Leading an army was one of Mohammed's roles as a warrior. The teaching of the Quran (about war and violence) contrast with Jesus' teachings. Roman soldiers ruled over the Jewish people but Jesus taught his disciples to set aside the old model of revenge and replace it with the law of love. Paul gave specific ideas to the Christian minority living Rome on how God would want them to deal with evil. Look at the list. What is easy for you? What is difficult?

10 | Sat – A prophet and a Savior | Read [Matthew 1:18-23](#); [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

Muslims regard Jesus as a great prophet but not in any sense as the Son of God. The prophet Mohammed rejected the idea that Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. Matthew describes the circumstances of Jesus' birth as the birth of the Savior. Colossians 1 does not try to explain all the mysteries of Jesus being divine but simply speaks of it as reality that changed the lives of the early believers. How has knowing Jesus changed your life or the lives of others you know? In what ways would you *like* Jesus to change your life? He is willing.