

Gospel in 6 lessons

This method presupposes a Muslim worldview. It assumes that the participants know God as creator, lawgiver and judge.

This is a sin and salvation message.

It is intended for small group and it is based entirely on the new Testament.

1. Commandments

Opener

God has given many commandments, hasn't he? Can you give examples? Of all the commandments God has given, which do people say is the most important?

Let us see what Jesus Christ said.

Mat 22v32-40 [or Mk 12v28-34]

(Brief note – The Pharisees and Sadducees were two Jewish groups (*tariikha pl turukh*). The Sadducees were very interested in the sacrifices and the Pharisees were more interested in the commandments.)

Ask what the greatest commandment is. Have someone read v37 again. Have them repeat the commandment together phrase by phrase.

Q Why should this commandment be greater than the others? What do you think?

Is it right for people to love God?

Is anyone ever right to not love God?

What would show that someone was really obeying this commandment?

Do you think that it is OK if a person obeys it some days but not on other days?

Do you know anyone who obeys this commandment all the time?

Yes (Really?!)

No – why not?

Let us look at the second greatest. What is it?

After verbal response, have someone read it from v39.

Repeat it as group phrase by phrase.

Why is this commandment so important?

If someone is obeying this commandment, will they kill someone?

Steal something? Commit adultery? Will they gossip unkindly? Will they be jealous?

Do people generally obey these commandments?
What is the result?

Here is a question for each one to answer in his own heart. Do you really obey these commandments?

If not, if you do not obey the most important commandments, why should God accept you?

[Tell each other... and discuss. Note responses.]
Now that you know these things, what will you do differently?

Concluding remark

The bible says that all people break God's commandments and so all sinners. Jesus came to save sinners. We will learn about that next time.

2. Religion is not enough

Opener : What did we read about last time?

Read and repeat **Luke 18v9-10**

Explain that the *Fariisi* is very religious.

If necessary explain the status of the tax collector.

V11-12 what did he say? (list)

He was not lying – he really did all those things.

Is it good to fast? Is it good to give?

Now let's look at the other one, the man from the douane.

V13 did he thank God?

Was he a good man or a bad man?

Why do you think he prayed far away from the others?

Why did he beat his chest – does God command that? What do you think?

To summarise:

Who is the *Fariisi* and how does he pray?

Who is the tax collector and how does he pray.

Listen to the words of Jesus:

V14

Which is the second man?

Do you remember? Which are the greatest commandments? Who keeps them perfectly?

Let's look at some more of Jesus' words

Luke 17v7-10

V7-8 – understood? Master feed slave?

V9 Does the master thank the slave for doing as he is told?

V10

Who are the slaves of God? (We all are) What has he commanded us to do?

Keep commands, do good, pray, fast....

(if they stick to god deeds, ask "has God told us to pray? What else?")

Re read v10

So even if we do all the things you have said (remind) then we should say "we have only done our duty".

If you work for a man in the market and every week you work well for 6 days and then steal on the 7th day, will the boss forgive you just because you did good for six days?

It is the same for us. When we do what we should, that does not cancel out the bad things we do.

Reflection. Now that you know these things, what will you do differently?

Concluding remark

So we all need mercy from God. God is *rahman wa rahiim* and next time we will look at how God shows his mercy to sinners.

3. Jesus Christ brings forgiveness

Reminder : What did we talk about last time?

Opener : What did Jesus Christ do? What do you know about him. (miracles of healing will be mentioned). *This question is about what they know or what they think, do not worry if they come up with something erroneous.*

OK, we are going to read about one of the miracles that Jesus did.

Mat 9v1-8 [or Mk 2v1-12] Read through.

Why were the men carrying the sick man on his bed? What was wrong with him?

Re read 1-3.

Why did the teachers say he was blaspheming? What do you think?

Would the *ulema* (teachers) today say the same thing if someone went around saying I forgive your sins? Who can forgive sins?

Re read 4-5

Restate the question – which is easier? What do you think? Is one of these things easier to say? Who can say your sins are forgiven? Who can command a paralysed man to walk?

If a blasphemer commands a man to walk will God help him?

Note Jesus calls himself Son of Man. Be ready to explain if asked. Say he came for all races and tribes. He is the Second Adam and brings us a new beginning.

Read 6-7.

Why were the people happy? Why were they surprised?

Read the whole story again have them repeat phrase by phrase.

What did Jesus do for the man?

Other prophets warn people about judgement. Jesus came to bring forgiveness and new life.

Reflection: Now that you know this, how will you think differently?

Concluding remark

Next time we will look at the question “Who is Jesus?”

4. Who is Jesus?

Opener: Who do people say Jesus is? Why do they say that?

Mat 16v13-17

13-14 What did Jesus ask? What was the answer? Why did people say things like that?

15-17 What did Simon say?
Did Jesus agree?
Where did the idea come from?

Note : Jesus called himself Ibn al-Insaan, because he came for all peoples of all tribes. He is also called the Son of God because he does the things only God can do.

Let's look at another passage **Luke 1v26-36**

(you will want to spend more time on the next passage, so don't' extend the discussion)

Why was Mariyam surprised at the angel's message?
V37-38 is this too difficult to God?
What do you think of Mariyam's response?
How can we follow her example?

Let's look at another passage: **Mat 1v18-25**

18-19
Why did Yusuf want to divorce Mariyam?

20-21
Who spoke to Yusuf?
What did he say?
Who chose Isa's name?
What does it mean?

22-25 What did Joseph do?

According to this passage, why did God send Jesus? What was his task?

Have them repeat 1v21.

Who do you think his people are?

Now you know these things, what will you do differently? What will you think differently?

Concluding remark: Next time we will look at how Jesus saves people from their sins.

5. The Cross and resurrection

Opener : Do you know the story of Abraham and his sacrifice? How was his son's life saved?

Read **John 1v29-37**

Who is *Yahya*? (They should say a prophet)
Can you list the things that this prophet said about Jesus?
Do you understand them?

V37 Why did the two disciples leave *Yahya* and follow Jesus instead?

Let us read something that Jesus said about himself.

Mark 8v31-33

Who is speaking?
What do you think he means?
So we don't forget, what are the four things that he said would happen to him?

Let us read what happened.

Luke 23v1-49

Read in sections.
Do you understand?
Is it what he said would happen?

What were the four things that he said would happen?

Let's read about the 4th. **Mat 28v1-7**

To understand more about this let's read what Jesus did and said in **Mat 26v26-29**.

(Have bread to break and juice to pour as an illustration)

So why did Jesus die?
Where is he buried?
What did he command his followers to do?

Now that you know these things, what will you do?

Concluding remark

We have seen that all people do wrong and that Jesus came to bring forgiveness. He gave himself like the sheep that saved the son of Abraham. Next time we will look at what happened after he was raised.

6. Following – testifying and suffering.

Reminder/opener :What did Jesus say would happen to him?
Did it happen?

This is not the end of the story. This is the beginning.

Read Luke 24v36-43

How did Jesus show he was really alive?
Why did he show them his hands?

Read Luke 24v44-53

So where is Jesus now?
What did he say must happen?
Who is the good news for?
What is the message?

Would you like to see what happened when they started spreading the word?
One example:

Acts 5v17-42 (skip 33-39?)

Note. Explain The people called *rusul* (apostles), are the ones Jesus appointed to start proclaiming the message.

Is God on the side of the rulers or on the side of Peter and his companions?
How do you know?

What is the heart of their message?

What hardships did the apostles experience?
In what ways did they see God help them?

Is their message still true today?
Do people still oppose this message?

Now that you know these things, what does God want you to do?