



Free From Worry

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study

Starts April 15

Led by Linda McKenzie

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Room 122

You're invited to a new Women's Bible study group that will focus on deepening our relationship with God and each other. *Free From Worry*, an 8-week study, is part of the "Women of the Word" series that will guide us to living more peacefully. This interactive study invites us to take a close look at the worry epidemic and turns to God's word to find His plan for our life. The study will end June 3. Books will be available to purchase at the first class meeting for \$10.00 or now from Kate Huber, Room 124. For childcare contact Defae Weaver.

THE **GOSPEL** OF **MATTHEW**

Beginning Monday night, April 20. Piro Hall.
Come at 6:45

Our Class Missions Collection

**commissioned to propagate our Christian
faith and carry on humanitarian work**

الإسلام محمد رسول الله

The History, Scope, and Goals of Jihadist Ideology

Islam?

- “Islam” means “submission”
 - It comes from the Arabic root (*s-l-m*; related to “shalom” in Hebrew): peace
 - It is about the peace and social accord brought by submission to God’s will
- “Muslim” means “one who submits”
 - One who submits is one who accepts that Muhammad was the last and greatest Messenger of God.
- “Allah” means simply “god” in Arabic.

Muhammad

- Muhammad was born in about 570AD. He began having his mystical experiences, including the revelation of the Koran, at about the age of 40. His revelations continued until he died at 62.
- From the Qurayshi tribe - the leading tribe in Mecca
- His home was Mecca, but after he began preaching his message and gaining followers, he left for Medina and created an “army.”
- Muhammad was an impressive, charismatic figure who was able to gain converts and followers.
- In the centuries after his death, leaders and scholars gave Islam its shape. Its spread was both missionary, commercial, and political, often at the end of a sword.



The Qur'an

- Dictated in Arabic to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel
 - Dictated word-for-word in Arabic.
- Most “traditional/conservative” Muslims do not translate the Koran into any other language.
- Most Muslims believe that Muhammad was illiterate.
 - Thus, the existence of the Koran could only be explained by God’s dictation.
- You are not far off if you see that the Qur’an is to Islam as Jesus is to Christianity. Both are said to be the complete revelation of God.



Sunnah and the Hadith

Sunnah is the way of life prescribed as normative for Muslims on the basis of the teachings and practices of the Islamic prophet Muhammad and interpretations of the Quran.

The *hadith* is the collection of teachings, deeds and sayings of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. The hadith literature was compiled from oral reports that were in circulation in society around the time of their compilation long after the death of Muhammad.

The Five Pillars of Islam

- *Shahadah: confession of faith*
 - “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.”
- *Salat: Prayer*
 - All Muslims are to pray five times a day facing Mecca.
- *Zakat: tithing*
 - All Muslims must give at least 2.5% of their total wealth to the poor and needy.
- *Sawm: Fasting*
 - During the month of Ramadan, Muslims are to refrain from food, water, and sex from sunrise to sunset.
- *Hajj: pilgrimage*
 - If at all possible, at least once in a lifetime Muslims are to travel to Mecca to engage in rituals of prayers and worship at the central shrine in Islam’s holiest city.

Sunni, Shia, and Sufi

- After, Muhammad's death, his followers began to go in two directions. Most followed the *caliph*, "successor," (a political office). A small minority believed that Muhammad has designated his cousin, Ali, as the religiously inspired leader, *imam*.
- **Sunni**
 - 85-90% of worldwide Muslims; religious and political authority vested in the community, guided by Islamic law and the consensus of its scholars and leaders.
- **Shi'a**
 - Most of the non-Sunni Muslims; Popular in Iran and Iraq
 - Built around Imams and Ayatollahs
- **Sufi**: A very small minority of Muslims -- the path of mysticism



God's Will and the Law

- If our purpose in life is to submit to God's will, then how do we determine what God's will is?
- Muslims go to:
 - First, the *Qu'ran*
 - Second, the *Sunna* and *hadith* (collected writings about the life of Muhammad, whose life is the model for all Muslims)
 - Third, the Bible (though because the Bible we have is corrupted, this is lip service)
 - The teachings of Islamic scholars
- Most Muslims subscribe to one or another school of Islamic Law.

Key differences between Islam & Christianity

- Grace
 - Allah may be merciful, but in the end, those who *do* God's will go to paradise; those who *do not*, go to hell.
- God's immanence (God with us).
 - The notion of a personal relationship with God is foreign to Islam.
- For Christians, God has inspired only the Bible. For Muslims, God dictated the Qu'ran and inspired the Bible, though the Bible is a corrupted version.
- Of course, Jesus. In the end, it all comes back to Jesus.
 - For Muslims, Jesus is an important prophet, but could never be God. For Christians, Jesus is fully and completely God, though not all of God.
 - For Muslims, the Quran is God's fullest revelation. For Christians, Jesus is the complete revelation of God.

