



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

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ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *May 5-10, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

Part of Asbury's 'Closing the Gap' visioning campaign is to close the justice and kindness gap. And one of those initiatives is to bring people together across faiths for mutual understanding and to stand with our neighbors of other faiths demonstrating a witness to the love of Christ. In this first week of the "Voices" sermon series, Pastor Eric conversed with various members of the Al Ahad Islamic Center, as we work towards a better understanding of the Islamic faith.

Monday: Genesis 21:9-20; 25:7-9

Arabic people - of whom Muhammed was one - trace their ancestry to Ishmael, Abraham's son. How might God's attitude toward both Ishmael and Isaac, and their coming together to honor their dead father, help to point a path toward greater peace in our world today?

Tuesday: Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:24-26

Islam is the religion of surrender or submission to Allah. Similarly, Jesus called his followers to "take their cross." What do you believe it means for you to choose eternal life, to "take up your cross" and follow Jesus?

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Matthew 6:5-14

Muslims pray five times a day facing Mecca. The prayers are spread throughout the day to keep them focused on Allah. What do you think the apostle Paul means when he says you should "pray continually?" In what ways could "praying continually" create an inner environment which could "rejoice always"?

Thursday: Matthew 25:31-45

Muslims must pay their 'purity of wealth' - a small percentage of their income that goes to the poor and the needy - once a year. What are the main ways you are involved in honoring God by serving others?

Friday: Matthew 5:38-45, Romans 12:14-21

Muhammed was a warrior; leading an army was one of the roles he played. The teachings of the Quran [about war and violence] stand in marked contrast to those of Jesus. Jesus set aside the model of proportional revenge set out in Exodus 21:24. When you feel like "getting even," how can you become more like Jesus instead?

MOVING FORWARD

Christians and Muslims worship the same God and share common ground when it comes to submission to God, prayer, and giving to the poor. However, Christians differ with our Muslim cousins when it comes to the authority of the Quran and beliefs about Jesus. Despite our differences, both Christians and Muslims can grow closer to God by building bridges between our communities and learning from each other.
