



SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this session is to give the participants the context that sets the stage for further study. To achieve this goal, the session will focus on the following objectives:

1. Participants learn of the relationship of the Qur'an to the Torah and Christian Scripture.
2. Participants learn how "story" (narrative) serves as a transcendent language.
3. Participants learn the basic structure of the Qur'an and basic facts about its development.

ACTIVITIES

Introductions

- ❖ Facilitator introduces self and describes structure of class.
 - Pass out any necessary materials.
 - Pass around sign-up sheet.
 - Introduce textbook, *Noah's Other Son* by Brian Brown (T&T Clarke, Continuum).
- ❖ Have participants introduce themselves.
 - Name
 - What you do outside of here (work, study, raise family, etc.)
 - Relationship to this congregation (member, nonmember, no connection)
 - Why are you here and what do you hope to learn?

Discussion

- ❖ What do you know about the Qur'an and Islam?
 - Who wrote the Qur'an? When was it written?
 - For that matter, who wrote the Torah and when? (Define Torah.)
 - Who was Mohammad? What do you know about him?
 - Who is in charge in today's Islamic world? Who are the authorities?
- ❖ Present sample Qur'ans. Leaders should present the following terms & concepts:
 - Surah
 - Ayah
 - Hadith
 - How the Qur'an is organized.
 - Arabic as the original language of the Qur'an.
 - That the Qur'an assumes knowledge of the Torah and New Testament.



Noah's Other Son

Session 1

- ❖ Present map of the Middle East.
 - Show how the Abrahamic faiths stem from the same geography.

MATERIALS

- ❖ Map of the Middle East
 - Map should show Jerusalem, Mecca and Medina, emphasizing that these three cities exist in the same geographical / cultural region.
- ❖ Sample Qur'ans
- ❖ Handouts for next week's readings

READINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SESSION

For next session, participant should read the following:

1. NOS: Ch. 1, "Higher Than Angels," p. 29 – 37*
 - a. Optional: Introduction, pp.1 – 11
2. Qur'an: Surah 2:30-36 (Handout)
3. Bible: Psalm 8:4-9 (Handout)

(**Noah's Other Son* will frequently be abbreviated to NOS)