



## **SESSION 6: THE HAJJ OF LIFE**

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### **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of this session is to show how Islam, Judaism and Christianity differ in their understanding of the lives of the God's prophetic leaders, and how these differences color the relationships among the faiths and between their followers and God.

To achieve this goal, the session will focus on the following objectives:

1. Participants learn the priority each faith puts on redemption and reverence.
2. Participants differentiate between "words of God" and "Word of God." scriptural views.
3. Participants learn the importance of historical context in reading scripture, and hazards of reading scripture anachronistically. (i.e. do your homework when you read scripture.)

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Discussion**

- ❖ Review and discuss the NOS chapter, "The Hajj of Life."
- ❖ Compare and contrast the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic versions of the story of Lot.
- ❖ Discuss the view that scripture represents the words of God vs. the Word of God.
  - Review the two concepts and relate them to progressivism and fundamentalism as phenomena in all three faiths.
  - Have each participant articulate his/her understanding of scripture in terms of the continuum between the words-of-God and the Word-of-God.
  - Review what Paul says about Abraham (Galatians 3:1-14, "Faith, Not Law"),
- ❖ If time allows, review NOS Ch. 9 "The Covenant," pp.104-111.
  - What is the relevance of the story of Jacob wrestling with the "angel"? How is "wrestling" a metaphor for our relationship with God?

### **READINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SESSION**

For next session, participant should read the following:

1. NOS: Ch. 10, "The Dream," pp.112-121
  - a. Optional: NOS Ch. 11, "The Foundation," pp.122-133



## Noah's Other Son

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2. Qur'an: Surah 12:1-111 (NOS pp.113-120)
3. Bible: GENESIS 37:1-36; 41:25-57; 42:1-5; 45:1-28; 47: 1-12, 27-31