

**Islam, Politics and why it matters for us.
Questions for discussion in home groups**

Part 1: History of Islam.

Did you know any of the background of Islam?

Do you want to find out more?

Does it answer some of your questions, or leave you with more? What questions?

How did you feel about the message to Muhammad, that Allah demanded that everyone treat each other with justice, equity and compassion? Does it sound familiar?

Can you find similarities to the Hebrew Scriptures? Differences?

Part 2: The Spread of Islam

What surprised you in this brief history?

Did you recognize any of the terms, like sunna, Khalifa, Shari'a, Imam? Others?

Were you aware of the current widespread nature of the Muslim world, the umma?

Do you have a better understanding of the reason for the divide between Sunni and Shi'a Islam?

Does it resonate with you in terms of your history? Is it like the Catholic/Protestant conflicts in Christianity? Or not? Do you know what it feels like to be hated because of your religious adherence?

What does the word jihad stir up?

Part 3: Other countries in their political interactions with Islam.

Is it just a problem for two local warring factions to solve? Should we leave them to it until there is no one left?

Do you know of other countries getting involved with these conflicts? Think back to the Balkan wars, etc.

What was your reaction to the involvement of the U.S. in Islamic countries?

How about a supposed pro-Israel stance?

Part 4: Why this matters to us as Christians in N.Z.

Does this matter?

Are we really called as Christians to uphold the truth? Think of scripture that would support/challenge this view.

Do you know any Muslim people in your community? Do you have discussions about religion with them or anyone else?

What are our responsibilities as N.Z. citizens?

How did you react to hearing an extract from the Qur'an? Do you have a theological position about the God we worship as Christians, and Allah? Are they the same? Or not? Why?