



UNIT 3

UNIT 3 MODULE 3.1

From now on, no matter where you see a veiled Muslim woman, remember that her veil represents much more than you originally thought.



Click or scan to access this module's teaching video as well as any accompanying PDF downloads.

Her Veil, Islam's Modesty

KEY SCRIPTURE

*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate [reflect] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
-2 Corinthians 3:18*

INTRODUCTION

You might be surprised to know that many Muslim women love fashion like you do. Veils can be a very fashionable part of their attire, but the main reason Muslim women wear them is to obey Islam's mandates and reflect well on their community.

VIDEO NOTES:

REFLECTION / RESPONSE

We have just now learned about the different kinds of veils, why some Muslim women choose to veil, and why other Muslim women choose not to veil.

1. To broaden your perspective further, enter “Muslim modest fashion” into a online search. How is the *burqa* different from the *hijab*, and what do these differences communicate?
2. How might the type of veil your Muslim friend wears influence your interactions with her?
3. Now read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What stands out to you in this verse? What has Jesus done for you, and what might your “unveiled face” communicate to a Muslim friend?

CALL TO ACTION PRAYER

God makes you a reflection of His glory as He continuously transforms you into His image. Prayerfully thank Him for so generously using you to help others see Him more clearly. Talk to Him about your desire to mirror God's image in the friendships you have with Muslim friends.



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UNIT 3 MODULE 3.2

The Muslim woman's veil represents the righteous working of Islam's modesty. In that way, she becomes the keeper of her community's honor.



Islam's Modesty: More Than a Head Covering

KEY SCRIPTURE

I delight greatly in the Lord; ... For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness. -Isaiah 61:10a

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Muhammad said that “modesty is the character of Islam” (Ibn Maja 4182). The religious practice of purdah (i.e. the veiling of women and gender segregation) is Islam’s means of ensuring modesty and upholding honor.

VIDEO NOTES:

REFLECTION / RESPONSE

1. Can you recall what the practice of *purdah* requires? How is it about more than a head-covering?
2. In your own words, reflect on the practice of *purdah* and how you think it fits into the Prophet Muhammad's comment about modesty being the character of Islam. Does it trouble you?
3. How does Islam's veil image differ from what Isaiah 61:10a calls "garments of salvation" and "a robe of his righteousness?"

CALL TO ACTION PRAYER

Meditate on Isaiah 61:10a and the way God clothes you in these emblems of His grace. Delight in the Lord with words that express worship and gratitude to Him. Then think about Muslim women, and ask the Lord to show you how you might share your joy with the Muslim friends you have or hope to have in the future.



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UNIT 3 MODULE 3.3

The original mandates of veiling in Islam are included in Islam's sacred texts.



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Purdah's Beginnings

KEY SCRIPTURE

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible ... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. -1 Corinthians 9:19-23

INTRODUCTION

As you become familiar with Islam's edicts for veiling, you will have a better feel for how legally binding they are, and you'll understand the important role Muslim women have as modesty bearers in Islam.

VIDEO NOTES:

REFLECTION / RESPONSE

1. Of the three Qur'anic veiling mandates we shared with you, which stands out the most? Why?
2. Do you recall the two valid interpretations of what Islam's veiling represents even today? Why is it important that you understand both?
3. Christians value modesty, too. Compare the Qur'an's modesty edicts with 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

CALL TO ACTION PRAYER

Modesty matters, doesn't it? Be prepared. The Lord might ask you to make some personal adjustments to your own modesty practices as you share life with Muslim friends (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Take the next few minutes to ask the Lord to help you to honor Him (and them) with your body, especially as you relate His Good News to them.



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UNIT 3 MODULE 3.4

Many Muslims equate the West and Christianity with immodest, ungodly behavior, but you get to show them what it means to live life with Jesus at the center!



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What Matters Today

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
-Ephesians 5:1-2*

INTRODUCTION

Modesty matters. It might be a lot about veiling and clothing to some people and more about behavior to others. But the Prophet Muhammad, having called modesty “the character of Islam”, makes it central to how Muslims live. A Muslim’s modesty is largely connected to the merit one receives for good deeds and the reward of Paradise.

VIDEO NOTES:

REFLECTION / RESPONSE

1. Were you surprised to find out that Muslims typically believe Christians are promiscuous and do not value modesty? What cultural influences have helped foster this belief among them?
2. Of the modesty-related suggestions shared in this session, which ones stand out to you? Which ones might be harder or easier for you?
3. In the video you heard that “our friendships with Muslims develop more naturally when we conscientiously consider not only what we think it means to be modest but also what they believe modesty requires.” Jot down some thoughts about how you think this could play out in your friendships.

CALL TO ACTION PRAYER

The video warned against trying to emulate the prophet Muhammad in order to fit in with our Muslim friends. Remember, that’s what Muslims must do. With this in mind, read Ephesians 5:1-2 out loud. Isn’t it great that we get to imitate Jesus (1 John 4:19) in our friendships with Muslims? Thank God for His example and ask Him to empower you to walk in the way of love.



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UNIT 3 MODULE 3.5

The crux of biblical modesty is putting on Jesus!



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Biblical Modesty

KEY SCRIPTURE

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. -Romans 13:14 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus-followers have the privilege of understanding God’s law through the lens of God’s love. God first mentioned His Good News plan in His response to Adam and Eve’s original sin (Genesis 3:15). Right then, already, He had Jesus on His mind. Jesus remains the crux of God’s redemptive plan. He is the key to our understanding of biblical modesty. When we put on Jesus, He’s the One who shines through us—the one Muslims get to see.

VIDEO NOTES:

REFLECTION / RESPONSE

With Muslim women in mind, read 2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Ephesians 4:24.

1. Has your personal understanding of modesty ever been based on rules and works? How is that different from biblical modesty?
2. How does biblical modesty fit into the broader scope of true righteousness and holiness?
3. How are these three scriptures good news to the Muslim woman?

CALL TO ACTION PRAYER

Re-center on the essence of Genesis 3:15. It gives us our first peek into God’s redemptive plan for all people. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you “put on Jesus” and best reflect His glory to Muslim women and anyone else He might bring your way.



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