



Say Hello



7-Day Devotional Guide to
BUILDING CHRIST-LIKE
FRIENDSHIPS
WITH MUSLIM WOMEN

A resource of *Say Hello: Serving Muslim Women*

Say Hello: A Guide to Building Christ-Like Friendships
with Muslim Women
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For the loving, courageous women of the Church:
May God use this resource to inspire, empower,
and equip you to see and reach your Muslim
neighbor with Christ-like friendship.

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us for broad impact and harvest



Introduction

Have you ever considered that the Muslim women in our communities are our neighbors for a divine reason? God wants to show himself Lord to them through Christian women everywhere.

In Acts 17:26-27, the Apostle Paul reminds today's church that God made the nations, and He set the times and places where they live ... so that humankind might seek Him and reach out to Him and find Him.

This one-week challenge will help you find answers to some foundational questions about your Muslim neighbor, your spiritual path toward friendship with her, and how that path can mean Heaven for her. It will help you to see her with your physical eyes and through the eyes of Christ who loves her and yearns to bless her through you.

We pray that God gives you courage and joy as you open your heart to your Muslim neighbor. May your initial *hello* bless you and her with loving, Christ-like friendship that exudes His presence and the Holy Spirit's transformational power for God's glory, forever.

Say
Hello
Serving Muslim Women





When you

say hello

to a Muslim woman
you will start a remarkable

journey.

The One-Week Challenge



*"Two people are better off than one,
for they can help each other succeed."*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

For the next week, ask a Christian friend to join you and pray every day that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see Muslims in your lives. Ask Him to fill your hearts with the love He has for them –to see them through His eyes. Pray together, challenge one another, and share your experiences!

My "One-Week Challenge" partner is _____.

On the lines below, record where you see Muslim women (in public, at school or work, in social media, etc.) Pray that God will lead you into divine appointments and friendship with at least one of them. Ask the Holy Spirit for courage to say hello.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Loving Father,

Thank You for continually working in my life and in the lives of Your children—those who are near you and those who are far from you. Thank You for the gift of eternal life as I trust in Your Son, Jesus. I fix my eyes on You today. Let me see in Your eyes Your passion and love for those who long for You, especially Muslim women. Empower me by Your Spirit to do what You are doing and say what You are saying. Please guard me from fear of the unknown as I trust You to teach me all things at the right time (John 5:16-30, Luke 12:2).

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Should We Say Hello?



Beneath her Islamic veil she is not much different from me:

She is a sister, a mother, an auntie, a grandma -

Who pours her life into family and wonderful friendships.

She values inner and outer beauty.

She is modest.

She strives for success.

She avoids shameful deeds; she strives to uphold honor.

She is probably a foodie, and she loves fun.

She prays often.

She works hard to please Allah.

She will almost always respond to a friendly "hello."

In fact, she is more like me than I know...

Except that she has no hope for eternity.

This is why I should say hello.

Many of us have had the inclination to reach out to Muslim women, but maybe we've been intimidated, afraid, or not sure of where to start.

The truth is, Jesus entrusts Muslim women to us because He means to extend His redemptive mission to them through believing women. This is true of Christian and Muslim women everywhere. Christ wants believing women to say hello on His behalf. So how do we start?

In the following pages we will discover some basic information to help us understand our Muslim sister and begin the conversation that could change her life for eternity!

On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable do you feel
around Muslim women?

I can not
bring myself
to talk to her

1 2 3 4 5

I want to hug
her and
invite her to
my home

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and help you
understand the motivation behind your feelings (Ps. 139:23).
Respond below to what He speaks to you.

Consider the woman behind the veil. Have you ever thought
about her beyond her religion? Have you considered what
she, as a woman, may have in common with you? Envision
God's heart for her below. How is she, a beloved creation of
the Father, like you (Rom. 3:23; 2 Pet. 3:9; Jer. 1:5)?

“But God, being
rich in *mercy*
because of
the great love
with which He
loved us, even
when we were
Dead in our
trespasses,
made us
alive
together with
Christ—
by grace you have
been saved...”
Ephesians 2:4-5
(ESV)





“When Jesus had cried out again
in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the

curtain of the temple was *torn*
in two from

Top to *bottom*...

When the centurion
and those with him who were guarding Jesus
saw the earthquake and all that had happened,
they were terrified, and exclaimed,
‘Surely he was the Son of God!’”

Matthew 27:50-54 (NIV)

You May Not Understand Her World



What we don't know can be intimidating, so let's begin with some topics that are often misunderstood.

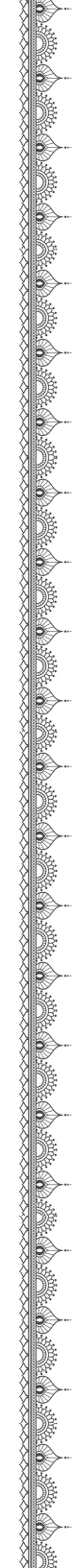
The Veil

At the beginning of a relationship, the Muslim woman's veil is probably our greatest deterrent to friendship with her. In our Western thinking, it tends to represent a world of reasons why we might choose to keep our distance from her. Ironically, the physical veil our Muslim friend might wear represents the things that make Christian and Muslim women the likeliest of friends.

Why the Veil?

Muslims value honor above all, and they work hard to uphold honor in a shame-filled world. In Islam, honor is focused on chastity and sexual purity. Generally, in a Muslim context, women are the keepers of said honor. If a woman behaves shamefully or is shamed, it reflects poorly on the men who are responsible for her protection and sustenance. It is this context that prescribes Islam's careful modesty codes. Clearly, a modest woman is less vulnerable to shame.

A Muslim person's identity is totally community-dependent; the honorable or shameful act of one person reflects upon the whole group.



A woman who veils communicates honorable intentions. First, she obeys Allah with her modesty. Second, by veiling, she tells the community that her husband is honorable as well.

What We Do Know: Christ the Veil

Her veil does exactly what the enemy of our souls wants it to do. It communicates mystery. It marginalizes and distances God-willed friendships.

But Jesus is always greater.

He proved it on the cross, when He gave His life for us (Matt. 24:45-53). He paid the penalty for our sin in full, so that all of humankind might have eternal relationship with God. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

In Hebrews 10:20, the Bible reminds us that Christ's body was the veil that was ripped in two so that all of humanity – Muslims included – could have unrestricted access to God through faith in Christ! All we have to do is "draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings" (Heb. 10:22).

She Needs Christ – She Needs Us

Although the spiritual veil of Islam isolates the Muslim woman from relationship with God, Jesus has already paid the price for her redemption. She needs to be directed to Christ, where no veil separates us any longer from unlimited, personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. She needs us to tell her the GOOD NEWS!



Take a moment to respond to God's great love, shown to us in the torn veil that once separated us from any possibility of having personal access to Him. What does it mean to you to be able to boldly approach the throne of grace (*Heb. 4:16*)?

Reflect and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any "veils" you have worn that have separated you from intimate relationship with God or created a barrier between you and Muslim women who need to see Jesus in you.

“Most Muslim women are not very sure about getting to Paradise. They recognize that it is as difficult as walking on a *bridge* that is as fine as a *human hair* and as sharp as a *sword*. But they do *Dream* about being there.”²

-Safia, Former Muslim



Fate: Her Uncertain Path to Paradise



It's important to understand your Muslim friend's expectations for her future.

To begin, there is no redemption from sin in Islam.

- Jesus is revered as a prophet, but not the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- He did not die on the cross to redeem others, nor was He raised from the dead.
- He will return to earth at the end of time, but to rule the world according to Islamic law.

The path to eternal life is uncertain. All Muslims believe they must earn their way to Paradise, Islam's heaven. They strive for Allah's approval by their diligent adherence to good deeds, which are grounded in the five pillars of Islam:

- Confession of Faith - Recitation of the creed that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger
- Prayer - Five times daily, at prescribed times
- Fasting - Compulsory, during the month of Ramadan, to commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad
- Giving of Alms - 2.5% of income
- Pilgrimage to Mecca - At least once in a lifetime



What Might Paradise Look Like?

For Muslims, Paradise is about reward, not relationship. Muslim women believe there is a place for them there. They expect it to offer great comfort, ease, and luxury—with special food and drink. Beyond that, however, most Muslim women don't know what to expect.

Slim Hope for Paradise

Many Muslim women find it very difficult to hope for Paradise because of what their prophet tells them he saw with his own eyes: "The majority of the dwellers of Hell-fire were [women]." This is because of their alleged deficiency in intelligence and religion.³

Since adherence to the five pillars of Islam credits one with good deeds essential for Paradise, and because women who are pregnant, nursing, or menstruating cannot always fast or pray,⁴ the tally of their good deeds consistently falls short. They simply cannot do enough.

Can you imagine how your Muslim friend feels?

She's fighting a losing battle. She has no security, no confidence, and no assurance for her eternity.



Our Muslim friend does not know God as her Heavenly Father. We have the honor of serving a God who identifies with us as our Father—a loving protector and provider. He saves us by grace, not works, and calls us His daughters. He lavishes on us the promised hope of eternity. How does this affect the way you live?

Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you about any areas in your life in which you are trying to earn His forgiveness, acceptance, or love through works. Let Him permeate you with His grace.



"I have become
all things to
all people
so that by
all *possible* means
I might save some."

- 1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)





Compassionate Father,

I am in awe. Out of love, You were compelled by the lost-ness of humanity—by my lostness—to send Your only Son Jesus to ransom my life. He gave up the majesty of golden streets and the splendor of angelic worship to muddy himself in the mess of humanity and the pollution of imperfection.

Help me to live as He did—to consider everything insignificant compared to bringing You glory through serving others. I find my confidence in You, so I surrender to Your leading. I fix my eyes on You, and as I see You, may those I serve see Your reflection in my eyes, in my life. (Jn. 1:14, Phil. 3:8, Matt. 5:16, Jn. 13, Heb. 12)

In Jesus' name, Amen.





Heart of God in Action

All the way from Genesis to Revelation we see God's gracious hospitality. He begins by providing a *perfect garden home* for Adam and Eve. He ends by offering everyone an eternal *home in Heaven.*

- Donna Krstulovich

Customs and Practices of Our Muslim Friend



There are a few things we should try to be mindful of when engaging our Muslim friend. She will notice and appreciate the time and effort we invest to understand where she is coming from, to understand her worldview.

The Qur'an

Muslims believe that the Qur'an, the sacred text of Islam, is the verbatim word of Allah as spoken to their prophet, Muhammad.

Our Muslim friend reveres her Qur'an. In her own home, she will keep it on a shelf high above all other books, most likely on a stand or in a specially made cover.

Our Response

She will appreciate our honest and compassionate conversation about Christ and our desire to understand her faith. If the opportunity presents itself, we may prayerfully consider asking her if she would like a Bible.

It is important to handle our Bible respectfully around our Muslim friend, being careful to not set it where anyone sits or walks, keeping its pages clear of tags or handwriting and treating it with reverent affection.



When we give her a Bible, how we have regarded ours validates our gift to her. This is a treasure. Gift wrap it beautifully, and present it with a card.

Hospitality and Food

To Muslims, hospitality is as important as modesty. It is a very high value, uniting communities for the sake of Allah and his rewarding of their good deeds. Muslims consider pork to be unclean and forbidden. They will never eat it or have it in their homes. Some Muslim immigrants choose to be vegetarians to make sure they are not accidentally consuming pork. Many inspect gelatin, pudding, lard, and other cooking ingredients to be sure that no pork is present.

Our Response

Hospitality should be a priority with our new Muslim friend. Plan, as early as possible, to meet over coffee or to have a meal at your home. When hosting her, never serve pork or any food containing pork. It would be very considerate to ask her if there is anything else you should know to help her feel more comfortable.

Be ready to accept your friend's invitation to her home as well. Do not be afraid to ask her what you should expect if she has a husband, parents, or extended family in her home. She will graciously teach you what you need to know.



Modesty and Separation

Because of modesty practices and careful regard for sexual propriety, in some Muslim contexts there will be obvious separation of genders. Some Muslims host men and women in separate rooms. As a rule of thumb, women do not shake the hands of men when they meet or greet. Men and women may be careful to avoid direct eye contact, since for some it is considered immodest.

Our Response

Before meeting with our friend at her home, we may ask her to help us navigate introductions to males who might be present. She will appreciate the fact that we are attentive to these issues. Kindly respect that it might be inappropriate to shake hands or make eye contact with the men present.

Remember that impropriety on our part can hinder our own reputation and cause trouble for someone else, so take initiative to be informed. At the same time, particularly in contexts where ours is the host culture, be assured that Muslims know to anticipate differences in practice, and they are experienced, gracious guests.



On the lines below, list values or ideas you hold in common with your Muslim friend.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

These commonalities are doors of opportunity God has given you! They are natural ways for your friendship to grow, and as it does, it will open doors for you to share Jesus. How can these things positively affect your friendship?

The Qur'an refers to Jesus as the Word of God. The Bible says that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Essentially, when we share a Bible with a Muslim friend, we are introducing her to Jesus (Jn. 1:14). How does this impact your view of the Word? Thank God for His written Word, then spend time reading it today, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you.



Based on a *Christianity Today* survey answered by 750 former Muslims, the

lifestyle of Christians

[was] the most important influence in their decision to follow Christ. Your friendship with a Muslim woman will show her Christ.

Say *hello!*



Merciful Father,

Thank You for calling me Your daughter. Thank You for choosing me, forgiving me, redeeming me, and making me whole! Thank You for drawing me into a personal relationship with You and for giving me the privilege of sharing that gift with others, like my Muslim friend.

Father, I know I cannot do this on my own. It would be easy to say this is too inconvenient, too uncomfortable, or simply not my place. But I believe You have brought her into my life for such a time as this, so show me now what I am to do. Give me clarity of thought, heart, and speech, so that Your light in me would conquer the darkness around me. Let me be an unmistakable light—a city on a hill—shining like the stars for Your glory. Let me see her as you do, that she may see You. (Esth. 4; Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15)

In Jesus' name, Amen.



What to Do



Muslim women everywhere need Christian women everywhere to befriend them, to offer them Heaven.

Still nervous?

Pray. Pray More.

This is not about our efforts or our works. This is about God's heart for Muslim women and the privilege that we, His daughters, have to share it. Be available to His leading. Pray for clarity of thought, of heart, and of speech. Rely completely on the Holy Spirit for courage and power.

*"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,
says the Lord Almighty—you will succeed because of my Spirit..."
Zechariah 4:6 (TLB)*

Engage... Patiently

When we have set our hearts and feet at the threshold of Muslim friendship, we begin to enter her world. Be confident that every encounter is part of God's perfectly timed wooing process. Every day, from start to finish, becomes her day of salvation. Believe the Apostle Paul's words: "Now is the time of God's favor, now is [her] day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).



Friendship Takes Time

Initially, a Muslim woman may be cautious in her friendship with us. She could be suspicious about our intentions at first. Her Qur'an cautions her against friendships with non-Muslims, but it also tells her to behave honorably.

**Settle this in your heart:
Salvation is a miracle. God alone does miracles.
You are loving her to Jesus.**

God can give us that love, and He will affirm it by giving us rich relationships with our Muslim friends.

Our lives will validate our words, and Christ will do great works through us.

Our Muslim friend's salvation might not happen the way our own did. For most Muslims, the decision to follow Christ can be a long-term process. Our friendship can guide her along the path to Jesus.

It may take a long time before a Muslim friend considers herself a Christ-follower. She may believe, but it will be little by little, long before she comes into full expression of faith.

Be patient. It is not so hard to persevere when we know we are in the will of God!



Proclaim: Conversation

Now, we say "Hello!"

This is a simple greeting for us, but it is something we must sincerely offer our Muslim friends.

The Muslim's *hello* (in Arabic, *as-salaam alaykum*) actually means "peace be with you." Our friend will mean to bless us with her greetings. We can be intentional as well. Our greeting can share the love of Christ every time.

Reaching out is the joy of the Lord; our communication is the love of Christ. This is God's time for her! She cannot hear if we do not tell her, but once she hears about Jesus, she is able to call on Him (Rom. 10:14-15)!

We can anticipate learning wonderful things about her family, country, and culture. Most Muslims also love to talk about the things of God. Our Muslim friend will expect us to know about our faith, so enjoy polite sharing and listening.

Don't debate. Listen well. Your Muslim friend will be your best teacher!

Be gracious particularly when God opens doors for spiritual impact.

We can give our friend every opportunity to experience the presence of God with us by praying with her for any needs or concerns she shares.




On the timeline below, jot down significant experiences (both pleasant and painful) you had along your journey to Jesus.



What were some of the significant factors that led to your salvation? What has helped you grow spiritually since then?

God's timing is perfect, even though it can seem long. As you consider His process and remember His faithfulness in your own life, ask Him to give you the same patience, trust, and endurance as you pour into the life of your Muslim friend.



[Hagar] gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: 'You are the God who *sees* me,' for she said, 'I have now *seen* the One who *sees* me.'"

-Genesis 16:13
(NIV)



"I followed
Jesus
and He
led me to you."

-BD, friend of Muslims

We Can Do This!



What qualifies us to reach Muslim women? Simply put, our salvation—Christ's work in us.

The love of God that has changed our lives can change any life, no matter what the individual's religious or philosophic beliefs are.

God's relationship with us leads us into relationship with Muslims.

Out of love and mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth that He might overcome all barriers to His presence so that we can have relationship with Him.

We say "hello" because we are encouraged that success is not only defined by conversion. Success is a conversation that starts a relationship, which will feature Christ throughout the friendship.

This is our opportunity to let the Holy Spirit use us.

Our Muslim friends need Jesus. Let's begin the conversation.

It's time to say *hello!*

“Finally,
be *strong*
in the Lord
and in His
mighty power

-Ephesians 6:10
(NIV)

Say hello.



Notes

1. NKJV uses "veil" instead of "curtain."
2. Anonymous, Interview with Lynda Hausfeld, Personal interview, Sensitive Location, October 18, 2011.
3. Hadith Al-Bukhari, 304.
4. Qur'an 2:222. (The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an/Abdullah Yusuf Ali, 11th ed. p. cm.)
5. J. Dudley Woodberry, Russel G. Shubin and G. Marks, 'Why Muslims Follow Jesus: The Results of a Survey of Converts from Islam,' Christianity Today, October 2007, 80.
6. B.D., Conversation with Sarah Bocik, Sensitive Location, February 2011.

More from Say Hello

Visit the Say Hello website at
www.SayHelloInfo.com for:

Prayer requests

Recommended reading
lists and downloads

Stories from other women
learning to say hello

Dates for Say Hello training,
seminars, and events

Much, much more!

Prayer requests are
also shared on the
Say Hello Facebook
page. "Like" us to stay
connected!

To share your stories or
ask questions, please email
us at:

info@sayhelloinfo.com.



A Timely Message



Few things can be more intimidating than the unknown. We may know that Jesus loves and desires to save Muslim women, but how do we reach them when their faith, their traditions, and their culture seem so different from ours?

This resource is designed to help you understand more about your Muslim friend. Jesus is calling us to show her His love, initiating a sweet friendship that begins with Hello.

It's time to Say Hello!

Say
Hello
Serving Muslim Women



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