

Six ways to love Muslims

*God loves
Ishmael*

The Lord Jesus gave a very simple command:

'Love your neighbor as yourself.'¹

Perhaps you feel overwhelmed by this regarding descendants of Ishmael or others who adhere to the Islamic faith. The following are six simple ways in which you can love your Muslim neighbor as yourself:

1. Bless them. Speak a blessing over Muslims, for instance when they appear in the media or when you pass a mosque or a group of people on the street. Speak about them to others in a way that builds up, rather than judgmental (Matthew 5:44).
2. Greet them. For instance, when you meet them in the street, the shop or on public transport. Give them a friendly smile (Matthew 5:46-47).
3. Help them. For instance, teach them your language or assist them in shopping or in filling out forms (Hebrews 13:16).
4. Tell them about God's love. You can do that in words (John 10:16) and in deeds (Matthew 5:16). For instance, you can invite them for tea or for a meal or send them a message with an encouraging text (or Bible verse) or say to them, 'God loves you.'
5. Pray for them. For instance, ask them, 'What can I pray for?' Later you can ask how they are doing (Matthew 5:44).
6. Go to them. For instance, go on holiday to their country and pray for them there and start little conversations with the hotel employees, the shop owners and tour guides you meet (Matthew 28:19)



When you do this, it may well be that you get to know the Muslims in a very different way – as warm, hospitable people who want nothing more than to live and work peacefully in the West, and that they will become your friends. If you're unable to do this, you may ask God to give you His compassion for these people, for whom the Lord Jesus has given His life.



¹ Luke 18:25-37, John 15:12-17