

**Audience questions from the ICMDA webinar with
Dr Jay Smith - Understanding Islam: The hermeneutical key
27 April 2023**

1. Liette: I have heard that Muslims understand the trinity to be Father, Mary and Son. Is that so? (Understandably viewed as blasphemy.)
2. Rod: Does the fact that Muslims only trust their scripture in the original Arabic and not in translation add another layer of misunderstanding for Christians? How do we overcome that?
3. Amigo: Where do the true things in the Quran come from? Aare they a revelation from God? Should the Quran be totally discarded?
4. Anonymous: Having worked with many Muslim colleagues I would say the things that appeal are (1) a sense of mutual respect and brotherhood based on a shared faith, more than Christians often have, and (2) a concern for holy living (and I have little doubt that the immorality of the western world has encouraged extremism in Islam), even if this is meritorious, slavish and bound to fail, rather than 'in thankfulness' and 'set free to do so' as it should be for Christians. Would you agree that these are handles that can help us connect with Muslim believers, especially as we all realise that we can never be free from sin and are all in need of redemption, as well as teach us to show more of (1)?
5. Nijs: When you read the Quran stories about Bible characters we know it often seems as if they have gone through a process of Chinese whispers.
6. Anonymous: If I am not mistaken, Jesus is mentioned in the Qur'an as one of their prophets. What is his story in Qur'an that makes many Muslims reject him and Christianity?
7. Anonymous: Do Muslims feel that Allah responds?
8. Yousif: What steps do I need to take when I am engaged with Muslims? Do I need to read Quran to be able to engage with Muslims?
9. David: How important is the acquisition of land and property and its defence to Muslims in current time and space? How do they value their own homes? Does their property have spiritual significance?
10. Rosa: Jesus and Isa are not the same, right?