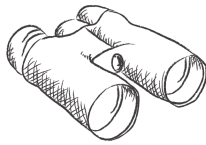


# PASSPORT TO AFRICA

## LESSON 11

### GOD IS RULER



#### Lesson at a Glance

##### **I. Share the Word:**

- *Gospel Threads*, page 4
- 1 John 3:5

##### **II. God is Ruler:**

- Islam (Primary religion of northern Africa)

##### **III. Geography Review:**

- Country cards: Rwanda and Burundi
- Geography review activity

##### **IV. Pray**

##### **\*What You Will Need**

## Lesson 11



**Note to teacher:** As the children are entering the classroom, have them take their shoes off and leave them outside the door. Tell them you will be explaining the reason for this later in class.

Also, you will want to make sure you have a good understanding of this lesson on Islam. Please take time to study through this lesson and be prayerful as you prepare to teach it to your class.



### SHARE THE WORD: (15 min.)

Introduce the next section of the *Gospel Threads* booklet: Page 4 and 1 John 3:5.

Choose a game from the Scripture Review Games section of the Appendix, A-3 through A-4, to aid students in their memorization of this memory verse.

Model the presentation of Page 4 from the *Gospel Threads* script, R-2a. Repeat multiple times as time permits pointing out key words, phrases and ideas to help students understand the Gospel concepts and flow of ideas. Make sure students comprehend the point of each verse in the Gospel presentation.

#### Page 4

Use a red item such as a balloon, a bandana, or a red piece of construction paper to represent the theme color for the day.

Red Thread: JESUS IS SAVIOR

God sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

Since Jesus came from God, he was **PERFECT**.

He lived the life we could not live.

The Bible says in 1 John 3:5:

**“...he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.”**

Jesus allowed himself to be our **SUBSTITUTE** and to die on a cross

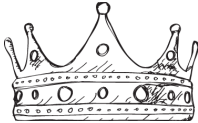
as punishment for our sin.  
HE died the death WE deserved to die.

*Instruct students to draw a cross around the word "Jesus".*

The red color represents our third Gospel "thread" and reminds us that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

**Note:** See the complete script, R-2a, in the resources.

A full layout of this presentation can be found here:  
<http://passporttothenations.com/gospel-threads/>



### **God is Ruler: (30 min.)**

This portion of the lesson can be found at the following link:  
<http://passporttothenations.com/five-pillars-of-islam>

Islam is a religion that has more than a billion followers worldwide. That is over 20% of the world's population ("Christianity" is only 33% of the population and this number includes Mormonism and Jehovah's Witness). If this many people follow this religion, we would be wise to learn more about them and be able to communicate effectively about the true and living God.

### **Muslim Practices**

Tell students that the reason they were asked to take their shoes off before coming into the classroom is because this is a practice Muslims follow as they go into the mosque (Muslim house of worship) to pray. In addition, give each student a towel to use as a prayer mat.

*Pass the towels out to the children and ask them to kneel or sit on their prayer mat.*

The Muslim call to prayer states, "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet."

Read the following Scriptures to help students understand why this prayer conflicts with the Bible, God's Word.

*You may choose different children to read the scriptures below or you may read them yourself.*

**And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

**John 17:3**

**For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.**

**1 Timothy 2:5-6**

The Bible states that there is one God and one Son. Who are they?  
*God and Jesus, His son.* While students are on their prayer mats, lead them to say a prayer to God, proclaiming that He is the one, true God and thank Him for giving us His son. Lead students to repeat this phrase.

*While you say these words, you may also demonstrate how Muslims lean forward and touch their foreheads to the ground while they are reciting this call to prayer.*

**Teacher:** *There is no God but You, O Lord!* – children repeat

**Teacher:** *And Jesus is your Son.* – children repeat  
*Very good! Try it again.*

**Teacher:** *There is no God but You, O Lord!* – children repeat

**Teacher:** *And Jesus is your Son.* – children repeat

Muslims also wear (or hold) a necklace (or string of beads) to remind them of something. Ask students if anyone knows what the beads represent? *It reminds them of the 99 names of Allah found in the Koran, the Muslim holy book.* As Muslims pray, they recite the 99 names of God as they move from one bead to the next with their fingers.

If you have a set of prayer beads, demonstrate for students how they are used to recite the names of God. Otherwise, pictures of various Muslim prayer beads can be found here:

<https://www.pinterest.com/tamarahhorton/believe-it-religions-of-the-world/>

### **Five Pillars of Islam**

Use graphic R-11a to illustrate the tenants of each faith and to contrast the differences between the two faiths.

The Muslim faith teaches that following the Five Pillars of Islam will **earn** someone a place in “paradise” (the Muslim version of heaven).

Review the five duties of every Muslim:

1. Declare their faith by repeating the call to prayer that we discussed earlier.
2. Pray five times each day
3. Fast during the month of Ramadan from sun up to sun down.
4. Give money to the poor.
5. Journey to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Mohammed at least once.

In other words, Muslims believe that if they obey these five pillars [*duties*], Allah will have mercy on them and they will earn entrance in to paradise.

### **Five Pillars of Christianity**

Let's contrast this with what we will call the Five Pillars of Christianity (which we have been learning as the 5 Gospel Threads)

#### **1. God is holy.**

- God is the holy, just and gracious creator of all things.
- Because of his holiness, God cannot dwell with sin.

#### **2. Man is sinful.**

- We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.
- This sin causes us to be separated from God.

#### **3. Jesus is Savior**

- Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.
- He lived the life we could not live.
- He died the death we deserve to die.
- He conquered the enemy we cannot conquer.

#### **4. Response is necessary.**

- We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.
- Faith means we turn from our sin and ourselves and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

#### **5. Reward is promised.**

- Obedience to Christ is costly.
- However, the rewards for following Christ are far greater than the cost.

End this explanation of Christianity with John 3:16, a verse that is the one of the cornerstone verses of the Christian faith. This verse says,

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**

This verse demonstrates that being reconciled to God is based on each person responding to God in faith. Unlike Islam and the Koran, the message the Bible teaches is not a works-based message. It is a faith-based message.

This is emphasized in Ephesians 2:8,9.

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** **Ephesians 2:8-9**

It's interesting to note that these ideas between Christianity and Islam are in stark contrast with each other. Both can't be true.

The good news is that someone who follows the Islamic beliefs will still read the New Testament. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans chapter one about the effects of the Gospel [*the Christian message*] on our life.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.      Romans 1:16**

**End with Prayer:** *God, we pray for the 1 billion Muslims in the world, and more specifically, for those in North Africa. Please open their eyes to the truth that is found in You and in your Word. Please help them, by your Spirit, to see that You are the only way to salvation and that their good works will not save them. Please show them that they must believe in your son, Jesus, in order to be made right with You and spend eternity in heaven. Please help us to be gentle and respectful as we communicate with people who are Muslim. We thank you that You are the one who draws people to Yourself and gives them the faith to believe in You!*

Give each student a copy of the God is Ruler page, R-11b. Have them write the word "Islam" on line #1 indicating the first religion we are studying in Africa. See Resource R-11c, God is Ruler\_teacher. Have students place this page behind the missions divider in their student notebooks.



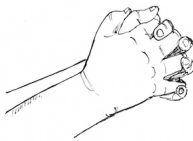
### **Geography Review (15 min.)**



Review the next two country cards: Rwanda, (#19), and Burundi, (#20). Go through the items from the "Identify" section on the back of the cards together, or have students use their reference map to find and label these items. Other option: use the teacher flash cards to review the countries studied to date or choose an activity from the "Geography Games" section of the Appendix.

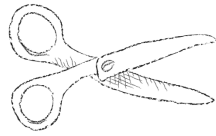


### **Pray: (15 min.)**



Rwanda:  
<http://prayercast.com/rwanda.html>

Burundi:  
<http://prayercast.com/burundi.html>



**Share the Word:**

- *Gospel Threads* booklet, teacher version
- *Gospel Threads*, student copy
- R-2a, *Gospel Threads* script
- Supplies to Scripture review game as needed
- <http://passporttothenations.com/gospel-threads/>

**God is Provider:**

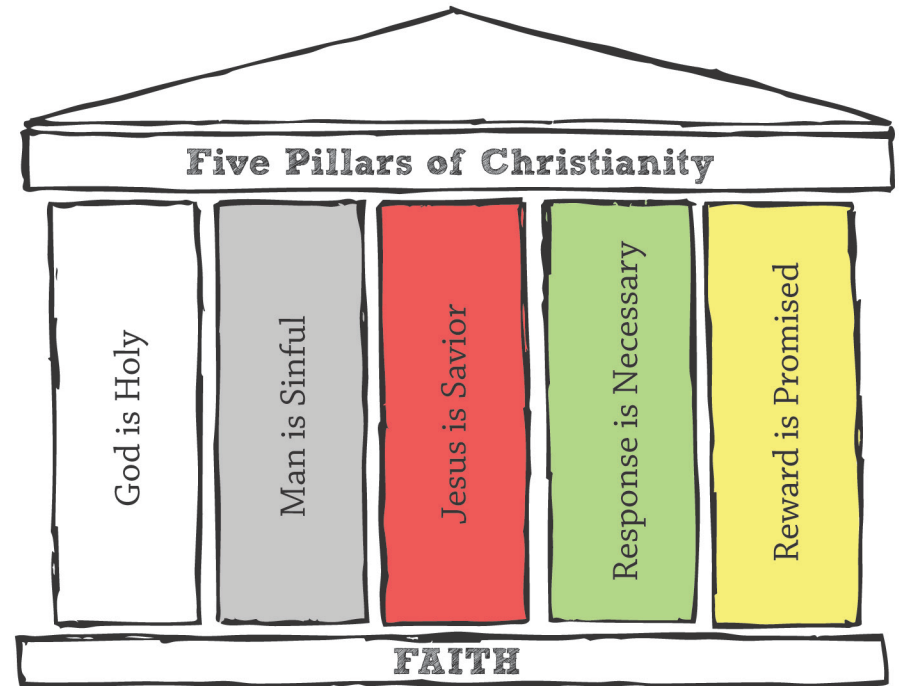
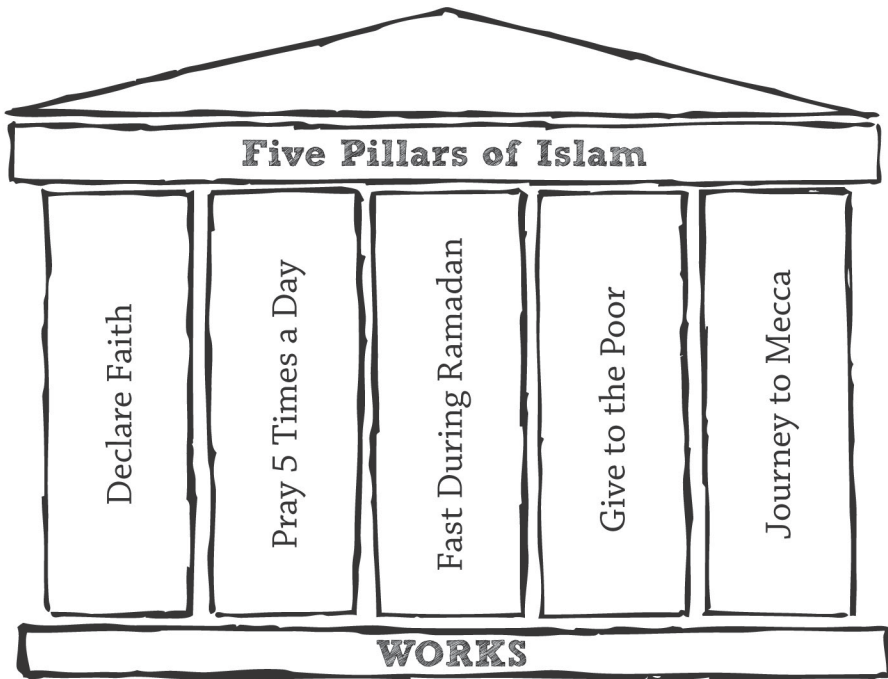
- <http://passporttothenations.com/five-pillars-of-islam>
- One small towel for each child
- Muslim prayer beads or pictures found at <https://www.pinterest.com/tamarahhorton/believe-it-religions-of-the-world/>
- R-11a, 5 Pillars
- R-11b, God is Ruler graphic
- R-11c, God is Ruler\_Teacher

**Geography Review:**

- Student Country Cards: Rwanda (#19) and Burundi (#20)
- Teacher Country Cards: Rwanda, R-11d, and Burundi, R-11e
- Colored pencils
- Pencils

**Pray:**

- <http://prayercast.com/rwanda.html>
- <http://prayercast.com/burundi.html>





# God is Ruler

## Unreached People Groups

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. -Deuteronomy 6:4-5



Religions we are studying in Africa:

1)

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2)

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# God is Ruler

## Unreached People Groups

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. -Deuteronomy 6:4-5



Religions we are studying in Africa:

**1) Islam**

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**2) Animism/Tribalism**

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