



Islam in America | A Special Edition from thESource for Youth Ministry

thESource exists to provide Jesus-centered resources for those at work with youth in the Lutheran congregation and beyond ...

THE DIRECTORY

talk sheets

- THE TRUE ROOT OF TERROR
- LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
- RIGHTEOUS WRATH & ANGER MANAGEMENT
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- HOLY WAR IN THE BIBLE
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- BROKEN TEETH, BLOODY BATHS, & BABY BASHING: IS THERE ANY PLACE IN THE CHURCH FOR IMPRECATORY PSALMS?

But Is That Really Fair?| by Rev. Jeff Kunze

Core Text John 14:1-6

Supporting passages: John 3:16, Mark 16:16, John 5:24, John 20:31

Core Visual/Illustrations:

Skit: “Need to Escape! Follow Me!”

Characters:

4 people (One of the four is the leader of the group). An Intercom Voice

Setting:

In an office/board room/or something of the like gathered around a table for a meeting. An alarm will sound soon after the meeting begins, indicating everyone should evacuate the building because of fire!

A Little Context:

These “experts” have gathered for a meeting of the minds—they’ve been called to “solve the world’s problems.”

The Scene:

The five introduce and converse among themselves...

P1: Hi. What’s that? I parked in the south entrance and came up the side stairway.

P2: Me, too. No wait...I thought that door was locked so I came in the back entrance.

P3: It’s a big building; I got lost. Not sure which way I ended up taking... there were some elevators that got me to this floor and here we are. Nice to meet all of you.

L: Welcome everyone! Sorry about the confusion; our Main Entrance is almost impossible to find after all the building projects going on here. People get lost all the time. At least we’re all here now and I want to welcome you....

(Making the sound of an alarm!) Voice: ATTENTION ALL OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDING! SMOKE HAS BEEN DETECTED IN THE BUILDING AND EVERYONE IS TO EVACUATE!

All look puzzled and worried.

L: Great! We didn’t even get a chance to get started.

The leader stays at the table, pulls out a piece of paper and begins to study it. Meanwhile, the other three split up, each quickly going to a window looking for the best way to get out.

P1: We need to leave! I think I came up this way! I know how to get out, follow me! (Starts to head for an exit, then retreats back to the window...)

P2: Wait, that’s not the way! I don’t see any smoke coming up this side of the building and I’m sure there’s outside stairs...Yes! A fire escape! I can see it! Let’s go this way!



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P3: Are you sure? What if we open one of the doors outside of this room and cause some kind of explosion? I think we should just stay put! This is a big building, right? Maybe, if in fact there really is a fire, they'll put it out and we can just go on with our meeting. Walks back to the table and sits nervously.

P1: Didn't you hear the announcement and the alarm? We need to get out. Get up! Follow me everyone! I know the safest way!

P2: Have you been here before? How do you know your way is safest? Follow me! Look, I can see the fire escape from here; it's obvious this is the best way!

P3: (Getting up and going to P2) Okay, I'm going with you. Although I'm really afraid of heights!

P1: You two can go your own way; I've got a good feeling my way is the right way. I've always trusted my instincts and they've never let me down. I'm following my gut! Looking to the leader- What about you?

L: Actually, all three of you are wrong. If you go out your way (looking at P2 & P3) you will get stuck with tragic consequences. That fire escape is being torn down from the bottom up; you just can't see the bottom from here.

P2: (Looking back out the window) Really? Okay then we'll just jump when we get to the end...

P3: (looking at P2) How far down do you think it is? I'm scared...think you can catch me?

P1: That settles it! Let's go my way! I know how I got here and I'm going out the same way!

L: (looking at P1) And if you go your way it will take you down a hallway that goes right next to some boilers that could explode. If the fire is in that part of the building you'll never make it.

V: ATTENTION! THERE IS A FIRE IN THE BUILDING AND IT IS SPREADING FAST! EVERYONE IS TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!

P3: I wonder how everyone else in the building is getting out. Maybe we should find out and follow them?

L: (Looking up from paper) Okay people, listen up! I've got the right way. Follow me!

P1: What makes you so certain? Maybe you'll lead us right into the fire? Why should we follow you?

L: Because I've got this! (Holds up paper).

P2: What's that?

L: These are the Architect's Blueprints. And written here in bold lettering it says, "Escape Route!" I don't know about you, but I'm following the Architect's plans!

P1 begins to look interested and starts to move toward L.

P2: But you said there's been a lot of construction going on around here. Maybe those blueprints are outdated and that way isn't the best way anymore!



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L: Listen, I can't make you all follow me; but I trust these plans! You can follow your gut or what “looks” like the right way, but I've got the plans of the One who built this place! (P1 is looking over L's shoulder) And if it says this is the Way (pointing to the paper), I'm going this way!

(Leader begins to exit and P1 starts to follow) P1: Um, can I go with you? (Both exit)

L: Follow me! (L & P1 exit the room. Make sure it's in a direction different from where the three were initially standing. You might want to squeeze between chairs to make it look like a “narrow way” to add to the symbolism).

P3 looks confused but stays with P2.

P2: (Shaking head in disgust) This is a no-brainer! (looking out the window) I can see where it says “Fire Escape” we're going this way! Let's go! We can just jump at the end of the stairs; I'm sure there's someone there who will catch us. (P3 looks worried but follows P2 and both exit in a different direction).

End.

Major Teaching /Talking Points

Teaching Point #1

Jesus is the Way, the only Way to the Father, the only way to heaven! (John 14:6)

Teaching Point #2

This is the core belief of the Christian Church. (John 20:31)

Teaching Point #3

The Father's inclusive love and the narrow door. (Luke 13:22ff; John 3:16-21)

Questions / Discussion Starters for Youth

How do you respond to someone who says, “It doesn't matter what you call God or who you believe in as long as you believe in something”? Or, “God is universal! He (or she) just wants us to be spiritual”?

Discussion point: Jesus is not merely an “insurance policy” that is, “I might as well as believe that Jesus is God and Savior in case He really is. It can't hurt. And hey! I'll keep an open mind to the other religions...you know, just in case they're the right ones!”

Believing in God is more than just believing a God exists (Even the Devil knows He exists!) That is not faith. Faith is a relationship and trust that comes through the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12:3). Our belief, our faith in our Triune God means He has brought us into a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



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Other Discussion Points / Bonus Material...do what you want with this extra stuff:

Speaking of relationships, if I'm going to be that close to my Maker, I don't want to approach Him with a huge debt. But with that debt paid in full (thank You, Jesus!) I can approach God like a child to her father—with loving confidence.

When you give a witness / an account of the hope you have (Colossians 4:6) don't try to “sell Jesus.” He's not for sale! Confess your faith by sharing the peace He has brought into your life. And remember it is only the Holy Spirit who can turn a heart from darkness to the light of Jesus; it's not your job to convert anyone, that's His job! But He does ask that we bring His powerful, living Word into places that do not yet know the Savior. (Isaiah 52:7)

How do you answer those who say that Christianity is “not fair” or is too polarizing? Have you heard this comment before, “If you think such a powerful, almighty God would limit the way to ‘heaven’ through a single door, that doesn't say much for your powerful God; I think a God that big who is supposed to be loving and all would make many ways to salvation”? The Gospel reality is this: because God is so loving and powerful He made the Way to salvation absolutely clear. He didn't leave us guessing what might be the right way...“Is it that door; or that door over there...?” The only door to the Father in heaven is Jesus Christ. He demonstrated His love with outstretched arms on the cross for the sins of the world and they remain open wide for the world that whoever hears His “Blueprints” for salvation and believes in Him has passed from death to life! (John 5:24)