

Book Discussion Starter Questions  
for  
*We Should Be One: United in the Word of God*

These questions are intended to help start discussion. There are no right or wrong answers. Use as many or as few as your group would like to discuss. Thank you for sharing this work.

### Initial Thoughts

1. Why did I choose to read this book?
2. What were my first impressions as I began to read?
3. Why did I enter this discussion?

### Preface

1. What ah-ha moments have I had in my spiritual life? And how have they changed me?

### Introduction

1. When I see Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Scripture shown together, what do I think and how do I feel?
2. What is my reaction when I read that Jews, Christians, and Muslims have all been called by God?
3. Do I recognize the same message in God's instruction to:
  - a. "obey My Commandments"
  - b. "deny your very self and follow Jesus"
  - c. "submit to the Will of Allah"
4. When I see the similarities in the different Holy Books, what is my reaction?
5. How do I feel when reading that God's Covenant is everlasting and that there has been no replacements - only inclusions?
6. When I read that there is only one Covenant that has been refreshed, what do I think and how do I feel?

### Chapter 1 We Should Be One

1. How do I feel when I read that YHVH, Jesus, and Allah are different names for the same God?
2. What do I think when I hear that Jews, Christians, and Muslims have been given the same Word of God?

3. Am I able to see that the 10 Commandments that were given by YHVH are supported with the words of Jesus and those of the Qur'an (i.e., love God above all and love one another as myself); and that this is the heart of each of our great religions?
4. What does it mean when each Holy Book validates the earlier Books, that each new Revelation validates all previous Revelations?
5. Do I realize that God reveals more with each new revelation, that Christian Scripture enhances Jewish Scripture and that Islamic Scripture clarifies both earlier revelations?

## Chapter 2 The Book and the People of the Book

1. When I see how Allah has validated the People of the Book (both Jews and Christians), what is my reaction?
2. When I read that the Book is not a book at all, but God's Revelation of Himself, what is my response?
3. How do I feel when I read that the "right religion" is not any of our religions, but God's Religion of Truth?
4. How would you define the Religion of Truth?
5. Do we sometimes place more emphasis on our religion than on God's? In what ways?
6. When I read that all Prophets are part of one Brotherhood and that Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad are all included, what do I think?
7. When God tells us that there should be no division between Believers, how do I feel?
8. What characteristics define Believers?
9. When I consider the many different denominations in our religions, what are my thoughts?

## Chapter 3 What Do We Believe?

1. When I read that my religion proclaims only what supports itself, and that I have a myopic view of God because of it, how do I feel?
2. Do I recognize that there is ambiguity in my Holy Book and that I (and my religion) might misunderstand some things about God's Holy Word?
3. When I read that Jews, Christians, and Muslims have each been chosen and remain chosen, what do I think?
4. When I read that my religion may not always be leading me in the right direction, how do I feel?
5. When I see how God's revelation has been gradual, deepening, and clarifying in each new revelation, what do I think?

6. What are my thoughts when I read that God reveals Himself in stages and that He never abrogates His earlier teaching?
7. When God gives us more, should we accept the new and abandon the old?
8. How do we know what to accept or question in a new revelation?

## Chapter 4 Scripture and Potential Misunderstandings

1. Do I recognize that God's Word is often hidden in the many words of our Holy Books? Give an example.
2. When the author suggests that we need to take time to study the Word of God and to make an effort to properly understand Scripture, how do I react?
3. Do I believe that reading different translations of Holy Scripture can actually help us understand it?
4. Do I now see an advantage in reading Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Scripture together? Explain.
5. How do I view Scripture?

## Chapter 5 Confusions

1. When I am faced with a situation in which I want to submit to the Will of God, how do I determine what that is? How can I know the Intending Will of God for me in that situation?
2. What do I think when I see passages which appear to be contradictory but read that they are really not, that they only need more exploration to find the truth in them?
3. How closely do I look at passages which are presented as parables, allegories, metaphors, or similes to try to understand them?
4. How do I feel when one of my understandings of God's Holy Word is challenged?
5. When the author suggests that we should look very closely at the details of a passage to help us understand it, how do I react?
6. When looking at a passage in context, does that context sometimes change how I understand the message? Give an example.

## Chapter 6 Did We Get It Wrong?

1. When the author suggests that we may have all gotten some things wrong (i.e., that we may not understand some of God's Word rightly), what is my reaction?
2. How do I feel when the author suggests that Prophethood has not ended?

3. When Scripture expands and clarifies God's Word, highlighting errors in my understanding, what are my thoughts? How do I respond?
4. When we see in Holy Scripture how God has included Jews, Christians, and Muslims in His Family, how do I feel?
5. What is the beam in my eyes that keep me from seeing clearly? In other words, how do I apply Jesus' teaching about the beam in our eyes to my life?
6. Am I able to see that Holy Scripture is like a jigsaw puzzle? How so?
7. Do I recognize that we are often arrogant in our insistence that we (our religion) has the truth while others do not?
8. If God revealed Himself again today, would we reject it? Please explain.

## Chapter 7 The Truth

1. When I read Holy Scripture, do I truly search for the Truth that God has revealed?
2. When I see that the Qur'an validates Jesus and the Gospel that He brought to the world, how does that affect my attitude about Muslims or about Christians?
3. Jesus' first teaching was: "Repent and believe in the Gospel". What was that Gospel? (Remember that the gospels that we know today had not yet been written.)
4. When the author writes "The Kingdom of God is where God lives and reigns", what are my thoughts about that?
5. God has called us to repentance in each of His Holy Books. What is the value of repenting, and what does repentance lead to?
6. We are told in Holy Scripture that the Word of God is present in the Torah and in the Prophets. We are also told that Jesus is the Word of God and that the Qur'an is the Word of God. How do we feel about that?
7. What do I think when I read the lists of what God calls "good" and what God calls "evil"?
8. How do I feel when I read God's definition of "righteousness"?

## Chapter 8 The Way

1. How would my life be affected if I were to understand that the Way that Jesus speaks of is the Way of God, not the Way to God?
2. When the author proclaims that Jesus is the Way for everyone (i.e., Jews and Muslims as well as Christians), what are my thoughts?
3. When I read that Jesus may not be the "only" Way to God, how do I feel?

4. When I read that God wants us to do our part to make straight His path (i.e., His Way), how do I respond, or maybe a better question would be: how should I respond?
5. How might we live the Way of God as Jesus does?
6. How would I describe the Way?

## Chapter 9 Judgment Day and Life After Death

1. How do I feel about Judgment Day being frightening or glorious - depending on the life I have lived?
2. How often have I spent time thinking about God's signs concerning life after death, and about His teaching on life after death?
3. How might Jesus' resurrection "prove" that there is life after death?
4. What do I expect to experience after my death?
5. Holy Scripture proclaims that our lives (or our destinies) are not predetermined; and that God wants everyone to live, and that He will reward those who turn from evil ways to God's Way. How do I feel about that?
6. What lessons should I learn when I see in Holy Scripture that all who work righteousness will live (regardless of the religion we profess and practice)?
7. How might our common teaching on Life after Death be common ground, helping us to become one?

## Chapter 10 Salvation

1. What does Salvation mean to me?
2. What impact do I think I have on my salvation? or, How might I influence the likelihood of my salvation?
3. When Scripture tells us that we must persevere to the end in order to be saved, what is my reaction? What does this perseverance entail?
4. How do I feel about the author's suggestion that Jesus may have saved us in a way that is different from how we Christians have been taught throughout the years (not by His death but by His life)?
5. What are my thoughts and feelings when I read that Jesus may have saved us even if He was not divine?
6. Do I believe that our different beliefs of who saves us is grounds for eternal separation?
7. If we don't really know the details of how God saves us, does it change His Salvation?

## Chapter 11 Mashiach / Messiah / Christ

1. If Jesus was the Messiah that YHVH had foretold (and as the Bible and Qur'an both proclaim), what should we think of Him? and how should we respond to Him?
2. Does knowing that Christ is not another name for Jesus affect how I view Him? If yes, in what way?
3. How do I feel when I read that Jesus may be only part of Christ?
4. If we are all part of Christ as Paul proclaimed, the body of Christ, what expectations do you think that God has for us?
5. If all parts of the body are needed and important, how can the body of Christ function properly, as intended when parts are missing - especially when we refuse to recognize many of them or abjectly reject them?
6. Do we believe that God will someday, miraculously make the new Heaven and New Earth happen all by Himself? ... or do we believe that He will want on us to help bring that about?
7. If there is Messiah in every generation, does that dilute the power of Messiah or the significance of Jesus? How?

## Chapter 12 Jihad / Holy War

1. Since Jihad means striving to live as God requests, struggling for the cause of Allah, and fighting against oppression and injustice, can I see that God is calling all of us to carry out Jihad in each of our religions?
2. As we read, the Holy Qur'an proclaims that Jihad is all about justice and law. How does that affect how I view terrorism and religious fanaticism?
3. When God tells us that we must do no evil and must not exceed bounds in defense of our faith and that we should always act with justice, how should I react when my faith is challenged?
4. How should I act toward those who do not believe as I do?
5. When Allah instructs us to leave unbelievers alone for Him to deal with, how should we respond?
6. How would we pass the test when faced with the prospect of fighting?
7. What do I think when I read that Allah's definition of Jihad is not what is presented to us in the media?

## Chapter 13 Brothers

1. If God truly has other sheep in His flock (other than my religion), what does that reveal about my religion and my faith? ... and what does that reveal about God?
2. How do I feel when I read that our three religions are different paths to the same, One and Only God?
3. How is religion a path to God?
4. If God loves Jews, Christians, and Muslims with all His heart (as my dream pointed out), how should we relate to one another?
5. Can acceptance of other religions be maintained while being faithful to your own?

## Final Thoughts

1. When I read that Jews, Christians, and Muslims have all been given the same Word of God, what do I think and how do I feel? How does this message compare to what I have heard throughout my life?
2. Did I experience any ah-ha moments as I read this book? If yes, please share.
3. What new ideas appealed to me in this book?
4. What concepts are difficult for me to accept?
5. What did I find surprising in the book? ... and why?
6. Did this book change my understanding of God or His Word? If yes, in what ways?
7. Have I grown closer to God with this book? Explain.
8. Can I accept the notion that Jews, Christians, and Muslims should be one? If not, why not?
9. When it comes to Salvation (or any other teaching that comes from God), wouldn't a little mystery be a good thing?