

Core Curriculum

4 Prophethood in Islam

4.8 **Jesus and Mary in Islam**

The Arabic rendering of Jesus is ‘Īsā and the Arabic rendering of Mary is Maryam. According to Islam, Jesus is not God, which means that Mary is not the mother of God either. Furthermore, Islam also denies the concept of the Trinity. The Trinity is the belief that God has three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Islam believes that God is wholly One, in other words, He is undivided and has only One Person.

If Jesus is not God, then what is he? According to Islam, Jesus is a Prophet and Messenger of God or Allah. He is not only a Prophet, but he is one of the greatest Prophets of the religion of Islam.

As a Prophet and a Muslim (a Muslim is someone who submits himself or herself to God), Jesus guided people on to the Straight Path to Allah. The straight path to Allah is worshiping God in His Oneness and Unity, avoiding sins and having good moral character.

Jesus taught people through the Injīl or Gospel which was revealed to him by Allah. As Muslims we believe the Injīl to have been a divinely revealed Book, however, we do not believe it remained unchanged but its message was, over time, changed. Belief in Jesus and Mary, as well as in the original Injīl, is part of Islamic doctrine and without belief in them, one cannot be a Muslim.

Mary was not like other women. Like an exalted Prophet of God, the Angel Gabriel had revealed himself to her communicating the message of Allah to her directly. Despite this however, mainstream Islam does not consider Mary to have been a Prophetess.