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| **Non-Muslim Holiday What do you Do Mishkah University** |

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| **ISA (A.S) IN ISLAM** |

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As co-workers, neighbors and the general community around us get in the Christmas spirit, it may be especially useful to refresh our knowledge about Jesus or Isa (a.s) and his position in Islam. Children in particular, may be curious to know why others celebrate while we don't. When conversations arise on whether Muslims celebrate Christmas or believe in Jesus, understanding the Islamic perspective on Isa (a.s) will be beneficial in educating and enlightening others.Below are just a few ayat from the Quran to remind us:**Isa (a.s) was born through Allah's power and grace to a virgin, the blessed Maryam.***[And mention] when the angels said, "O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the Hereafter and among those brought near [to Allah ]. He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous. She said, "My Lord, how will I have a child when no man has touched me?" [The angel] said, "Such is Allah ; He creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it, 'Be,' and it is." (Surah Al-Imran 3:45-47)***On the extraordinary nature of his conception, Allah Most High also says,***Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, "Be," and he was. (Surah Al-Imran 3:59)***Isa (a.s) spoke when he was just a baby, explaining his origins to those who questioned his mother Maryam, as to where he had come from**.*So she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?" [Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah . He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet. (Surah Maryam 19:29-30)***Allah (swt) clearly states that Isa (a.s)  is His Messenger.***And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad." (Surah As-Saf 61:6)***Isa (a.s) is not divine, nor is he the son of God - he is just a man.***The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded. (Surah Al-Maidah 5:75)***Isa (a.s) himself never claimed divinity - he was Allah's loyal servant.***And [beware the Day] when Allah will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah ?'" He will say, "Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness. (Surah Al-Maidah 5:116-117)***In fact, it is only by Allah's power and permission that Isa was able to undertake his mission, carry out miracles, and eventually escape death and be raised up to heaven.***[The Day] when Allah will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, remember My favor upon you and upon your mother when I supported you with the Pure Spirit and you spoke to the people in the cradle and in maturity; and [remember] when I taught you writing and wisdom and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you designed from clay [what was] like the form of a bird with My permission, then you breathed into it, and it became a bird with My permission; and you healed the blind and the leper with My permission; and when you brought forth the dead with My permission; and when I restrained the Children of Israel from [killing] you when you came to them with clear proofs and those who disbelieved among them said, "This is not but obvious magic." (Surah Al-Maidah;110)*All praise is due to Allah, the most Gracious and most Merciful, who sent us Isa and the messengers who came before him, and his final beloved messenger Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon them all, as a means of guidance to the path of truth and redemption. |

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| **NON-MUSLIM HOLIDAY: WHAT DO YOU DO?** |

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The cashier at the store just wished you Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays. What do you say? Your Aunt Meg, who is not a Muslim, just invited you to the holiday party where all your extended family will be. Do you go? Your new work place is doing a "Secret Santa" gift exchange. Can you accept a gift or give one? The holiday season can bring up a lot of questions for Muslims especially in the West. In particular, for new Muslims who may have family members who are not Muslim, certain situations might be confusing or awkward. Listed below you will find answers to some common questions people asking regarding the non-Muslim holidays. These questions were answered by Dr Hatem al-Haj on his website and on the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA) site. [*Celebrations of feasts other than the two Muslim feasts*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiWGro7bRx_Ky46DElqXfO_wxnSnVi0ii-17dF_xC01JjNz2vySLiGfWSseO1e5sXtiTaZhP2jKz_DoXaP4gn2eSBIVkg8tk8RB8TaZC45rFg1Zlj78OEt3yxLd7yG90pgSCDN2PekERHUPyXVr4EibXFqLZL37fKyVRMpmMvY3959BEnewneW3t5OJcQGBCarwRONvkWikAMpECpBCtjOudCyjyNDfRvEG_TSFz2mB7P&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==)[*Mixed Family and Holidays*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiWGro7bRx_Ky2KP8yYjyqasjN--pnC_9ncIajz7cZ4B_0zHQzof0ctD2Lxoyp7aLrUgWjvBAd1hiCJpILJRy3DIaySwntYuAMckhIolw4joA4HqExJlSJBPnS9ECDll89THZIikUbfTjGuiS_QtXztU=&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==)[*Accepting a card in Christmas*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiWGro7bRx_Kyti9FYZAjNFAuSJmXakHAD-occJvzU_clW6xOUdI2GBnCaImVytv5vJ2clCS8zXY4lqmbXjl00El_mQZnxjPXyQpottM3JcUkGtnh80v89LeQGlXp46I53zTQu0CtUNihE2bty-M9FKk=&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==)[*Accepting Christmas Gift from Coworkers*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiWGro7bRx_KysG-fNPPACj9YcuhjGQMm0baJgmkDHQ8TV8fNfE227YnbyqsEzr4uTP2KWOI1tZsX_j7kL0ehgVKDn_g4CkmPy3UUUb4xAp_8GX8eMqUfaE4cQSNaZOVSH_JOGUZVGHyY6AuCSH6907U=&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==) |

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| **MAS-ICNA HOUSTON HERE WE COME.** |

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| Will you be at the the MAS-ICNA Convention in Chicago? We can't wait to meet you there.As always, we look forward to the personal connections we build with our Muslim brothers and sisters at these annual gatherings of knowledge. Please come by our booth and learn more about Mishkah and its goal to make authentic Islamic education more accessible to all.We look forward to seeing you there inshaAllah. Learn more about the convention [*here.*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiWGro7bRx_KyRvFEVCsKuBO9wBf5ZyOfPiYval7k18lraR3BIk-7dsrtcAkDjEyeMHnPabJcumyibW6DVrPLBzZk3V2YGnZkb8OaRgYHzXZe6LS6sSJdQc_I0rJ3hshR5A==&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==)

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| **SPRING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** |

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| Spring Registration is now open. With just a few easy steps you too can be on the path to gaining **beneficial knowledge** with **our qualified and dedicated instructors.****Step 1**: View our [COURSE CATALOGUE](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiUwv9JTV9CICGPfE2JgUuwdr-tRsnPJu7OTIVwuoCDMRu5y2gmL49oKXDuCAII6GDvthqn4zMHidZO99_VPudq3zTdMvL8nXyJjG4kjp0agZp4PyK_EuoS6keaD31Ld92Q5lEFFpxCzVGY7eLDBmiEw7KikxfAzYi0nmFrwfB6DP&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==) to learn more about all the classes we are offering and the instructors who will be teaching them.**Step 2**: Check out our [CLASS SCHEDULE](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiccVv5p85ELsulqs-2zy6NJmfeGj57eB2zihignQwERkvhM8QrNevJHCW_oMQZiuktOfK8t3gGGkpPnz8NzpHos5aTxNW1TjRb2HZkmnsWzPjQN3DlRW5WYHqpQkOoIXP3BxIM-_vCMkiBMr_BItATE=&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==) to see class timings. All our classes are on evenings and weekends so that you have the perfect opportunity to take a class after work, school or other daily commitments.**Step 3**: If you are a new student [APPLY HERE](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiSu6paTL9zIk-kIc0bNuEzbY7n0nKhKDo6-FngcCOPI82S4JlfgAJw50v2LhBSjLc9PlwMXjWDoobtkUtzAXw_YM_ZqP1zuba3PWu-3Gm5Y8aNSrlyvm8Or7-om1dJrNA8E1Qc_cZRI9LnORGjIQWbJXLKJuY0yg8M759ecc8vCBWNj2mZ5mhiefSRqClz8PRsOf4XuJ86qqsu2laSfFE5aorCU1kJLT7FzxMw4_O8iE&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==). If you're a returning student, log in to your Orbund Account and [register](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012-gU2tQiiFqRsdhcsBP2y7c2a0Jbee12e7gHHQS05soSZlB1exeKiSu6paTL9zIkcruzY7jKq3zIqtE6BLmerbZo-4rU-LAP1vWRP99ur77MmhYDMcDTLV-_eK0CHZyw-VQTeu9k85oZqPr9lkpytTFf5ja2yOamjIBLKBETuJFiz0c35XsXyd7TtzGCNdBdLbczDULJ6FLf_OHmF0GsCQ==&c=YHA2SA9vjsoQsuoO9alXfkUE5TeqgKmz63o6ApcTubF80JLJG-c84Q==&ch=NaS8HjOr6PwJWhjHhTsElK7mw56Igmq4hUf7ntZbXkt3TsDi4I7Ziw==). |

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