



What Is This Module About?

Do you believe in God? What name do you use when you refer to Him? What religion are you a member of? What are the basic teachings of your church?

Do you know that the Philippines is the only Christian nation in Asia? About nine out of every ten Filipinos are Christians. Muslims represent about five percent (5%) of the population. Less than one percent (1%) of Filipinos belong to other religions, such as Buddhism or Hinduism.

Do you know people who are members of another religion different from your own? How is your relationship with them?

In this module, you will learn about the major religions in the Philippines and their basic teachings. You will also learn to show respect for other people's beliefs. In this module, you too will learn how peace and understanding can be achieved despite differences in religious faith.

This module is divided into three lessons. These are:

Lesson 1 – *Christianity*

Lesson 2 – *Islam*

Lesson 3 – *Resolving Religious Conflicts*



What Will You Learn From This Module?

After studying this module, you should be able to:

- ◆ name the major religions in the Philippines;
- ◆ explain the basic teachings of these major religions; and
- ◆ show respect toward people of all religions.



Let's See What You Already Know

The following is a simple 10-item test for you to check how much you already know about the topic. Fill in the blanks with the correct answers. Choose your answers from the items inside the box below.

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------------|
| peace | Holy Trinity | imam | baptism | religious conflicts |
| Islam | Jesus Christ | Allah | respect | Muhammad |

1. _____ washes away the original sin and signifies spiritual rebirth.
2. _____ is the religious belief of Muslims. It means submission of oneself to the Will of God.
3. A Christian declares faith in _____ and follows His teachings.
4. An _____ is a Muslim religious leader.
5. You should _____ other people's beliefs even if these are different from your own.
6. Most Christians believe in the concept of the _____. This means that God is represented by three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
7. In Islam, God is known by the name _____.
8. A meaningful dialog should lead to understanding and _____.
9. _____ arise when people do not allow others to express and practice their own beliefs.
10. _____ is the main prophet of Islam.

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well? Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 30.

If all your answers are correct, very good! This shows that you already know much about the topics in this module. You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more new things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. It means that this module is for you. It will help you understand important concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may now go to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

Christianity

Can you guess how Christianity got its name? It's because every Christian, no matter what sect he/she belongs to, believes in the teachings of Christ.

In this lesson, you will learn about the four major sects of Christianity in the Philippines. These sects are Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, the Iglesia ni Cristo and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, which is more popularly known as the Aglipayan Church.

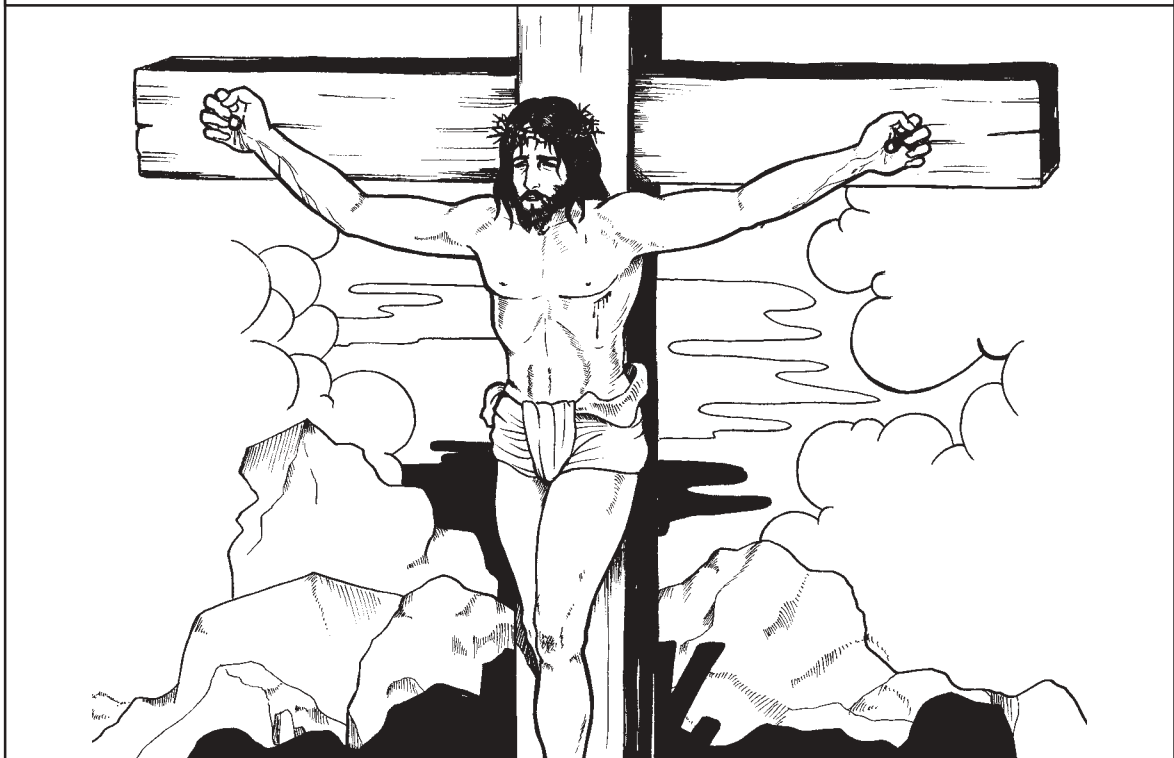
There are Christian sects that consider a person as a Christian only if that person has been “saved” or “born again.” In this module, however, we are going to use the most inclusive definition of being a **Christian**—that is, any person who declares faith in Jesus Christ and follows His teachings.



Let's Read

Look at the man in the picture below. Do you know Him?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16



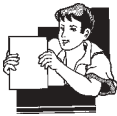


Let's Think About This

1. Do you believe that when Jesus died on the Cross and came back to life, the sins of all mankind were forgiven?

2. Do you believe that it is God's will for His Son to save all of humanity from death and eternal suffering?

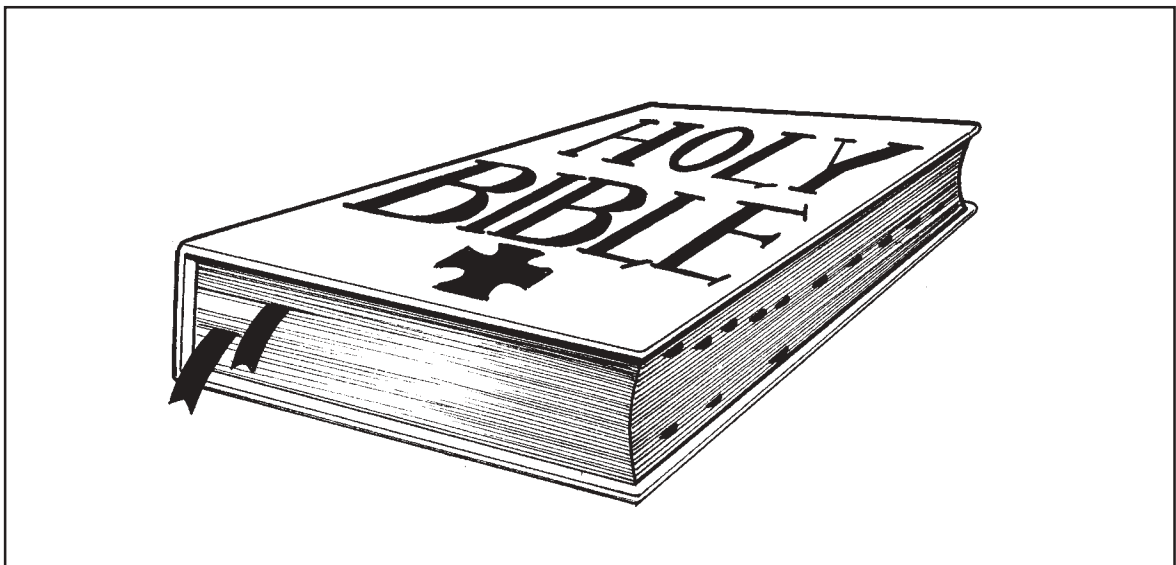
If you answered *yes* to any of the questions above, you agree with the 1.7 billion people in the world who call themselves Christians. Christians share a belief in the power of Jesus' death to take away the sins of the world.



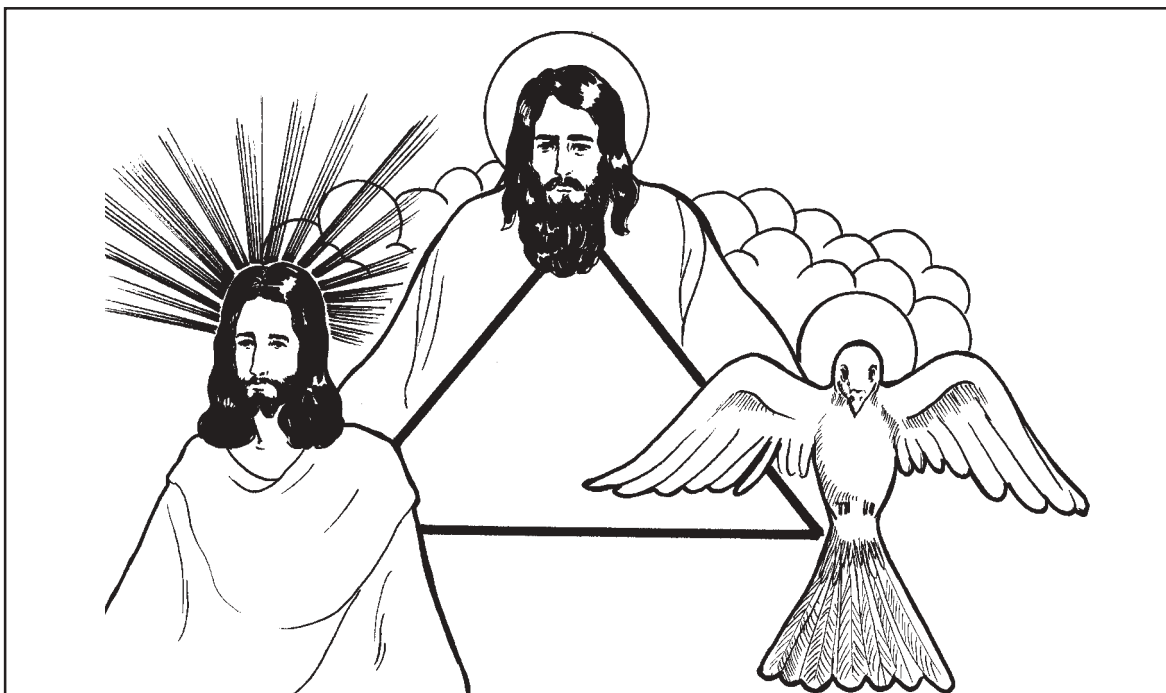
Let's Learn

The four major Christian sects in the Philippines share similarities in some beliefs. However, there are also differences among them.

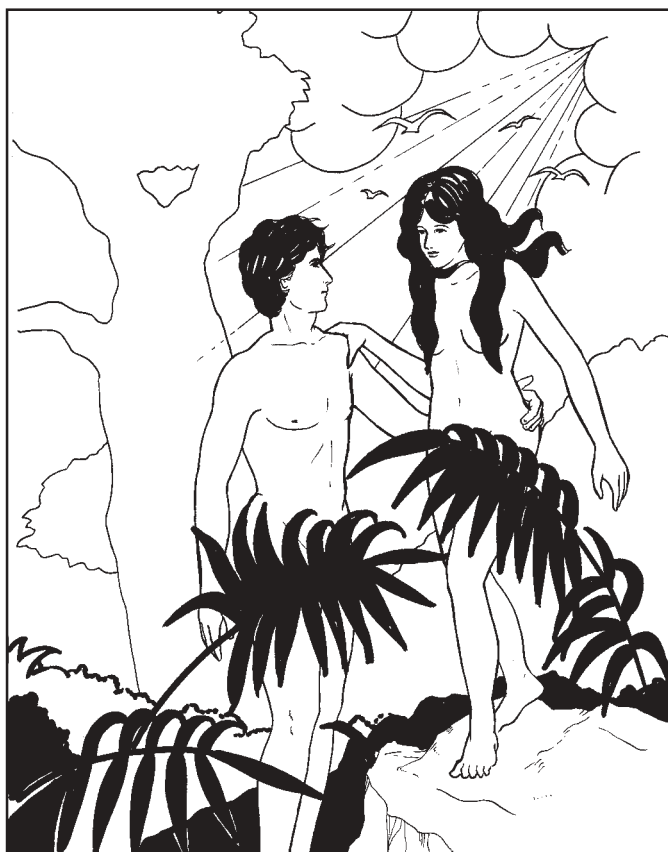
The Holy Bible provides the basis for Christian beliefs and practices. The Old Testament and the New Testament make up the Holy Bible.



Aglipayans, Catholics and most Protestants believe in one God represented by three persons, also called the **Holy Trinity**. The three persons in the Holy Trinity are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.



Another Christian belief is that God created the universe and the first couple, Adam and Eve.



Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan to disobey God. This act brought sin into the world. This sin was passed on to every man and is called the “original sin.”



Catholics and Aglipayans are baptized during infancy to wash away this “original sin.” Protestants and members of Iglesia ni Cristo are baptized later in life to signify that they have undergone spiritual rebirth.



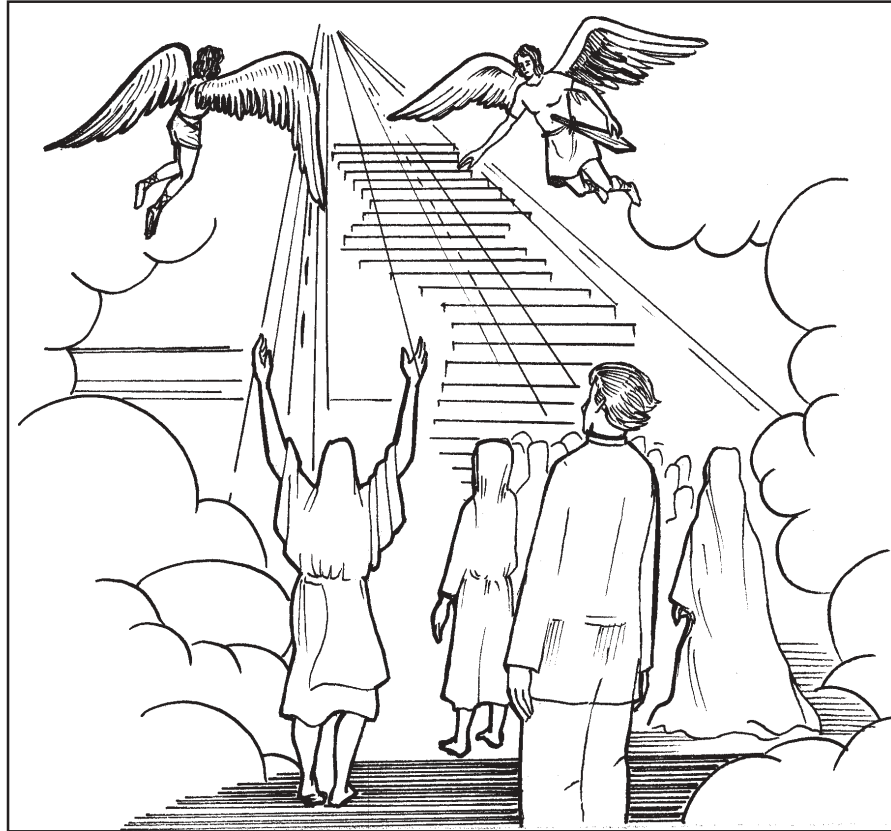
Members of the four major Christian sects in the Philippines believe that Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus.



Jesus is the only Son of God. He became human in order to save man from sin.



Almost all Christians agree that everyone is entitled to eternal life. After a person dies, his/her soul can either go to heaven and be with God or burn forever in the fires of hell. Catholics believe that there is another place called **purgatory** where souls are cleansed before they can enter heaven.



Most Christians believe that repenting for one's sins, having faith in God, accepting Jesus as one's Lord and Savior and showing kindness to others can "save" them.



Jesus' resurrection was when He came to life again after death. He will come back again at the end of the world. This is called the **Second Coming of Christ**. At that time, all "saved" Christians who have died in the past will also be resurrected. These, together with the living Christians, will join Christ and live forever.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Supply the missing letters to come up with the right answer.

1. Christians believe in the teachings of ___ _ r ___ _ _.
2. A Christian is b ___ _ t ___ _ _ d to wash away his/her original sin or to signify that he/she has been spiritually reborn.
3. The Holy B ___ _ _ _ provides the basis for Christian beliefs and teachings.
4. ___ _ _ _ , mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she conceived Him.
5. Adam and Eve's disobedience to God is called the ___ _ _ g ___ _ _ l sin.
6. At the S ___ _ _ n ___ Coming of Christ, all "saved" Christians who have died in the past, as well as all living Christians, will join Jesus and live forever.
7. Jesus is the only Son of God. He became h ___ _ _ n to save man from sins.
8. Most Christians believe in the Holy T ___ _ n ___ _ y— that there is one God represented by three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

9. When a person dies, his/her soul goes to h ___ v ___ or to hell.
10. ___ h ___ s ___ a ___ t ___ is the largest religion in the Philippines and in the world.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 30.



Let's Remember

- ◆ **Christianity** is a religion that preaches the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is the largest religion in the Philippines and in the world.
- ◆ A **Christian** is any person who declares his/her faith in Jesus Christ and follows His teachings.
- ◆ The four major sects of Christianity in the Philippines are **Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, the Aglipayan Church** and the **Iglesia ni Cristo**.
- ◆ Most Christians believe that:
 - The Bible contains the Word of God;
 - There is only one God. (Most Christians believe that this one God is represented by three persons called the **Trinity**: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit);
 - God created the universe and the first couple, Adam and Eve;
 - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin was passed on to all men;
 - Baptism washes away the original sin. It also signifies spiritual rebirth;
 - Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she conceived Him;
 - Jesus became human to save man from sins;
 - Everyone has eternal life. When he/she dies, his/her soul will go to either heaven or hell;
 - Repenting for one's sins, having faith in God, accepting Jesus as one's Lord and Savior and doing kindness to others can "save" a Christian;
 - At the Second Coming of Christ, all "saved" Christians who have died in the past, together with all living Christians, will join Christ and live forever.

Islam

Can you guess what the youngest and the second largest religion in the world is? If you said it is Islam, you got it right! And it is the fastest growing religion, too!

Do you want to learn more about Islam? Read on.



Let's Read

Read the following poem.

Allah Is One God

Allah is the One True God
Truly He's just One
He has no partner and no wife
And Allah has no son!

Allah is the One True God
He always hears us call
So we must only pray to Allah
No one else at all!

Allah is the One True God
He's our Lord and King
So everyone believe in Allah!
Worship none but Him!

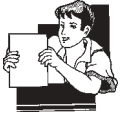


Let's Think About This

Answer the following questions.

1. According to the poem, how many gods are there? _____
2. Based on the poem, what is the name of the One True God?

Muslims and Christians believe in one God, although they call Him by different names. Christians call Him *God the Father* while Muslims call Him *Allah*. However, unlike Muslims, most Christians, particularly the Catholics and the Aglipayans, believe in the Trinity. The Trinity is three gods merged into one God.

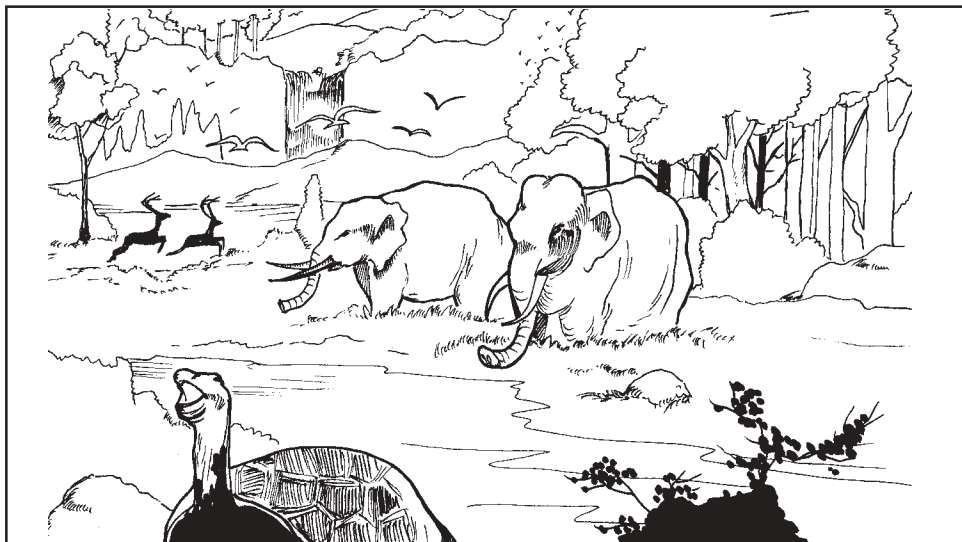


Let's Learn

Have you been to Mindanao? It is where most Filipino Muslims live. Islam is the oldest religion in the country. The Spaniards tried to Christianize the Muslims but they fought hard to maintain their religion.

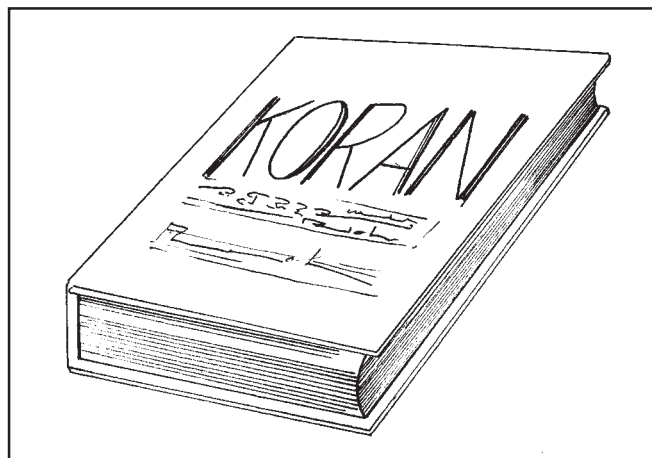


Islam is the religious faith that means submission of oneself to the Will of God. A follower of Islam is called a **Muslim**. Muslims believe that there is only one God, whose name is Allah. **Allah** is very great and powerful. He created everything.



Allah had special messengers or prophets. These included: Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. **Muhammad** was the last messenger of Allah and the main prophet of Islam. Muslims regard him as a great prophet but they do not worship him. They worship Allah and no one else.

The **Koran** (or Qur'an) is the Muslim's holy book. Muslims believe that the contents of the Koran are messages that Allah sent to Muhammad. Every Muslim must strictly follow Allah's laws that are written in the Koran. He/She should avoid drinking alcohol and taking illegal drugs. He/She should not steal or lie. He/She should not gamble or eat pork. Pork is considered unclean both for the body and the spirit.

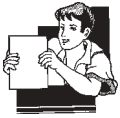


Let's Review

Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

1. Most Filipino Muslims live in _____.
2. A _____ is a follower of the Islamic faith. He/She is someone who submits himself/herself to the Will of God.
3. In Islam, God is known by the name _____.
4. _____ is the main prophet of Islam.
5. Muslims believe that the _____ contains messages that Allah sent to Muhammad.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 30–31.



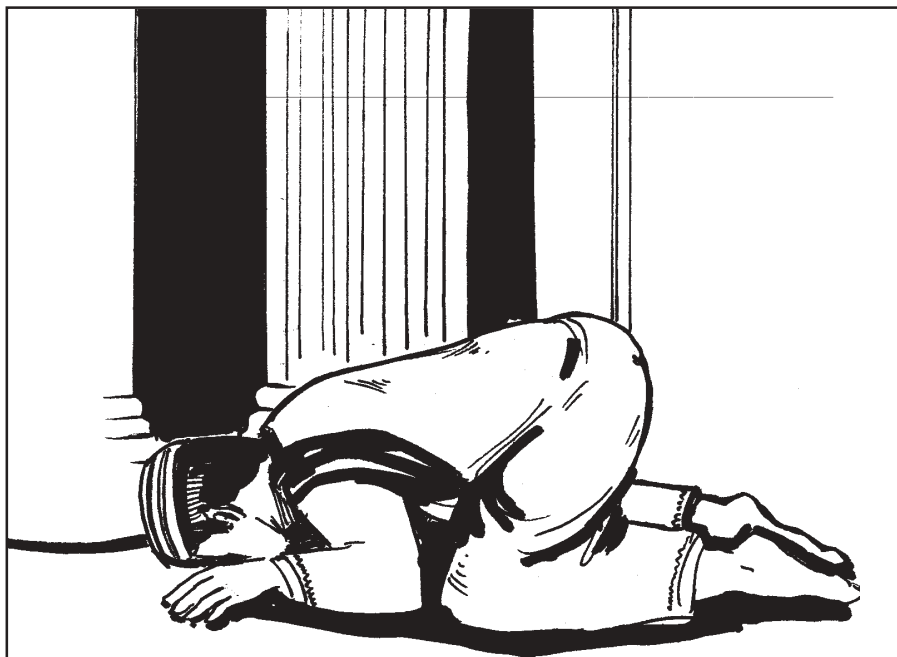
Let's Learn

Do you know that being a Muslim carries with it many responsibilities? These duties are called the **Five Pillars of Islam**. These are:

1. *Reciting the **shahadah** which is a Muslim's statement of belief.* The shahadah goes: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."



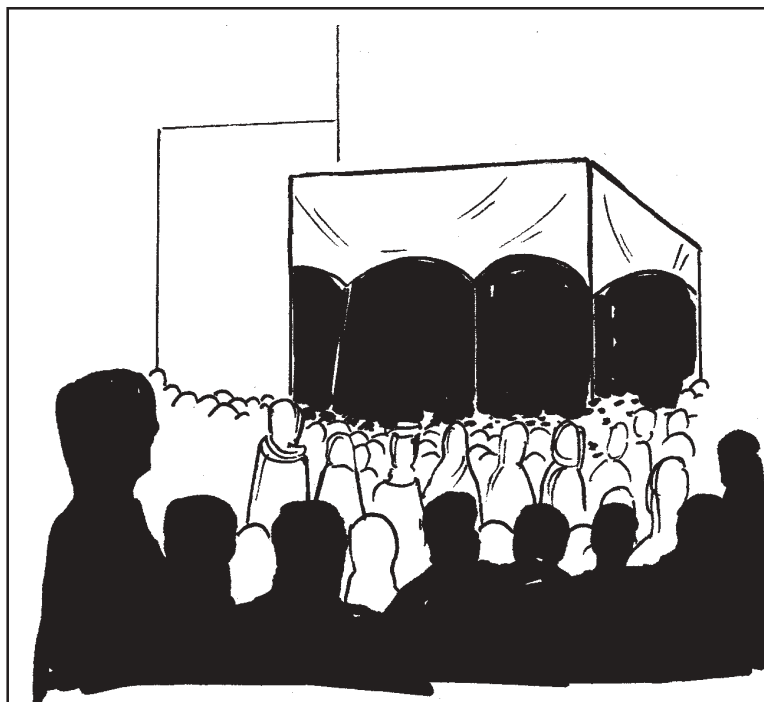
2. *Performing the **salat** or prayer five times a day.* When praying, a Muslim should face the direction of Mecca. He/She should pray at dawn, noontime, late afternoon, evening, and before going to bed.



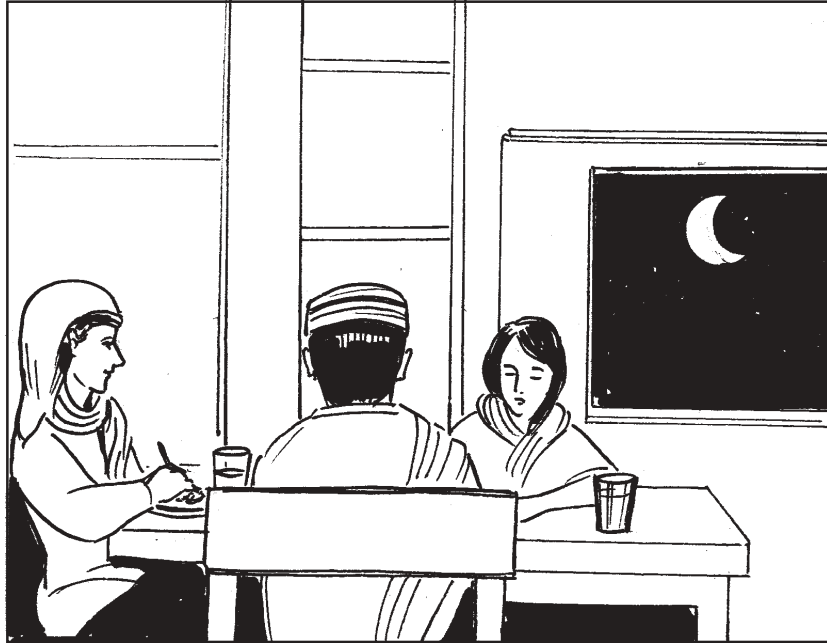
3. *Giving zakat or charity tax.* Zakat is equivalent to 2.5% of a Muslim's salary. He/She should also give to the poor whenever he/she is moved to do so.



4. *Making a hajj or journey to Ka'aba in Mecca at least once in his/her lifetime.* Before doing this, he/she must right all wrongs, pay all debts, have enough funds for the trip, and prepare himself for good conduct throughout the hajj. Only those who are capable are required to perform the hajj.



5. *Fasting during the month of **Ramadan**.* Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this month, a Muslim should not eat nor drink during daytime. This is a form of spiritual and physical cleansing.



Do you know what a **mosque** is? It is a building where Muslims gather and pray. Have you seen one? It usually has a domed roof and a tall tower. There are no pictures or statues in a mosque. They are simply decorated with patterns and words from the Koran.



When Muslims gather in a mosque for worship or special occasions, an **imam** leads the ceremonies. Muslims celebrate two main festivals. The first one is celebrated right after the Ramadan. After a special prayer at mosques, families get together and celebrate. Muslims wear their best clothes and prepare plenty of special food.



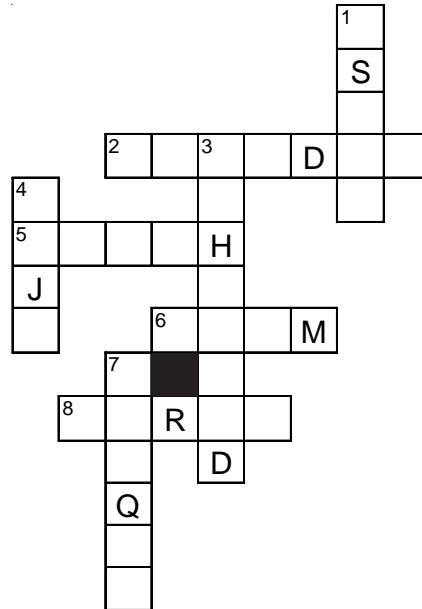
The other one is the Festival of Sacrifice, which coincides with the hajj or the journey to the Ka'aba. After praying at the mosque, Muslims sacrifice a sheep. They give one-third of the meat away to remember Abraham's sacrifice.





Let's See What You Have Learned

Answer the puzzle below using the given clues.



Across

2. The month when Muslims do not eat nor drink anything during daytime
5. The name by which Muslims call God
6. The leader of worship inside a mosque
8. The Muslim's holy book

Down

1. The religion of Muslims. It means submission of oneself to the Will of God.
3. The main prophet of Islam
4. The pilgrimage to Ka'aba in Mecca. This is one of the five duties of a Muslim.
7. A place where Muslims gather and pray

Compare your answer with those in the *Answer Key* on page 31.



Let's Remember

- ◆ **Islam** is the religion of Muslims. It means submission of oneself to the Will of God. A **Muslim** is someone who follows the teachings of Islam.
- ◆ In Islam, God is known by the name of **Allah**.
- ◆ **Muhammad** is the main prophet of Islam and the last messenger of Allah.
- ◆ The laws of Allah are written in the **Koran**, the Muslim's holy book.
- ◆ A Muslim should live by the laws of Islam written in the Koran. Among these laws are the **Five Pillars of Islam** which are:
 - Reciting the **shahadah** that goes: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.”
 - Performing the **salat** (prayer) five times a day facing the direction of Ka'aba in Mecca.
 - Giving **zakat** or charity tax and helping the poor.
 - Making a **hajj** or journey to Ka'aba in Mecca at least once in his/her lifetime.
 - Fasting during the month of **Ramadan**.
- ◆ A **mosque** is a place where Muslims gather and pray together.
- ◆ An **imam** is a Muslim religious leader.
- ◆ Muslims celebrate two main festivals—one is right after the Ramadan and the other is during the hajj.

Resolving Religious Conflicts

Are you aware of any wars that have arisen from differences in religious beliefs? In the Philippines alone, conflicts between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao have claimed many lives. Thousands of families have lost their homes, too.

In this lesson, you will learn why conflicts between people of different religions arise. You will also learn how these conflicts can be minimized or resolved.



Let's Read

Look at the picture below.



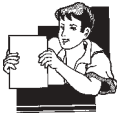


Let's Think About This

1. Do you know any religion that teaches its followers to kill people?

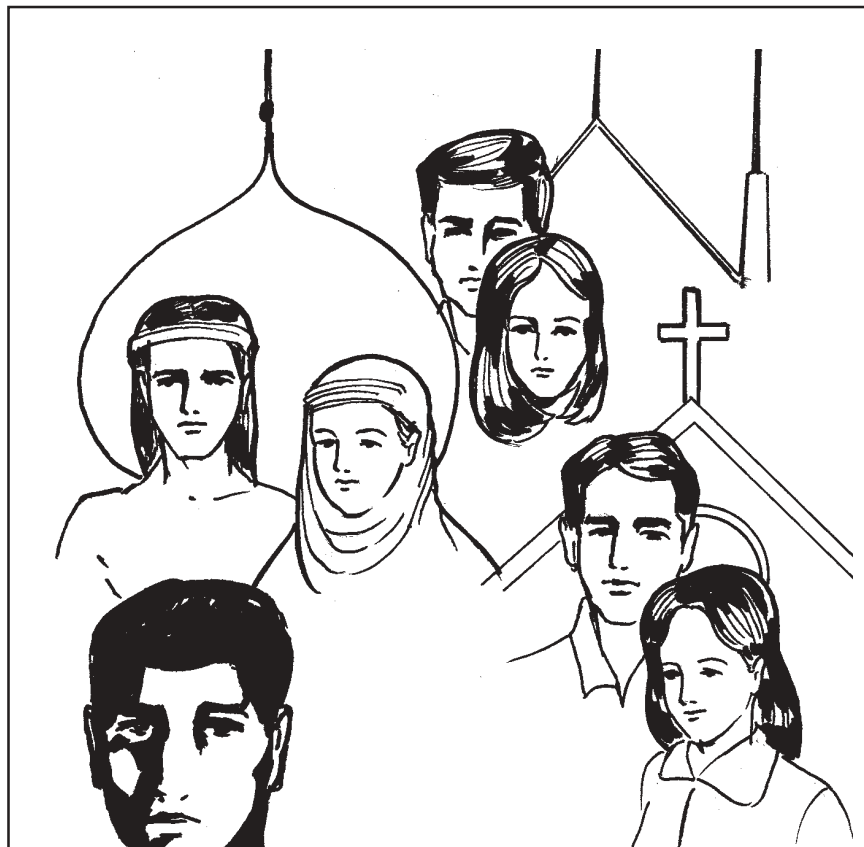
2. How do you think should you deal with people who have religious beliefs different from your own?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 31.



Let's Learn

How do you feel toward people who belong to religions different from your own? If you have the power to control their activities, would you stop them from expressing their beliefs or performing their religious ceremonies? Did you know that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious worship is everybody's right?



What do you think can be done to resolve conflicts caused by differences in faith? You don't have to believe in the teachings of other religions if you don't want to. But you must respect their right to follow their own religious practices and beliefs, even though they may seem false to you. Keep in mind that followers of other religions believe their religion to be true in the same way you consider yours to be true. Although beliefs and practices of different religions are different, their basic teachings are the same. No religion teaches men to fight with each other.



Communication also plays an important role in building peace and unity among people of different religions. Members of different religious groups should engage in dialog where they can share each other's beliefs. When having a dialog, no one should act as if he/she is in a higher position. Everyone should treat each other with respect. This is, by the way, what all religions teach—to be good and treat each other with love and understanding. A meaningful dialog should help people think about their similarities. It should also help them to see and respect the differences between their beliefs and practices. In the end, this should lead to understanding and peace.

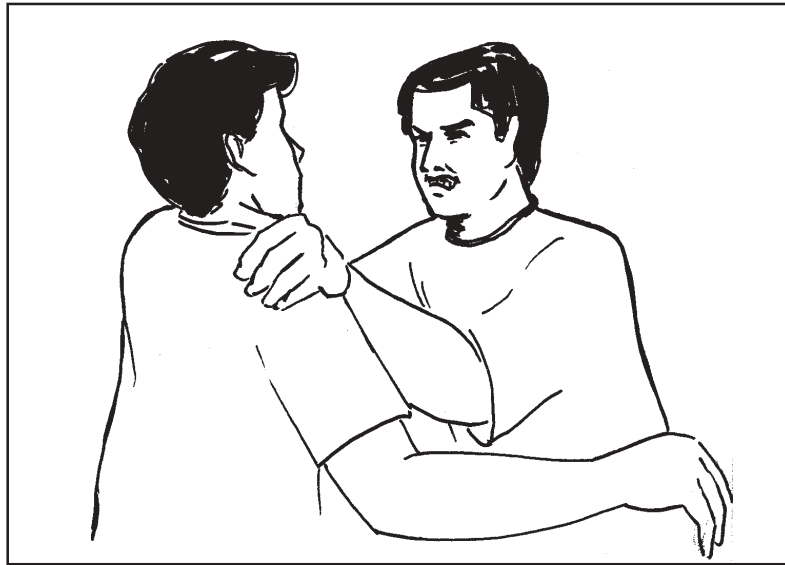


Let's See What You Have Learned

Analyze the situations then answer the questions that follow.

1. Ramon and Carding are neighbors. One day, while chatting at a store near their homes, they talked about religion. They are both Christians but they are from different sects. They were arguing about certain

doctrines until they ended up punching each other. If you were there, how would you advise them?



2. Rahman is a Muslim while Danilo is a Christian. They both play for their school's basketball team and they are friends, too. Why do you think they have maintained a good relationship despite their differences in religious beliefs?



Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 31.



Let's Remember

- ◆ Different religions teach the same basic truths but in different ways.
- ◆ Religion does not teach people to fight. Instead, it teaches men to treat each other with love and understanding.
- ◆ Religious conflicts arise when people do not allow others to express and practice their own beliefs.
- ◆ You should respect and allow other people to practice their religious beliefs even if these are different from your own.
- ◆ Members of different religions should engage in meaningful dialog to learn more about each other's beliefs and practices.
- ◆ A meaningful dialog should lead to understanding and peace.

You have reached the end of this module. Congratulations! Your persistence and eagerness to learn have paid off. Did you learn a lot from this module? Did you have fun reading it?

On the next page is a summary of the module's main points to help you remember them better.



Let's Sum Up

This module tells us that:

- ◆ **Christianity** is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is the largest religion in the Philippines and in the world.
- ◆ The four major sects of Christianity in the Philippines are **Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, the Aglipayan Church** and the **Iglesia ni Cristo**.
- ◆ Most Christians believe that:
 - The Holy Bible is the basis of Christian beliefs and practices;
 - There is only one God. (Most Christians believe that this one God is represented by three persons called the **Holy Trinity**: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit);
 - God created the universe and the first couple, Adam and Eve;
 - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin was passed on to all men. This sin can only be removed by the virtue of spiritual rebirth through baptism;
 - Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she conceived Him;
 - Jesus became human to save man from sins;
 - Everyone is entitled to eternal life. When he/she dies, his/her soul will go either to heaven or hell;
 - Repenting for one's sins, having faith in God, accepting Jesus as one's Lord and Savior and doing kindness to others can "save" a Christian; and
 - In the Second Coming of Christ, all "saved" Christians who have died in the past, together with all living Christians would join Christ and live forever.
- ◆ Islam is the religion of Muslims. It means submission of oneself to the Will of God. A **Muslim** is someone who follows Islamic beliefs.

- ◆ In Islam, God is known by the name **Allah**.
- ◆ **Muhammad** is the main prophet of Islam and the last messenger of Allah.
- ◆ The laws of Allah are written in the **Koran**, the Muslim's holy book. Among these laws are the **Five Pillars of Islam**. These include reciting the *shahadah*, performing the *salat* five times a day, giving *zakat*, fasting during Ramadan and making at least one *hajj*.
- ◆ A **mosque** is a place where Muslims gather and pray together. An **imam** is a Muslim religious leader.
- ◆ Muslims celebrate two main festivals. One is right after the Ramadan and the other is during the hajj.
- ◆ Religious conflicts arise when people do not allow others to express and practice their own beliefs.
- ◆ You should respect and allow other people to practice their religious beliefs even if these are different from your own beliefs.
- ◆ Members of different religions should engage in meaningful dialog to learn more about each other's beliefs and practices.
- ◆ A meaningful dialog should lead to understanding and peace.



What Have You Learned?

A. Write **C** on the blank if it is a Christian belief or practice and **I** if it is an Islamic belief or practice.

_____ 1. Jesus is the only Son of God. He became human in order to save man from sins.

_____ 2. Allah is the One True God. He has no partner, no wife and no son.

_____ 3. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin was passed on to all men.

_____ 4. To pray the *Shahadah* five times a day.

_____ 5. Giving a charity tax of 2.5 percent of one's salary.

_____ 6. Baptism washes away the original sin.

_____ 7. God is represented by three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

_____ 8. The laws of God are written in the Koran.

_____ 9. Making at least one journey to Ka'aba.

_____ 10. The Holy Bible contains the Word of God.

B. Answer briefly. How can peace and understanding among people of different religious groups be achieved?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 32.



Answer Key

A. Let's See What You Already Know *(page 2)*

1. Baptism
2. Islam
3. Jesus Christ
4. Imam
5. respect
6. Holy Trinity
7. Allah
8. peace
9. Religious conflicts
10. Muhammad

B. Lesson 1

Let's See What You Have Learned (pages 10–11)

1. Christ
2. baptized
3. Bible
4. Mary
5. original sin
6. Second
7. human
8. Trinity
9. heaven
10. Christianity

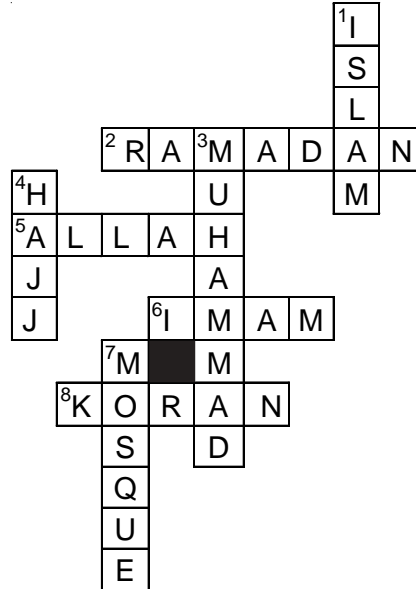
C. Lesson 2

Let's Review (page 14)

1. Mindanao
2. Muslim
3. Allah

4. Muhammad
5. Koran

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 19)



D. Lesson 3

Let's Think About This (page 22)

1. No, I don't know of any.
2. I think that I should respect their religious beliefs and practices in the same way I want them to respect mine.

Let's See What You Have Learned (pages 24–25)

The following are sample answers only.

1. First, I would ask them if their religions taught them to fight with people who do not belong to their group. I'm sure that their religions did not teach them to do so. Then, I would calm them down and tell them that they should respect each other's beliefs and practices. It is everybody's right to freely exercise and enjoy religious worship, anyway.
2. I guess Rahman and Danilo both respect each other's religious beliefs and practices. Maybe they focus more on their similarities rather than their differences.

E. What Have You Learned? (page 29)

- A. 1. C
- 2. I
- 3. C
- 4. I
- 5. I
- 6. C
- 7. C
- 8. I
- 9. I
- 10. C

B. This is a sample answer only. You may have a different one.

Peace and understanding can be achieved if each person respects other people's beliefs and practices. Members of different religious groups should engage in dialog wherein they could share each other's beliefs. When having a dialog, no one should act as if he/she is in a higher position.



References

Mahmood, Bint. *Allah is One God*. <<http://216.22.181.137/islam4kids/>>. 28 May 2001, date accessed.

Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance 2000. *Religious Hatred, Intolerance and Other "Not So Spiritual" Topics*. <<http://www.religioustolerance.org/negative.html>>. 24 May 2001, date accessed.

