

IKR 2016 CASE STUDIES

Case Study #2

Muhammad is heading the committee that plans for the annual Islam Awareness Week, the highlight event put on by the MSA at his university. He has been on the committee for the past two years and has excelled in taking the lead each time, as he is a Business Management major.

Kareem is new to the MSA and is very popular on campus. He tells everyone in the MSA how appreciative he is to be around Muslims, as he never belonged to a Muslim community his whole life, due to his parents' secular lifestyle. Kareem walks up to Muhammad and says, "Hey." Kareem continues the conversation and asks Muhammad if he could join the committee, since it sounds like the event would be "a lot of fun." Muhammad thinks to himself, "This is a serious event, not a place to hang out and have fun. Kareem didn't even say, Salam. He seems cool, but is definitely not a good fit." Muhammad hesitates since the event is very visible on campus and any mistakes might have a broad impact. Muhammad thinks it over and comes to the conclusion that Kareem just doesn't seem religious or serious enough for such an event. Although the committee could use more volunteers, Muhammad says, "Thanks for the offer, but I think we're okay." Disappointed, Kareem answers, "Alright, no worries." Some time passes and Kareem doesn't show up to the next few MSA meetings. Islam Awareness Week has finally arrived. Kareem doesn't come to the first event of the week, where everyone's attendance was requested. It is the third day of Islam Awareness Week, the most important, and a volunteer responsible for a high-traffic shift, doesn't show up to the Da'wa Table. Kareem walks by and sees that Muhammad is distressed. Kareem offers his help. Muhammad, once again, is very hesitant, but has no choice but to take Kareem's offer, since the table is short-staffed. After some time, a huge crowd is gathered around the MSA's Da'wa table, as many of Kareem's classmates, friends and even a professor come over to see him.

- A. What positive characteristic motivated Muhammad's caution in including Kareem on the Islam Awareness Week Committee?
- B. What mistakes did Muhammad make? Describe how Muhammad displayed the opposite of some of the qualities we studied.
- C. How could Muhammad have behaved differently?
- D. What positive characteristics did Kareem display? What mistake did Kareem make?

ANSWERS to IKR CASE STUDIES

Case Study #2: Answer

- A. What positive characteristic motivated Muhammad's caution in including Kareem on the Islam Awareness Week Committee? In wanting to continue the success of Islam Awareness Week, Muhammad was motivated by the concept of performing things with Ehsaan or perfection.
- B. What mistakes did Muhammad make? Describe how Muhammad displayed the opposite of some of the qualities we studied. Although Muhammad wanted Islam Awareness Week to be perfect, he made mistakes in his judgment.
1. Muhammad made assumptions about Kareem's abilities based on his impression that Kareem is "not very religious and not serious." Assumptions and judgments about others can be detrimental and prevent opportunities for true brotherhood and sisterhood. Perhaps Muhammad projected his own ideas of worthiness based on how he views himself. In making assumptions about Kareem, he did not practice humility and subconsciously may have thought himself to be above Kareem.
 2. Muhammad also assumed that the results of the event were in his hands. By having someone less experienced on the team does not mean the event would not be successful, so long as he was placed in an appropriate position. Only Allah grants success, and success is not dependent necessarily on the efforts put forth.
 3. By not taking into consideration that Kareem was new to the MSA and enthusiastic, he did not practice compassion. Compassion may have lead Muhammad to find a way to include Kareem to create brotherhood, and bring Kareem deeper into the Muslim community.
- C. How could Muhammad have behaved differently? Muhammad could have remembered that being in a position of leadership comes with responsibility. Those responsibilities go beyond executing the event successfully. Muhammad should keep in mind that dealing with others in a kind and compassionate manner at all times is required at all times and should not be compromised for the sake of an event.
- D. What positive characteristics did Kareem display? What mistake did Kareem make? Kareem showed high energy and a willingness to help with the big event.

He also displayed an open, brotherly spirit. When Kareem did not get an official position on the committee, he should not have retreated from the MSA. Even if he was offended by Muhammad not accepting his help, Kareem should remember that he should not take it personally, and that he should continue to provide himself with the company of good brothers and sisters. By not coming to the MSA and not supporting the first event of the week, he prevented himself from being involved in a great event and displayed a lack of support for his fellow MSA members. Kareem was able to overcome these feelings, however, when he passed by Muhammad during a moment of need and once again, offered his help.