

CHAPTER
10

Section 1

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Making Inferences*

When you make an inference, you go one step beyond what an author has written and "read between the lines." You analyze the information presented, looking for meaning that is suggested but not specifically stated. As you read the passages below, think about what they suggest about how Muslims view non-believers. Then answer the questions that follow. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. 1005.)

Passage 1: Letter from Muhammad to the princes of Yemen

He who . . . bears witness to his Islam and helps the believers against the polytheists, he is a believer with a believer's rights and obligations. . . . If a Jew or Christian becomes a Muslim, he is a believer with his rights and obligations. He who holds fast to his religion, Jew or Christian, is not to be turned from it. He must pay the poll tax—for every adult, male or female, free or slave. . . . He who pays that to God's apostle has the guarantee of God and His apostle, and he who withholds it is the enemy of God and His apostle.

from Ibn Ishāq, Life of Muhammad, translated by A. Guillaume (Oxford University Press, 1955), 643.

Passage 2: From the Qur'an, Sura V

Of old did God accept the covenant of the children of Israel . . . But for their breaking their covenant we have cursed them and hardened their hearts. They shift the words of the Scripture from their

places, and have forgotten part of what they were taught. . . . And of those who say, "We are Christians," have we accepted the covenant. But they too have forgotten a part of what they were taught. . . .

O people of the Scriptures! now is our Apostle come to you to clear up to you much that ye concealed of the Scriptures, and to pass over many things. Now hath a light and a clear Book come to you from God. . . .

Passage 3: From the Qur'an, Sura II

And fight for the cause of God against those who fight against you . . . And kill them wherever ye shall find them, and eject them from whatever place they have ejected you; for civil discord is worse than carnage [massacre]; yet attack them not at the sacred Mosque, unless they attack you therein; but if they attack you, slay them. Such is the reward of infidels. . . .

1. According to Muhammad and the Qur'an, who are the infidels? _____

2. What do the first two passages suggest about how Muslims viewed converts to their faith? _____

3. What does the letter to the Yemen princes suggest about how Muhammad viewed religious tolerance? _____

4. From these passages what can you infer about how Muslims view war? _____
