



Qura
Curriculum

Islamic Studies

Book 7

School Years 6-8

(Suitable for ages 10-13 years)

FIANZ Education Series





Islamic Studies

Book 7- School Years 6-8

(Suitable for ages 10-13 years)

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Teacher's Note

This textbook is part of the Qura Curriculum series that has been in continuous use in New Zealand madrasah settings for 20 years. Its content has been refined and tested in teaching situations and has been proven to deliver age appropriate, inclusive Islamic learning, together with broad minded attitudes that suit its Western setting. At age 10 -13, students are beginning to think more about the world around them and their place within it. This textbook takes a deeper look into key Islamic concepts, with in-depth study of Quranic stories of the prophets and meanings of surahs and ayaat from the Quran. Discussion should be a major feature of the lessons. Salah still needs to be revised but this is now left for teachers, and is not addressed within the textbook lessons specifically. Teacher support is still much needed at this age, especially to facilitate in-depth discussions to help students find answers to their questions. Students might also still need help with reading and understanding the text, especially if English is not their first language. Exercises are often interactive and are mainly designed to be part of the lesson.

Suggested Lesson Format



For an hour's lesson, it is wise to divide the lesson into chunks of time. Some time should be spent as a whole group and some time spent on individual or small group practical activities.

For each lesson, the teacher should be ready to engage in in-depth discussions with students, even if the students ask questions that seem unrelated to the topic. At this age, students are curious about many things in life and are gradually forming their own opinions about the world. It is vital for them to freely discuss their thoughts and questions with trusted adults, without fear of criticism or judgement.

The teacher should work carefully through the exercises built into each lesson, rather than bypassing them, and should encourage any discussion that is generated. The exercises are an important aspect, allowing students to reflect on the subject matter of the lesson. If there isn't time to finish the exercises one week or if some exercises are given as homework, they should be returned to and revised in the following week.

A suggested format for time management in one hour, that generally works well is:

- 1. 5 min:** Take roll and settle students at tables or in a circle. Recite the learning du'a together: "Rabbi zidni 'ilmaa" "Oh Allah give me knowledge." Recite Surah Fatiha, the last 10 surahs and parts of Salah.
- 2. 35 min:** Read and discuss the book lesson, with teacher questions that bring out the main ideas and challenge students to think about them. Take time for any generated discussion or questions, don't be in a rush.
- 3. 15 min:** Whole group discussion and writing up of exercise answers.
- 4. 5 min:** Extra activity if required, such as looking up the Quranic verses from which the lesson came, and reading the translation. This will also facilitate students' working knowledge of how the Quran is organised, the places of surahs, etc. At the end, the teacher can help students recall the main points of the lesson, then end with a du'a.





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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Lesson 1: THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE



The Quran has many verses that describe the Universe and how Allah Subhana wa Ta'ala, Glorious and Most High is He, created it. For example:

Don't the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together, before We broke them apart? We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?

And We have set on the earth mountains standing firm, in case it should shake with them, and We have made in it mountain passes for them to travel through; so that they may receive guidance.

And We have made the heavens as a canopy, well guarded. Yet they turn away from the Signs which these things (point to)!

It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; all (the things in space) move along, each in its own orbit.

(The Quran, Surah 21, Al Anbiyaa (The Prophets), Ayaat 30-33)

The Quran tells us that the heavens and the earth were first joined together, but then Allah broke them apart. In the last hundred years, astronomers discovered that the universe started off as very small, dense matter and then a force made it explode outwards. As part of this explosion, all the galaxies of the universe are still moving apart at a very fast speed! Scientists also predict that one day all the bodies in the universe will get so far apart that they will stop expanding and collapse back in together, like a piece of elastic.



This reminds us of another verse in the Quran which says that one day the heavens will be rolled up 'like a scroll completed'.

(Quran Surah 21, Al Anbiya, Ayah 104)

The Quran tells us that all living things have come from water. Biologists discovered that life of any kind, even the smallest living cell, must have water to exist. Scientists recently explored Mars with an unmanned craft, and one of their main aims was to see whether there is any water on Mars. They know that if there is water, there is probably something living on the planet.





The Quran says that one of the uses of mountains is to make the earth firm, so that it doesn't move and shake all the time, especially when the bad actions of people could cause a natural disaster! Geologists recently discovered that mountains have very deep roots that go far down through the earth's crust layers. If it wasn't for these roots, the earth's crust that sits on top of molten lava would move around very badly and make life unliveable on the planet.



The Quran talks about the long valleys between mountains that are like natural roads, making it easy to travel and connect different communities together. When people travel, they can discover new things about the world, meet other people and learn new things. This is one way that Allah gives guidance to people.



Exercise: The Quran gave amazing scientific knowledge to us more than 1400 years ago. Scientists are only recently finding out these facts. How many scientific facts can you find in the Quranic ayaat above? Write them down here:



Exercise: Have a discussion about whether a science career is good for a Muslim to have. What kinds of attitudes should a Muslim scientist have?





In another Surah, the Quran says:

Surely your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six Days, then He established Himself on the Throne (of authority). He causes the night to cover the day and then the day swiftly chases the night. He created the sun, the moon and the stars (all) obeying laws under His Command. It is His to create and to govern. Blessed is Allah, the Carer and Sustainer (Rabb) of the Worlds!

Call on your Lord with humility and in private; Allah does not love those who trespass beyond bounds.

Do not do mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order, but call on Him with fear and hope (in your hearts), because the Mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good.

(The Holy Quran, Surah 7, Al A'raaf (The Heights), Ayaat 54-56)

We look up at the sky and see amazing things in it. For example, the way the day and the night seem to 'chase' each other but never catch up. These are Signs of Allah. It is easy for Him to take care of each and every planet, star and moon, and even each and every thing that lives on them. He alone is in complete control of the universe.



When we understand these signs, we can appreciate His Greatness! He deserves so much respect and gratitude. We humans are nothing compared to the huge things that He has created in the universe. He has told us to turn to Him in private and ask Him for our needs. He is as interested in each of us as He is in the giant stars and galaxies!

Just like the heavens, the earth has been created by Allah in a perfect way. All the rocks, plants and animals follow the laws of Nature (the laws of Allah) exactly as they should. Everything exists together in perfect harmony, and nothing in nature gets messed up unless people disturb something. Allah tells us in the Quran not to do mischief that will disturb the earth after it has been set 'in order' beautifully. This means that taking care of the environment is a teaching of the Quran.





The earth is filled with so many amazing and beautiful things. Everything around us is part of the Signs of Allah. His Creation points to Him!

The Quran has accurate facts about the world and things in outer space that people could not know a thousand years ago. Even today when scientists have spent so much time studying, they still don't know about all the things that the Quran describes. Each time somebody discovers something new, it always proves that the Quran was right about it. This is part of the miracle of the Quran and the Signs of Allah.



People should think about the Signs of Allah and realise that if some things in the Quran are proven to be true, then they should believe in the other parts as well, and follow what the Quran says.



Exercise: Write down one fact about the world or outer space that amazes you personally. Does it make you think of Allah?



Exercise: Discuss examples of how humans have 'done mischief' and disturbed the perfectly balanced set-up of the earth. Write one here:



Exercise: Write down one thing you personally can do to help care for the environment.



Exercise: Discuss how knowing that scientific facts in the Quran are true helps us believe in everything else that is in the Quran.

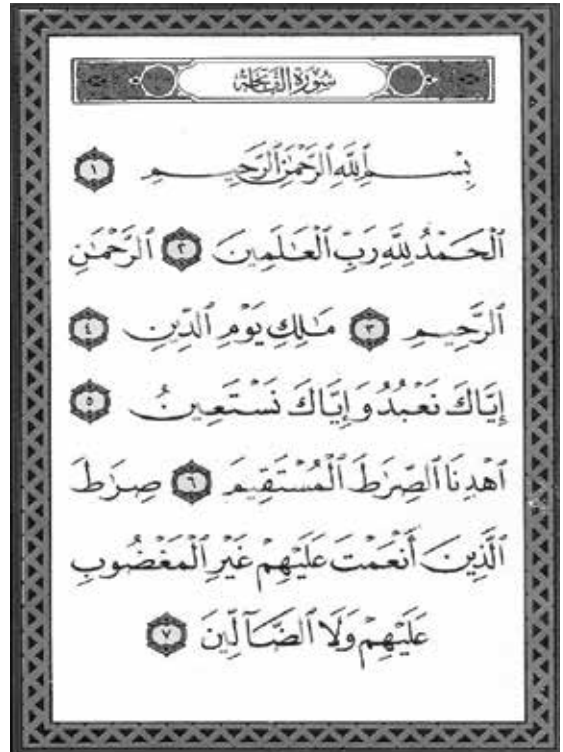




The Opening

In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful.

All praise is to Allah the Lord of the worlds. The Most Kind, the Most Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgement. Only You do we worship and only Your help do we ask for. Guide us to the right path, The path of those whom You have blessed, Not of those who earned Your anger And not of those who go astray.



Surah Al Fatiha is the first Surah (chapter) of the Quran. Surah Al Fatiha was one of the early surahs to be revealed and it is the first surah that was revealed fully in one revelation. The seven verses of this surah are known as "As Sab'a ul Mathani" (the seven often repeated verses) because we read these verses in every rakaat of every prayer.

Surah Al Fatiha is about recognising that Allah is the One who is the Lord of all creation, the Lord and Master of all the worlds. When we say Surah Al Fatiha, we should think of the things in Lesson 1 and realise that Allah is the true Master of the Universe.

Surah Al Fatiha is in two parts. The first part is for Allah and the second part is for us. Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, peace and blessings be on him, taught that when we recite this surah, Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, responds to our reading.

The surah teaches us how to ask for help from Allah. We ask from Allah by first praising Him and mentioning His beautiful and sublime Name and then making our requests in a polite and humble manner. The surah covers three main topics.

The first three verses form the first topic and they teach us the most important qualities of Allah. The first verse tells us that Allah is the Rabb of all the worlds. A Rabb is someone who provides everyone with everything they need to exist. The surah tells us that Allah is the One who provides for and sustains the whole of creation (all the worlds that exist).





The second verse tells us that Allah is Ar Rahman (The Kind and Compassionate) and Ar Raheem (The Merciful). These two names are the most repeated of the 99 attributes or names that we learn about Allah. Allah provides for all His creation, through His Kindness and Mercy. He even keeps on providing for people who disbelieve in Him!

The third verse reminds us that Allah is the Master of the Day of Judgement. On this Day, no one will have the courage to say or do anything and all the people who ever lived will be standing humbly in front of Allah.



The second topic of the surah teaches us how to succeed on the Day of Judgement. We need to worship and serve Allah alone and learn to ask for help only from Him. Worship means that we pray to Him and we do what He asks us to do, and also that we do not do any harm to people and other things in His creation. This is the Islamic way of life.

The third topic is about what help we should seek from Allah. We learn that the most important help we need to ask Allah is to guide us to the Straight Path, which is the path of people with whom Allah is pleased. We pray that we can keep away from the path of people who make Allah angry or who change their religion from what Allah had revealed to them.

Surah Al Fatiha teaches us the Islamic way of life. For this reason, the surah is also known as the Summary of the Quran.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in each box:

The first surah in the Quran is called	
Surah Al Fatiha has _____ verses	
Surah Al Fatiha has _____ topics	
The two Names of Allah in this surah are	
The kind of people we pray to be like are	
The kind of people we pray not to be like are	
The Islamic way of life is	



Lesson 3: PROPHET ADAM AND HAWWA



(The first humans and how they learned the purpose of life, and how they learned not to be tempted by evil suggestions.)

Prophet Adam, 'Alaihis Salaam, peace be on him, was the first man created by Allah. Allah made him after He had created the universe and all the other creatures. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, made Adam and taught him many things. Allah gave Adam intelligence and taught him the names of some things that even the angels didn't know about.



Allah also made Hawwa (Eve), Adam's wife, so that they could be friends together and enjoy each other's company.

Allah's angels are special. They do a lot of work for Him and always obey Him, and they were worried that Adam or his children might disobey Allah and cause problems in Allah's creation. But Allah had His own Plan for humans. When He had finished teaching Adam about many things, He said to the angels, "Tell Me the names of these things, if you are truthful."

"Glory to You!" They said, "We know nothing except what You have taught us." They did not understand Allah's Plan but they were humble and obedient to Him. They knew that He knew best about everything.

The Shaitan, who was also called Iblis, was a powerful, clever jinn who used to spend time with the angels - but he was not like them. One day, Allah said to all of them, "Bow down in front of Adam!"

The angels bowed down straight away and did not ask any questions. But Iblis refused to bow down. No-one in all of creation had ever disobeyed Allah's order before! "What stopped you from bowing down when I commanded you to?" Allah asked him.

"I am better than him," Iblis replied proudly. "You made me from fire and him from clay."

Even though he had been near Allah and behaving like the angels in lots of ways, in this action, Iblis the Shaitan showed his real character. He was proud of who he was and imagined that he was the best of Allah's creation.





Iblis was also jealous of Adam because of the special things that Allah had given Adam and taught him. These feelings affected him so much that he didn't even think about how terrible it was to disobey Allah's command!

“Get down from this place!” Allah ordered him. “You cannot be arrogant here. Get out, because you are the meanest of creatures!”

“Give me time!” pleaded Iblis. “Until the day they are raised up.” He meant that he wanted to have a chance to do mischief until the day when the world will end and everyone will return to Allah to be judged. “You (and your evil helpers) will have time,” said Allah.

Now the Shaitan really showed how evil he was! “Because You have thrown me out of the Way,” he said, “I will lie in wait for them on Your Straight Way. Then I will attack them from in front and from behind, from their right and from their left. You will find that most of them are not grateful (for Your mercies)!”

“Get out from here, disgraced and expelled,” said Allah, Subahnahu wa Ta'ala. “If any of them follow you, I will fill Hell with all of you.”

And so the Shaitan left the wonderful place near Allah, where the angels all loved to be, and went to work on his evil plan. He aimed to try to get many people and jinns to follow him, instead of following Allah. He had been proud, jealous and rebellious against Allah. He had even tried to lie and blame Allah for his own mistake! He knows that on Judgement Day he will get his full punishment but until then, he keeps doing his evil work. The Shaitan made himself miserable through his own actions and he doesn't want anyone else to know the happiness that being close to Allah brings.

After this happened, Allah gave Adam and Hawwa a beautiful Garden to live in, with many wonderful things to eat and enjoy. Adam and Hawwa were very happy there. There was just one thing that Allah warned them about.



“Oh Adam!” Allah said. “You and your wife may live in the Garden and enjoy its many blessings, as you like, but do not come near this tree. If you do, you will be wrong doers.”

But Shaitan was able to get into the garden. Following his plan, Shaitan decided to try to trick Adam into disobeying Allah. He wanted Adam to be in as much trouble as he was!





Shaitan pretended to make friends with Adam and Hawwa. Then he took them to the forbidden tree and said, “Your Lord only forbade you this tree in case you might (after eating from it) become like the angels, or other creatures that live forever.”

He kept whispering these ideas into their ears and he kept telling them that he was their friend and adviser. Poor Adam and Hawwa did not understand that he was lying to them. They forgot that Allah had warned them about the tree, and they listened to Shaitan and tasted its fruit.

As soon as they had done it, Adam and Hawwa suddenly realized what a mistake they had made. They felt very sorry for doing a thing that Allah had asked them not to do. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta’ala, was the One Who had made them and given them everything they needed, and they had not listened to Him!

“Didn’t I forbid you that tree and tell you that Shaitan is a sworn enemy to you?” Allah asked Adam and Hawwa.

They both cried and cried and begged Allah to forgive them for their mistake. “Our Lord!” They said, “We have wronged our souls! If You don’t forgive us and don’t cover us with Your Mercy, we will certainly be lost!”

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

Rabbanaa dzhalamnaaa anfusanaa wa-illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa lanakoonanna minal khaasireen.

(Quran Surah 7, Al A’raaf, Ayah 23)

So Allah, Who is very Merciful, forgave Adam and Hawwa and wiped away their sin.

He told them that they could not stay in the Garden anymore. Instead, they had to live on earth, and work hard in their lives. “There you shall live,” Allah told them, “and there you shall die. But from there you will be taken out (at last).”



Adam and Hawwa, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all the people who are born would have to live their lives on earth as a test. They would need to choose whether to listen to Allah and get happiness in the Garden once again, or to follow the Shaitan and join him in the misery of Hell. They would have to be very careful because the Shaitan would always be trying to trick them into listening to him. If they want to meet Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta’ala, one Day and live near Him forever like the angels do, then they will have to be very careful in their earthly lives.





“Oh children of Adam!” Allah says in the Holy Quran, “Do not let the Shaitan trick you in the same way that he got your parents out of the Garden!”

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 2, Al Baqarah, Ayaat 30-39; Surah 7, Al A'raaf, Ayaat 11-25)



Exercise: Write answers in each box.

The first two people made by Allah	
Two other types of creatures Allah made before humans	
Creatures that always obey Allah	
Creatures that choose to listen to Allah or not to listen	
Three evil things in Iblis's character	
How did Adam and Hawwah get forgiveness from Allah?	

I can say Adam and Hawwa's du'a for forgiveness



Exercise: Discuss why you think Adam and Hawwah got tricked into listening to the Shaitan. Did they know about lying and tricks? Why was it important for them to turn back to Allah after they made the mistake?



Exercise: Some religions believe that the sin of Adam and Hawwah is carried by all of their children (all people). This is called “original sin”. Islam does not believe in original sin. Muslims believe that every child is born innocent and free of sin. Discuss how this difference can affect people's ways of thinking about themselves. Write a comment in the box below.

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.

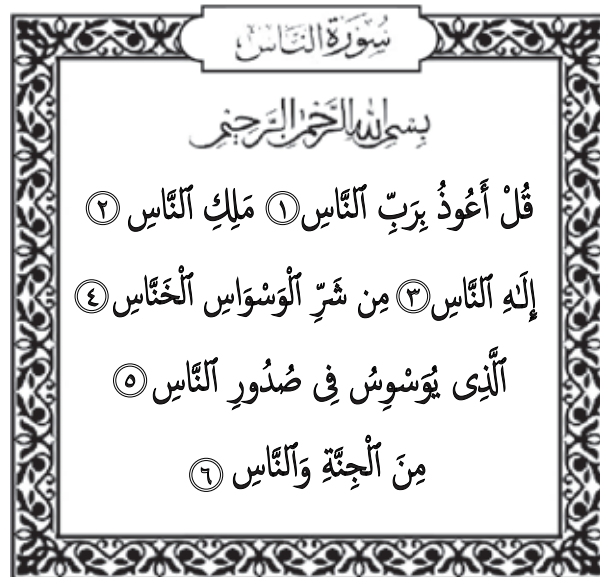




The People

In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful.

Say! I seek protection with the Lord of people, The King of people, The God of people. From the harm of the hidden whisperer, who whispers into the hearts of the people, from among the jinns and the people.



Surah An Naas is a surah we recite when asking Allah to protect us from the whisperings of the evil Shaitan. The Shaitan promised that he would try to mislead all humans, like he misled Prophet Adam and Hawwa. Allah gave us the power of du'a and He gave us this surah and others, to use as protection against the Shaitan.

Surah an Naas is the last surah of the Quran. In this surah we ask Allah to protect us from the forces that tempt us to do wrong things. We learn that three things can tempt us.

The trickiest of these is the Shaitan. Shaitan comes and whispers into our thoughts and tempts us to do things that Allah has asked us not to do. He tries to make us believe that there is fun and enjoyment in the things that Allah does not like. But the real truth is that people who do the things Allah forbids, regret doing them later on.

Two other things that could tempt us to do bad actions are some humans and jinns. Some of the humans who might try to get us to do wrong could be friends, family or people around us. Good jinns don't try to contact us or trouble people. Bad jinns sometimes try to trouble people by tempting them to do witchcraft or fortune telling or get involved with jinns in other ways. This always leads to trouble for people.

When any of these things happen, we should say “**A’uthu billahi minash Shaitanir rajeem**” and we can read this surah and ask Allah to protect us from doing wrong.





Sometimes things we see onscreen or other places tempt us to do what Allah does not want us to do. Sometimes we get distracted by things that are fun and we end up delaying our prayers or forgetting to do things we promised to do. We should be careful of things that take us away from Allah and from our responsibilities.

The surah tells us that the forces that tempt us to do wrong ‘whisper’ and suggest things to our minds. This means they might not actually tell us to do bad but they affect our thoughts and feelings, and bend our minds to wrong ways of thinking.

Every night before going to sleep, Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, may Allah’s peace and blessings be on him, used to say this surah, as well as Surah Al Ikhlas and Surah Al Falaq. This is one way of seeking Allah’s protection. We should try to do what the Prophet did, and follow his Sunnah every day before we sleep.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in each box.

The main message of this surah is	
Three things that can tempt us to do wrong are	
Three surahs the Prophet read every night for protection are	



Exercise: Discuss how forces outside ourselves can affect our thinking and change our behaviour to do things that we will regret later. The discussion might include examples of Shaitani whispers, people’s suggestions or screen and online influences. Write two points that you remember from the discussion in the boxes:

I know how to recite Surah Al Falaq and Surah An Naas

I recite the ‘Three Quls’ surahs before sleeping



Lesson 5: THE STORY OF HABIL AND QABIL



(How the first serious crime was committed when a man allowed his anger and evil whisperings to tempt him to do wrong actions.)

After Prophet Adam and Hawwa came to live on earth they had many, many children and had to work hard to look after everyone. They were wiser people after their mistake and they were careful not to listen to the Shaitan's whispers and suggestions. They also worked hard teaching all their children about Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, and warning them about the Shaitan. In this way, Adam, 'Alaihis salaam, became the first prophet whose job was to tell people about Allah. Prophet Adam taught his large family about the beautiful Garden of Heaven and warned them about the miseries of Hell.

Two of the sons of Adam and Hawwa were named Habil (Abel) and Qabil (Cain). It is said that when these two sons grew up, Qabil wanted to marry the girl that Habil was supposed to marry. They quarreled about it and then decided to make a sacrifice to Allah to see which son would win the quarrel.



They each presented a sacrifice to Allah. Habil brought the best and most perfect thing that he could find from his produce, but Qabil was not generous and he brought produce that was not very good. Allah accepted Habil's sacrifice but he did not accept Qabil's.

Qabil was angry about this. He became jealous of Habil. Of course, the Shaitan quickly took this chance to whisper evil thoughts to him! "I will kill you for sure!" Qabil cried to his brother.

Habil stayed calm and reminded him that it was because of his own bad intentions that Allah didn't accept his sacrifice.

"Allah accepts the sacrifice of those who do good." He said. "If you stretch your hand against me to kill me, I will not stretch my hand against you to kill you. I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds."

But Qabil was too angry to listen. He hit his brother and killed him. In this way, he became the first person in the world to commit a murder. Afterwards, Qabil realised what a bad thing he had done. He felt miserable and could not bear it. It is said that he picked up his brother's body and carried it around for a long time, not knowing what to do.





At last, Allah sent a raven that flew down in front of him and started scratching at the ground. This made Qabil realise that he should bury Habil's body. "Woe is me!" cried Qabil, "Wasn't I even able to be like this raven and hide the shame of (killing) my brother?" Then he dug a grave in the earth and buried poor Habil.

Qabil's crime was the first of its kind and it is still one of the worst crimes in the world. To take the life of an innocent person is so evil that Allah says in the Holy Quran: "...if anyone murdered a person... it would be as if he murdered all of humanity..."



(Quran Surah 5, Al Maidah, Ayah 32)

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 5, Al Maidah, Ayaat 27-32)



Exercise: Tell the story of Habil and Qabil to somebody in your own words. Write three sentences about it here.



Exercise: Write a sentence about why Habil's sacrifice was accepted but Qabil's sacrifice was not accepted.



Exercise: What parts of the Shaitan's character did Qabil show when he committed the first murder?

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.



Lesson 6: PROPHET IDRIS



(As this is a short lesson, teachers should begin the following lesson also.)

A prophet who showed his community the best of patient and humble behavior.

Prophet Adam and Hawwa went to live on earth and had many children and grandchildren. They told their family all about Allah, and how to live in the way that pleases Him. After Prophet Adam died, Allah sent Prophet Idris (Enoch). Prophet Idris, 'Alaihis salaam, continued to tell people about Allah. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, praised Prophet Idris in the Quran and described him as a prophet who was truthful and sincere, whom Allah rose to a high position.

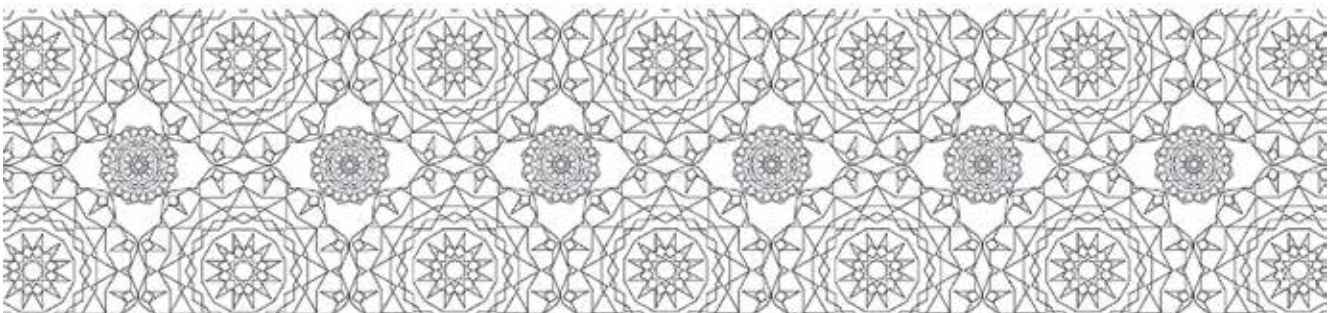
Prophet Idris, 'Alaihis salaam, was sincere and patient when he taught his people about Allah. His people listened to him and respected him and gave him an honourable place in their society. Even though he was honoured by his people, Prophet Idris always remembered Allah and was humble in front of Him. Our Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, told us that Idris was one of the prophets he met during his journey of Isra and Me'raj (Night Journey and Ascension).

(**Sources** for this lesson: Quran Surah 19, Maryam, Ayaat 56-57)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in each box.

Three qualities of Prophet Idris in this story are	
One way we can try to have these qualities is	



Lesson 7: PROPHET NUH



A prophet who knew that everything in nature and the world is a sign of Allah; a man who trusted in His Lord.

Sometimes Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, uses nature to remind humans that everything comes from Him and that we should turn to Him and remember His favours. Sometimes natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or floods make us realize that we humans are not as powerful as we thought we were! The story of Prophet Nuh (Noah), 'Alaihis salaam, is a story about this.

Many years after Prophet Idris, people began to forget what Adam and Hawwa and Idris had taught them. Some people began to listen to what the rich people said, instead of doing what was pleasing to Allah. Soon the rich people became very powerful. They had an easy life and they enjoyed telling everyone what to do. But for the poor people life was hard.

Allah was watching this, and He decided to send someone to warn these people that they were doing wrong. He chose a good man from among them, whose name was Nuh, 'Alaihis salaam.

Nuh went to his people and said to them: "Oh my people! Do what Allah asks you to do. You have no other god but Him. If you don't listen then I am afraid one day a terrible punishment will be given to you."

Day after day he talked to the people and tried hard to make them listen. "Ask your Lord to forgive you for your mistakes," he said. "He is always ready to forgive you. He will send rain for your crops and give you lots of children and other good things. He will give you beautiful gardens and rivers."



"Why don't you want all these wonderful things from Allah?" Nuh said. "Can't you see that He has made all the sky and put the moon in it for a light, and made the sun a bright lamp? And can't you see that He made you grow up, and made the earth so big, so that you can walk all around in it? Please listen to me!"





The rich and powerful chiefs did not like what Nuh was saying at all. If everyone listened to Nuh and obeyed Allah, then who would listen to them? They would have no easy life any more if that happened! And so, they said to the people:

"Nuh is nothing but a man, just like you. He just wants to become your chief! If Allah had wanted to, He could have sent down angels to tell us all this. We can't remember our ancestors telling us what he says. He is only a mad man. Just put up with him for a while." "I am not asking for money or anything at all from you," said Nuh. "I am just warning you. My reward comes only from Allah."

But only a few people listened to him. They were mostly the poorest people, who knew that the rich chiefs were liars. The rest of the people would not listen. Whenever Nuh said anything, they would put their fingers in their ears and hurry away.



THE ARK AND THE FLOOD

For many years Prophet Nuh, 'Alaihis salaam, went on reminding his people about Allah. But most people just called him a liar. One day the rich chiefs said to him:

'Nuh! You have talked to us for a long time. So now bring this terrible punishment on us, if you are really telling the truth.'

"Only Allah will bring it to you, if He decides to," said Nuh, "and if He does, you will not escape it!"

At last Prophet Nuh had done all he could.

"O my Lord!" he said, "I have called to my people night and day, and now it only makes them worse. O my Lord! Help me. They are calling me a liar."

Then Allah told Prophet Nuh that no one else from his people would believe now, and that the punishment would be coming soon. Allah told Nuh to build an ark - a huge boat made of wood and nails. Allah told Nuh that soon a great flood would come and all the bad people would drown.





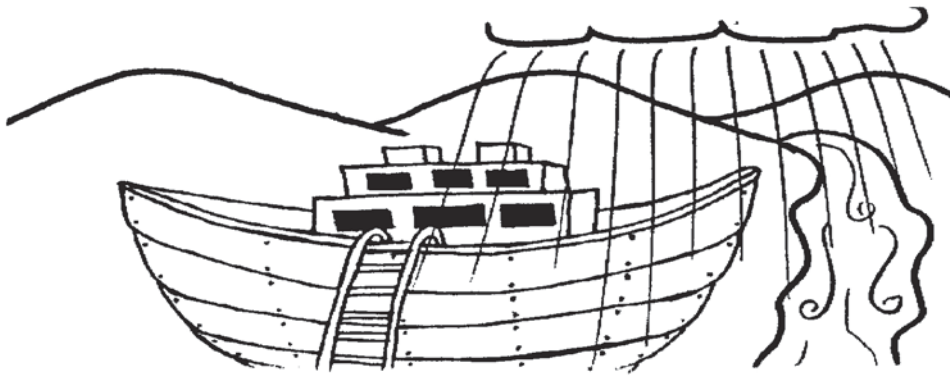
The ark was for animals and the people who believed what Nuh told them.

‘Take in it two of everything,’ said Allah, “and your family, except the people who still don’t believe - and take the others who listen to you. And do not ask Me about the bad people anymore.”

Prophet Nuh trusted in Allah and did as he was asked. He began to build the ark. Whenever the chiefs and others walked past they would laugh and make fun, because their land was a long way from the sea. They did not believe that such a big flood could come to their land.

Prophet Nuh did not allow the people’s teasing to discourage him. ‘You can laugh at us now,’ he said, “but we will be the ones who laugh later.”

At last, the ark was finished, and then the flood began to come. It rained and rained and water came bursting out of the ground and even out of the ovens while people were cooking!



Prophet Nuh, the animals and his followers climbed into the ark, feeling very thankful to Allah. The ark floated safely on the waves, which very soon were as big as mountains!

Now it was time for the disbelievers to know their big mistake. Nuh had been right after all! He really was not a liar. They should have believed him. But now it was too late.

Suddenly Prophet Nuh saw one of his sons, who had not trusted Allah and did not come into the ark with the others. “My son!” cried Nuh, “come with us and do not stay with the disbelievers.”

But his son said: "I will go to a mountain and be safe from the flood there." “Nothing will save you from Allah today,” said Nuh, "Unless He decides to forgive you.”

Just then a big wave came, and his son was swept away and drowned. Poor Nuh was very sad.





After some time, the rain stopped. All the water started to go back into the ground. The ark came to rest on top of Mount Judi, (which might be in Turkey). All the unbelievers had drowned. Prophet Nuh, 'Alaihis salaam, was sad because his son was not there. He began to wish that Allah might save him because he was from his family. But Allah said: "Nuh! He was not one of your family because he did evil things."

Then Prophet Nuh knew his mistake and was sorry. From then on, he knew that it doesn't matter what family you belong to. What matters, is to believe in Allah.

When all the water had gone, Prophet Nuh, all the animals and his followers came out of the ark and began to start a new life. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'a'la, blessed their new life. He helped them and was kind to them, because they had believed and trusted in Him.



(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 11, Hud, Ayaat 25-49; Surah 23, Al Mu'minoon, Ayaat 23-29)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Allah sent Prophet Nuh to tell his people to	
The people didn't listen to Prophet Nuh because	
The people laughed at Prophet Nuh because	
This story teaches us that Allah's promises will	



Exercise: Prophet Nuh and his companions trusted fully in Allah's words. What about Prophet Nuh's son who died? Discuss how you think Prophet Nuh, his companions and his son might have been feeling. What does this part of the story teach about family members? Finish the comment in the box below.

People in the same family might	
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Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.





The Unbelievers

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful

Say! O you who disbelieve, I do not worship what you worship. And you are not worshipping Whom I worship. And I am not worshipping what you worship. And you are not worshipping Whom I worship. For you is your way (religion) and for me is mine.

سُورَةُ الْكَافِرُونَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَتَّيْبُهُا الْكٰفِرُونَ ﴿١﴾ لَا اَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿٢﴾
 وَلَا اَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا اَعْبُدُ ﴿٣﴾ وَلَا اَنَا عٰبِدُ مَا عَبَدْتُمْ ﴿٤﴾
 وَلَا اَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا اَعْبُدُ ﴿٥﴾ لَكُمْ دِيْنِكُمْ وَاِلٰى دِيْنِ ﴿٦﴾



Surah Al Kafiroom is a surah we can recite when affirming our own faith compared to people of other faiths. If we have talked to someone about Allah but they do not listen, like the people who did not listen to Prophet Nuh, 'Alaihis salaam, then we can recite this surah to put our own minds at rest about it.

Surah Al Kafiroom was revealed when some Makkans came to Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, and said to him that they would follow Islam if the Prophet also agreed to worship their gods. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, told the Prophet to tell them that Muslims will never worship what the non-believers worship, just like the non-believers do not worship Whom the Muslims worship.

The last sentence of the surah teaches us that Islam and other religions are different and we should not follow the religions of others. Following the religions of others means following the practices or teachings of other religions. We need to be careful and check that any action we are doing is not part of the practice of another religion.

Surah Al Kafiroom also shows that faith is a personal choice and we can't force other people to believe what we believe. We can talk to people nicely about what we believe but if they don't agree with us, then we must remain polite and leave them to believe what they want. In this surah we learn that we can't interfere with the free choice in faith that Allah gave to all people.





What can we do if our non-Muslim friends wish us Happy Christmas, or give us Christmas presents or Easter eggs?

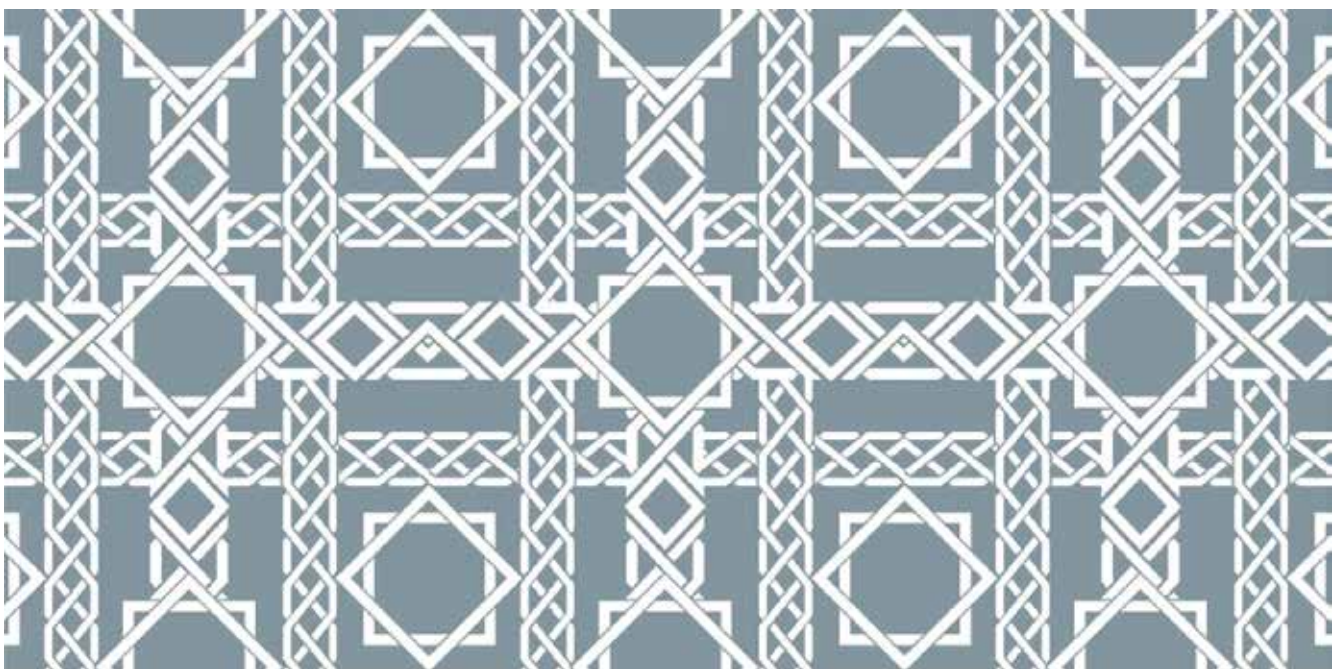
We can still be friendly with them and give them good wishes for their own festival, as long as we understand for ourselves that we are not making it into our own celebration. We can also wish them happy holidays and give gifts at other times of the year, such as Eid, or give a gift as an 'end of year gift'. We can also give gifts of food at any time of year, to show our goodwill and friendship towards others.

This surah is a good surah to think about after discussions with people of other religions. If we do not agree with their ideas and they do not agree with ours, we should not get angry with them. Instead we should be calm and think about this surah.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

The main message of Surah Al Kafiroom is	
Instead of arguing about religion we should	
Allah gave humans freedom to choose, so we should	



Lesson 9: PROPHET HUD



A prophet who understood the meaning of thankfulness to Allah for all the blessings He gives in life.

Some of the descendants of the people of Prophet Nuh, 'Alaihis salaam, were the 'Aad people. The 'Aad are an example of people who became arrogant and proud of what they could achieve in the earth and who began to think they were invincible. Allah sent Prophet Hud, 'Alaihis salaam, to the people of 'Aad, to remind them that it was He Who sent all the blessings and achievements to them.

The people of 'Aad lived in the sandy mountains of Arabia. They were a very powerful tribe. They built fine houses and big towers on the hills. They were hard-working and they had plenty to eat from the land. As well as this, Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, had made them strong and tall people.



But the people of 'Aad were also the first people to disobey Allah by praying to idols, after the flood of Prophet Nuh. They had stopped worshipping Allah and thanking Him for the comfort and happiness of their lives, thinking that it was an old-fashioned thing to do.

Prophet Hud said to his people, "O my people! Worship Allah. You have no other god but Him. Won't you fear Allah? You have only invented your other gods, without authority from Allah! He has freely given you cattle and sons, and gardens and springs. Truly, I fear for you the punishment of a Great Day."

But his people replied, "This is nothing more than what the ancient people used to say. We are not the ones to get pains and penalties." They were so proud that they did not believe that anything could disturb their power or destroy their strong buildings.

Prophet Hud, 'Alaihis salaam, kept trying. He said to them, "Do you build a landmark on every high place to amuse yourselves? And do you get for yourselves fine buildings, in the hope of living in them forever?"





"O my people!" he said, "Ask forgiveness from your Lord and turn to Him. He will send you pouring rain and add strength to your strength. So do not turn back in sin!"

But still the people were stubborn and refused to change their ways. They even made plans to harm Prophet Hud so that he would stop bothering them.



Soon, the people saw a big dark cloud coming towards them. They were happy because they thought that the cloud was filled with rain. Instead, the cloud brought a terrible wind which blew so strongly that by the morning they, and all their amazing buildings, were completely destroyed.

(**Sources** for this lesson: Quran Surah 11, Hud Ayaat 50-60; Surah 26, Ash Shu'araa, Ayaat 123-140; Surah 46, Al Ahqaaf Ayaat 21-26)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Some of the gifts that Allah gave the 'Aad people were	
Two mistakes that the 'Aad people made were	
People today can learn from the mistakes of the 'Aad people by	



Exercise: Sometimes when life is going well, we feel that no harm can come to us, so we forget to pray and be thankful. Discuss this feeling and then write your thoughts here.

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.



Lesson 10: PROPHET SALEH

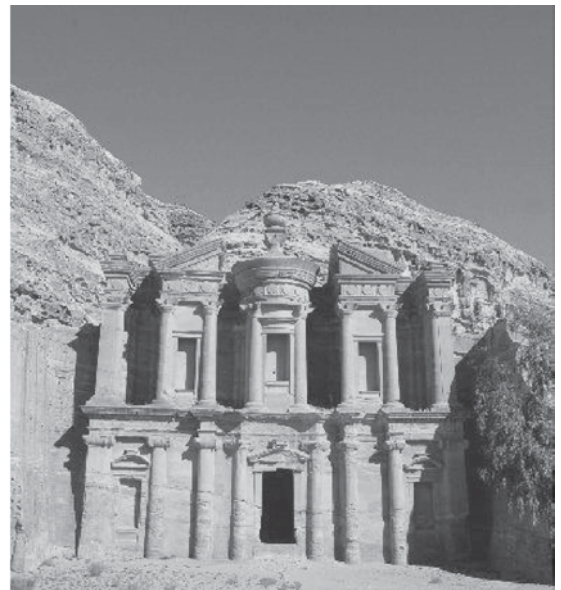


A prophet who had to deal in the best way he could with rebellious people.

With all the water, plants, animals and other resources in the world that Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, has given us to use, we need to remember to use them without greed and selfishness. Allah gave them to us to share and not to waste them or destroy them. Here is a story of a tribe of people who became selfish about the blessings that Allah gave them. They could not control their greed with these blessings and they could not share them with people or animals. Allah destroyed them for this selfishness.

Prophet Saleh, 'Alaihis salaam, lived among the people of Thamood, who lived in Northern Arabia, near Tabuk. The Thamood were related to the 'Aad people and lived some time after them.

The Thamood people built palaces and castles in the valleys and carved out huge houses in the rocky mountains. They also had beautiful gardens and springs of cool water. Their fields were full of corn and date palms, so heavy with fruit that their branches were almost breaking.



But instead of being grateful for all the blessings that Allah had given them, the Thamood made idols to pray to. They also did not share the things that Allah had freely given them. The powerful people among them stopped other people from getting water from the springs and letting their animals graze the grass. They greedily wanted to have more for themselves, and they did not care that the poorer people were suffering.

The powerful people of Thamood liked Prophet Saleh at first and hoped that one day he would become their chief. But when Saleh became a prophet of Allah, most of the powerful people rejected him. Only some of the weaker people listened to him.

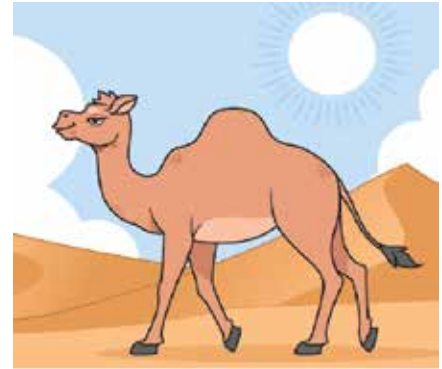
Prophet Saleh asked his people to believe in Allah, and share what Allah had given them. But most of the people mocked him and said, "You are just bewitched! You will bring us evil omens. So, bring us a sign if you are telling the truth!"





Then, Allah sent them a sign and a test in the form of a special camel that came miraculously out of a rock. "This camel of Allah is a sign to you," said Prophet Saleh. "So leave her to graze freely in Allah's earth and do no harm to her, or you shall be seized with a great punishment."

The test for the people was that Allah told the people to let the camel drink from the spring one day, and they were allowed to drink the next day. But the disbelieving people had no patience with this. They became angry. To show their defiance of Allah's words, they hamstrung the camel and killed her. Prophet Saleh knew that they had gone too far and that now they would be punished.



"Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days," he said, "Then there will be a Promise that nothing can stop."

The evil people planned to kill Prophet Saleh and his followers but Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, saved them by telling them to pack their things and leave quickly. After three days, a terrible earthquake with a huge sound blast came and destroyed the Thamood people, along with all their magnificent houses and gardens.

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 7, Al A'raaf Ayaat 73-79; Surah 11, Hud, Ayaat 61-68; Surah 26, Ash Shu'araa, Ayaat 141-159)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Three blessings that Allah gave the Thamood people were	
Two mistakes that the Thamood people made were	
The special sign that Allah sent to the Thamood was	
People today can learn from the mistakes of the Thamood people by	



Exercise: The Thamood people couldn't imagine that their fertile land and strong houses in the rocks could be destroyed in an instant, but it happened. Discuss how people feel when they own a lot of resources and compare it to how they should be feeling.

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.





Small Kindness

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful. Have you seen he who denies the Day of Judgement? That is the one who does not care about the orphans, And does not encourage the feeding of the poor people. So, distress is on the worshippers who delay their prayers. Those who want to be seen (to be praying), But they refuse even small kindness.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالْإِيمَانِ ۚ فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي
 يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ ۚ وَلَا يَحْضُ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ ۚ
 فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ ۚ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ
 ۚ الَّذِينَ هُمْ يَرَاءُونَ ۚ وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ ۚ

Surah Al Ma'oon is a surah that reminds us not to be selfish with the blessings in the world that Allah gives us. We do not want to make the same mistakes as the people of Thamood! We need to be careful in our everyday lives not to be selfish and small minded. We should not forget to do small things to make other people's lives, or any creature's life, easier.



Surah Al Ma'oon teaches that being a true Muslim means that having strong faith in Allah and the Last Day translates directly into being kind and caring towards others. If we really do have strong faith in Allah, then this will cause us to help others and think about them. This is a sign of sincerity.

The first part of the surah teaches kindness and care for orphans. Orphans are those whose parents have died. We should not mistreat orphans or misuse any of their wealth.

The second part encourages helping to feed poor people who may not be able to get food for themselves.





The third part talks about being on time for prayers. Being on time means to not delay Salah past its time. Being on time with Salah is a sign of sincerity. It shows that we are quick to remember Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala.

The fourth part talks about not doing things for show. We should do things only so that Allah is happy with us. For example, praying to be seen means only praying when others can see us pray and being lazy about prayers when we are alone. This kind of behaviour shows that we are not sincere.



The last ayah teaches about showing true faith by acting sincerely towards others. For example, sincere believers will always try to be friendly and helpful to anyone they meet. They would not ignore someone who approaches them for help. They would always be ready to offer 'small kindness' to others.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Three things this surah teaches about sincere belief are	
Caring for orphans is important because	
A sign of being sincere in Salah is to pray	
Doing things for show is when	



Exercise: Discuss ways that people can show small kindness. Write three examples here.



Lesson 12: PROPHET IBRAHIM



A prophet who cared so much about other people's faith that he risked his life to try to teach them about Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), 'Alaihis salaam, was born in ancient Iraq, at a time when the people had forgotten about Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. These people bowed down in front of idols made of pieces of wood and stone. They did it just because they saw everyone else around them doing the same thing. Prophet Ibrahim's dad prayed to the idols too. But even as a young boy, Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, knew it was wrong to pray to idols. He knew that idols have no powers of their own.



THE SUN, MOON AND STARS

When Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, was young, he thought about Allah by himself. He watched what other people did and he questioned their beliefs. Some people prayed to the moon, sun and stars as idols. The young Ibrahim looked at the moon and the stars at night. When daylight came, they disappeared. He looked at the sun. At night it set and was gone. Ibrahim knew he would never bow down to things that had no powers of their own. He thought that if he bowed down to anything, it would be the real unseen God Who created the heavens and the earth. When he had worked out the truth in his head, he prayed to the Real Creator, Allah, and asked Him to show him the right way.

Allah became very pleased with Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, for his thoughtfulness. As he grew, Allah helped him, guided him, and made him into a Prophet. Ibrahim soon loved Allah very much and Allah was also so fond of him that He gave him the special title of "Friend of Allah".



THE IDOLS AND THE FIRE

One day, when he was a teenager or young man, Prophet Ibrahim said to his dad Aazar and his people: "What are these statues that you bow down to so much?"

"We saw our fathers bowing to them," everyone said.

"You have all been wrong," said Ibrahim, "you and your fathers."

They all laughed at him. "Have you really brought us the truth?" They teased, "Or are you just joking with us?"





But Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, was very serious. "No," he said, "Your real Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. He made them all out of nothing. I know this is the truth. And, by Allah, I have a plan for your idols, which I will carry out when you turn your backs..."

One day, while everyone in the town was busy at an event, Ibrahim sneaked into the temple and broke the idols to pieces, except the largest one. When his people came back and saw this, they cried: "Who has done this to our gods?" Someone said: "We heard a young man talking about them. He is called Ibrahim." They said: "Bring him to stand in front of everyone!"



When Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, was brought to them, they asked: "Are you the one who did this to our gods?"

Now it was Ibrahim's turn to tease them, so he said:

"Look at the biggest one. Why don't you ask that idol, if it can speak!"

The people were shocked and realized Ibrahim had made fools of them. Of course, idols couldn't talk! They were just pieces of wood and stone. But they were too proud to say they were wrong and so they became angry. "You know very well that idols don't speak!" they said.

"So why do you bow down to them then, instead of to Allah?" said Ibrahim.

"They can do no good or harm to you. Haven't you got any sense?"

His people had no arguments left. In their hearts, they knew they were wrong but they were too proud to admit it. "Burn him!" they shouted, and they tied Ibrahim up and built a huge fire around him.



But Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, was Allah's Prophet and was very special to Allah. Allah wanted to show His power and did a very great thing that usually never happens. Allah ordered the fire to become cool for Ibrahim. The fire burned very fiercely but, in the end, Ibrahim walked out of it unharmed, through the Kindness and Power of Allah.





PROPHET IBRAHIM AND HIS FATHER

One day, Prophet Ibrahim, ‘Alaihis salaam, said to his father Aazar: "O my father! I see that you are all making a big mistake. Why do you bow down to things that cannot hear, cannot see, and can do nothing for you? O my father! I know things that you do not, so follow me and I will show you the right way. O my father! Do not serve Shaitan, for Shaitan is a rebel against Allah. I am worried in case Allah becomes angry with you for this."

But Ibrahim’s father did not understand. He became angry and shouted at Ibrahim: "If you will not stop talking like this, then go away from me!"

Ibrahim, ‘Alaihis salaam, was sad that his father would not listen to the truth, but he knew that he could never stop loving Allah and hating the idols of his people. So, he decided to go away from his father and from his homeland.

"Peace be on you," he said to his father, as he left. "I will pray to my Allah for your forgiveness, for He is most Kind to me."

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 6, Al An’aam Ayaat 74-79; Surah 9, Ayaat 113-114; Surah 19, Maryam Ayaat 41-50; Surah 21, Ayaat 51-71; Surah 37, As Saafaat, Ayaat 83-99)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Young Ibrahim decided not to pray to idols because	
Ibrahim showed he wasn't afraid of anything except Allah by	
The special miracle that Allah did for Ibrahim was	
Ibrahim showed he valued Allah more than family by	
Ibrahim's heart was full of mercy and love for his father but	
Because of his sincere faith, Allah nick-named Prophet Ibrahim	



Exercise: Everything in creation gets its properties and powers because Allah gives this to them. Discuss how Allah taught us this in Prophet Ibrahim’s story, when He made the fire cool for Ibrahim. Write your thoughts in the box.

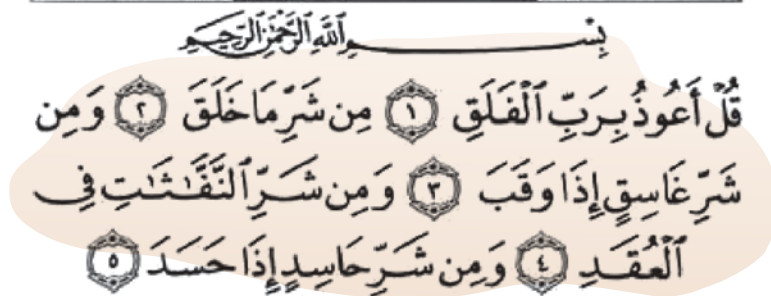


Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.



The Dawn

**In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful
Say! I seek protection from the Lord of the daybreak
From the evil of created things
And from the evil of darkness as it spreads
And from the evil of those who practice witchcraft
And from the evil of the jealous person who practices envy.**



Surah Al Falaq is a surah that begins by reminding us that, just like Prophet Ibrahim realised, it is not the sun or light that is worthy of our devotion, but the One who created them and makes them do what they do. The sun and the light and warmth that comes from it are vital for our existence. But it is Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, Who makes them work. Without Him there would be no light and no daybreak, no life-giving warmth and no growth of plants and animals. There would be nothing without Allah.

Surah Al Falaq and Surah An Naas are also known as the two surahs through which we ask Allah to protect us from harm. In this surah we ask protection from harmful forces within creation. There are three main forces we ask Allah to protect us from.

The first are harmful forces that occur when it is dark. Negative thoughts, negative energies and some other unseen things are usually most active at night. We also know that a lot of sins are committed at night. People drink alcohol, take drugs, steal, commit assault and do other things that Allah has forbidden, mostly in the night hours. Allah has given us a way to protect ourselves from all these things of the darkness, by reciting this Surah.

The second thing the surah asks Allah to protect us from is magic. Allah created the knowledge of magic as a test, but He has made practising magic Haram (forbidden). (Quran Surah 2, Al Baqarah Ayah 102)





By using magic, people can control, influence or harm others. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, has given us Surah Al Falaq as a way to ask Him to protect us from the harm of people and jinns who practice magic.

The third thing we ask Allah's protection from in this surah is jealousy or envy. Envy is when a person dislikes that someone else has something good, and wishes that person will suffer in some way and lose that good thing. This is a negative thought and we know that negative thoughts can have bad effects on the thinker as well as the people they think about. So, we should ask Allah to protect us from anyone who envies us. This also reminds us that we should not practice envy ourselves!

When we seek Allah's protection regularly, it changes the way we think. It helps us relax and not be scared of things in life. Over time, we realise that all we have to do to be happy in life is put our trust in Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala.

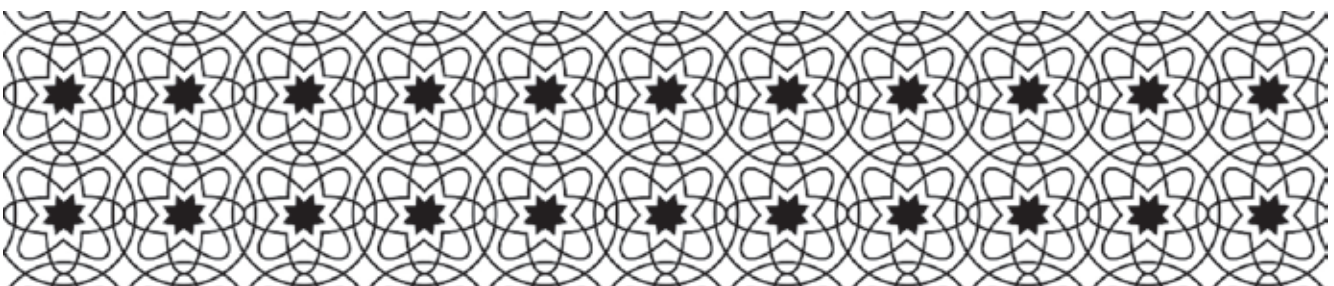


Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

The main message of Surah Al Falaq is	
The 3 things we seek protection from in this surah are	
When we seek Allah's protection, it teaches us to trust that	

I know how to say the 'Three Quls' surahs

I say the 'Three Quls' every night





The story of a prophet's wife who had complete trust in Allah, knowing that He is the only One who looks after us and gives us our Rizq (provision) of water, food and everything we need.

Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, lived to be an old man before he had any children. When no children came after many years, his first wife Sara told him to marry her Egyptian maid-servant, Hajar (Hagar). Prophet Ibrahim married Hajar and prayed for Allah to give him a good son.

Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, answered his prayer and told him that his son would be patient and ready to do whatever was asked of him. Prophet Ibrahim named his son Ismail (Ishmael) and loved him very much.

PROPHET ISMA'IL, ZAMZAM AND MAKKAH

One day, when Isma'il was still a baby, Allah told Prophet Ibrahim to take Ismail and his mother Hajar on a journey into the desert and leave them there. Ibrahim found it hard to leave his family with no water and no people to help them, but he was obedient to Allah and he knew that Allah would look after them. This was a test from Allah, to see if Prophet Ibrahim was prepared to leave the things he loved if Allah asked him to.



The place he was told to leave them was the valley of Makkah (Bakkah) (Quran Surah 3, Ayah 96), which in those days was just a dry desert. Hajar was a good woman who also believed in Allah. When she knew that Allah had ordered Prophet Ibrahim to leave them, she did not worry. "Allah will help us," she said.

After Prophet Ibrahim left, Hajar put baby Isma'il down on the ground and went up a small hill to see if she could see a place where there were plants and water. She couldn't see anything, so she went to the other side and up another small hill to look. The two small hills are called Safa and Marwa.

Hajar kept going up and down the two hills, trying her best to look for something that would help them. She was sure that Allah would help them somehow.





Baby Isma'il was lying on the ground, crying because he was thirsty. Suddenly, where his little feet were kicking on the ground, some water started to bubble out of the sand! When Hajar came to check on her baby, she saw the water and was amazed. She was very thankful to Allah, because if they had water, she knew they would survive. The water that came out of the sand is called the well of Zamzam, and it has never stopped flowing. It is still there for people to drink and use in Makkah today!

Today when Muslim go to Hajj, they drink from the well of Zamzam and also bring its water home for others. The water from Zamzam has many blessings and people drink it for health and to cure sickness.



When Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, came back to the valley of Makkah after some time, he saw that his wife and son were well, and he was very thankful to Allah, Subahanu wa Ta'ala. He also saw that other people, a tribe called Jurhum, had started to live around the Zamzam well, because water is precious in the desert.

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 2, Al Baqarah, Ayah 158; Bukhari 3183; Bukhari 3365)



Exercise: Write answers in the boxes.

Prophet Ibrahim's first son was named	
Prophet Ibrahim's second wife was named	
Prophet Ibrahim left his family in	
The two famous hills in this story are	
The famous well of water in this story is	
The lesson we learn from mother Hajar is	



Exercise: In the box write, in your own words, the part of the story where the Zamzam water well appeared.





The Elephant

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.

Haven't you seen how Your Lord dealt with the army of the Elephant? Didn't He ruin their plan? He sent against them flocks of birds.

That pelted them with stones of baked clay, Leaving them like chewed up straw.

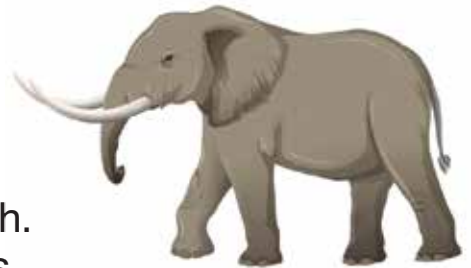


Surah Al Fil is the story of an event that happened in the same valley of Makkah that was settled by Prophet Isma'il, 'Alaihis salaam, and his mother Hajar, but it happened around two and a half thousand years later.

At this time, Makkah had become a large and busy trading city that was visited by hundreds of travellers from around the Arabian peninsular. The event occurred just a few months before the birth of Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, and his birth is remembered by this, because the year was called the Year of the Elephant. The story is about a man whose name was quite similar to Propeht Ibrahim, but he was a very different kind of character!

At that time a person called Abrahah was the ruler of Yemen to the South of Makkah. Abrahah noticed that at a certain time of the year, large numbers of people travelled to Makkah. He was told that these people were going on pilgrimage to the Ka'ba.

Abrahah thought that it would be a good idea if these people came to his church for pilgrimage, but no one did. So, he decided to destroy the Ka'ba. He prepared a large army, with an elephant in the lead, and set off towards Makkah. When the Makkans heard that a large army was coming to destroy the Ka'ba, they became very frightened.



When Abrahah arrived outside Makkah, he stole Abdul Muttalib's camels that were grazing near Makkah. Abdul Muttalib was the leader of Makkah at that time and he was also Prophet Muhammad's grandfather.





Abdul Muttalib went to Abrahah and asked him to give him back his camels. Abrahah was very surprised at Abdul Muttalib's request and said: "I have come to destroy your Ka'ba and you ask me about some camels?" Abdul Muttalib replied, "The camels belong to me so I want them back. The Ka'ba belongs to Allah and He will protect it." Then Abdul Muttalib left Abrahah and went back to Makkah. He advised the people to leave Makkah and go up into the mountains and watch.

In the morning, a strange thing happened. Flocks of birds came flying over Abrahah's army. Each bird carried small stones that they dropped onto the army. The birds kept coming and dropping stones. It was like continuous bombing and it wasn't long before Abrahah's army was crushed. This was how Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, protected His Ka'ba.



(Source: Quran Tafsir Ibn Kathir, Maududi)

This surah teaches that Allah can use any of His creation to destroy even the most powerful things. In this case He used little birds to carry stones in their claws and beaks and bomb a great army until it was destroyed.

We also learn from this that if we do not work for Allah's sake, like the Makkans who didn't want to fight against Abrahah, Allah will get someone or something else to do His work, even animals or other things in His creation.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Surah Al Fiil tells the story of	
The event happened in the city of	
The event happened in the year called	
In the same year in Makkah a great Prophet was born. He was called	
Two lessons we can learn from this story are	



Exercise: Tell a partner the story in your own words, then write a sentence about the story in the box.





A father and son team of prophets who made a sacrifice and who built the Ka'ba.

PROPHET ISMA'IL, AD DHABIH

Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, lived with his first wife Sara in Palestine, but he sometimes made the journey to visit his family in Makkah.

Once, when Ismail, 'Alaihis salaam, was almost grown up, his father came on a visit. He had been troubled by a recurring dream and had tried many ways to solve the problem, but the dream kept coming back.

At last, Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, said to Isma'il: "O my son! I see in a dream that I am offering you in sacrifice. What do you think about this?" Isma'il said: "O father! You must do as you are told. You will, InshaAllah, find me one who is patient."

Ibrahim and Isma'il walked a little outside Makkah to a place called Mina. On the way, the Shaitan appeared in front of Prophet Ibrahim and tried to tempt him to change his mind about the sacrifice. Prophet Ibrahim picked up some small stones and threw them one-by-one at the Shaitan, to get him to go away.

In readiness for the sacrifice, Isma'il put his head on the ground. But as Prophet Ibrahim tried to sacrifice him, he found that his hand did not move. He could cut other things but he could not cut the throat of his son. Then he heard a voice say: "O Ibrahim! You have already fulfilled your dream!"

In this way, Allah stopped him from really killing his son. Allah had tested Prophet Ibrahim to see if he was ready to give up the things he loved, if Allah asked him. Ibrahim and Isma'il had shown that they were both ready to do whatever Allah asked, and so had passed the test. For this reason, Prophet Isma'il, 'Alaihis salaam, is also called Ad Dhabih, the one who was willing to sacrifice himself for Allah.

Allah then told Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice a sheep to take the place of his intended sacrifice, and so he did this.

Allah was very pleased with both father and son for their obedience and He made sure that people will never forget how faithful they both were.





Even now, 4,000 years later, every Muslim remembers Prophet Ibrahim in their prayers, and asks Allah to send peace and blessings on him and his family. In the Salawaat (Darood) in each salah, Muslims remember the faith and wonderful example of Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam.

Every year on Eid-ul-Adha, Muslims remember this story of the sacrifice. On this Eid, many people make a sacrifice (Qurban) of an animal (Udhiyah), eat the meat and share it with others. They remind themselves to try to be like Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Isma'il and be always ready to sacrifice time, wealth and other blessings of life, whenever it will be pleasing to Allah.



After the sacrifice, both Prophet Ibrahim and Isma'il felt full of thankfulness to Allah. They had been tested with a hard test but Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, had shown great Mercy towards them. Feeling so happy and grateful for so many blessings, Prophet Ibrahim wanted to do something to show his thankfulness to Allah and remind others to be thankful too.

PROPHETS IBRAHIM AND ISMA'IL, THE KA'BA AND HAJJ

One of the reasons that people used to visit Makkah from all over Arabia in ancient times was because of a very special building. Makkah has a mosque in which there is an ancient building called the Ka'ba. In fact, this was the first mosque or prayer building that Allah, Suhanahu wa Ta'ala, told people to build.



The Ka'ba is the oldest place of prayer in the world and it said that Prophet Adam, 'Alaihis salaam, first built it. In the days of Prophet Ibrahim, when Hajar and baby Isma'il first went to live in Makkah, the Ka'ba was in ruins and people had forgotten all about it.

When Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, travelled back to visit his family in Makkah, he was filled with a feeling of gratefulness for Allah's blessings on all of them. He wished to express his thankfulness to Allah in some way. Then Allah told Prophet Ibrahim and Ismail, who was growing into a young man, to rebuild the Ka'ba that had been there a long time ago. Ibrahim and Isma'il did as Allah asked.

Prophet Ibrahim prayed: "My Lord! Make this a land of peace and look after its people - those that believe in You."





Prophet Ibrahim and Isma'il carried stones to build the Ka'ba into a high, cube-shaped building. When he needed to get to the highest parts of the building, Prophet Ibrahim stood on a rock and Allah made it rise up so that Ibrahim could reach. This rock can still be seen next to the Ka'ba today and it has Prophet Ibrahim's footprints on it. It is called Maqam Ibrahim.



While they were building, Prophet Ibrahim and Isma'il prayed: "Our Lord! Accept this service from us. Make us Muslims bowing down to You. Show us what things we should do here." So Allah told them about Hajj (Pilgrimage) and what people should do when they visit the Ka'ba.



During Hajj, pilgrims remember parts of the story of Prophet Ibrahim and his wife Hajar. In Makkah they perform Sa'ii, re-enacting when Hajar ran between the two hills of Safa and Marwa searching for help from Allah. In Mina they throw small stones at the Jamraat, re-enacting when Prophet Ibrahim threw stones at the Shaitan to send him away. At the Ka'ba they perform Tawwaf, copying what Allah told Prophet Ibrahim and Ismail to do after they had finished building it.

Hajj is probably the oldest religious practice in the world. People have been continuously doing Hajj each year for over 4,000 years! Even after the Makkans filled the Ka'ba with idols, Hajj still continued, and Allah's name was still mentioned there. This shows how Allah answered Prophet Ibrahim's du'a in the most amazing way!

Prophet Ibrahim also prayed that in later times, Allah would send a Prophet from the people of Makkah, to remind them about what to do and teach them Allah's words. Today Muslims know that Allah answered this prayer by sending Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, who was born in Makkah around 2,500 years after Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam.

Today, Muslims follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad. We turn to face the Ka'ba when we pray. We make pilgrimage to visit the Ka'ba to perform Hajj or Umrah, just as Prophet Ibrahim was told to do so long ago.

ISMA'IL, THE PROPHET OF MAKKAH

Prophet Isma'il, 'Alaihis salaam, married a woman from the tribe of Jurhum. Prophet Isma'il and his wife had many children. Their children became the Arabs of southern Arabia.





Isma'il, 'Alaihis salaam, became the prophet for the people of Jurhum and the people who settled in Makkah. The Quran tells us that Prophet Isma'il was a gentle, patient and obedient person who had deep faith in Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala.

(**Sources** for this lesson: Quran Surah 2, Al Baqarah, Ayaat 124-129; Surah 14, Ibrahim, Ayaat 35-41; Surah 19, Maryam, Ayaat 54-55; Surah 22, Al Hajj Ayaat 26-30; Surah 37, As Saafaat, Ayaat 100-111;)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Mother Hajar and Prophet Ibrahim's son Isma'il lived in	
Prophet Isma'il is called Ad Dhabih because	
Ibrahim and Isma'il's sacrifice is remembered each year on	
In Salawaat (Darood) of salah we ask Allah to	
In thankfulness to Allah, Ibrahim and Ismail built	
At the Ka'ba, Allah told Prophet Ibrahim to perform	
The Maqam Ibrahim is	
Tawwaf is	
Sa'ii is	
Throwing stones at the Jamraat is	
Hajj has been performed continuously for more than	
Prophet Ismail is the ancestor of Prophet	



Exercise: When people show intelligence, courage, patience, and obedience, Allah blesses their actions greatly. Discuss how Prophet Ibrahim and his family showed each of these characteristics and how Allah blessed their actions and made sure they were not forgotten.

Suggested Extra Activity: 1. Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from. 2. Make a family tree for Prophet Ibrahim and his Makkan family. 3. Have a team quiz about all the facts learned in this story. 4. Retell the story of Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail in your own words to a partner.



Lesson 17: SURAH QURAYSH



Quraysh Tribe

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.

It is a familiarity for the Quraysh

Their familiarity in the trade journeys in winter and summer.

So they should worship the Lord of this House (the Ka'ba),

He who provided them with food against hunger

And provided them with safety against fear.

سُورَةُ قُرَيْشٍ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَا يَلْفُ قُرَيْشٍ ①
إِلَّا فِيهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الْشِتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ
فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ ②
الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ
مِّنْ جُوعٍ وَعَآمَنَهُمْ مِّنْ خَوْفٍ ④

Surah Quraysh reminds the people of Makkah who descended from Prophets Ibrahim and Isma'il, 'Alaihimus salaam, that they should not turn away from believing in Allah. The Qurayshi tribe lived in Makkah at the time of Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam.

In the beginning of the history of Makkah, the descendants of Prophet Ismail worshipped only Allah. But later, over time, people began to bring idol worship to the Holy Ka'ba, spoiling the worship of One God. This surah reminds the Quraysh tribe, who were officially in charge of the Ka'ba, to go back to the true worship of Allah that the Ka'ba was built for.



This surah has a similar lesson to Surah Al Fil. It reminds the Quraysh about Allah's Mercy on them when He provided everything that they needed to live. Makkah is a desert where nothing grows. People cannot produce their own food, so the Makkans needed to buy food. After Allah made the Zamzam water gush out of the ground at the time of Prophet Ismail, Makkah became one of the stopping places for the trade caravans (groups of people travelling to sell goods).





Through meeting these caravans, the people of Makkah were able to trade and buy food and other things they needed for life. Allah also provided safety for the Makkans through the agreements the Makkans had with the surrounding tribes, who let the caravans pass unharmed on their trade journeys.

Makkah hardly ever got attacked by outsiders, so people lived there safely. From the time of Prophet Ismail, the Makkans had four sacred months in which they would stop fighting. These four months are Rajab, Dhul Qi'da, Dhul Hijjah and Muharram. Even when there was civil war among the Makkan tribes, there was an agreement that they would stop fighting in the sacred months, have peace and continue trade.

The surah teaches us that we should be grateful to Allah for the provisions He gives us. Most of us are lucky to have food and drink. We should know that there are many people in the world who do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. At times they spend days without food. We should never stop thanking Allah for these blessings.



The other great provision from Allah is being safe and secure. Most of us are very lucky that we are safe. Many countries do not have safety and people are often getting killed. Some people do not know whether they will return alive when they go out, or whether they will wake up alive when they go to sleep. There can be attacks, bombs and shootings in a lot of places around the world.

Food and Peace are two important gifts, so we should be grateful to Allah by thanking Him, remembering Him, praying to Him and following His commands.



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Two messages in Surah Quraysh are	
Allah provided food for the Makkans by	
Allah provided safety for the Makkans by	
The 4 sacred months are	
Two things to be thankful for are	



Lesson 18: PROPHET ISHAAQ



A prophet born to parents who learned that Allah can do anything He wants to do, even if it seems impossible.

Prophet Ishaq (Isaac) was the younger brother of Prophet Isma'il and they were both sons of Prophet Ibrahim, Alaihimus Salam. Isma'il grew up in Makkah, while his brother Ishaq grew up in Palestine. Prophet Ibrahim lived in Palestine with his first wife Sara. He travelled to Makkah from time to time to visit his oldest son and his second wife Hajar.

When Prophet Ibrahim was a young man and he decided to leave his homeland of ancient Iraq, he travelled through southern Turkey, Syria and later even went as far as Egypt. During his travels, he taught people about Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. He made his home in Palestine, around the town of Hebron and married his first wife, Sara. Although the couple loved children and longed to have them, no children were born, and the couple grew old. Still, they were patient and always had hope for Allah's blessings.

Hebron

Arabic: 'al-khalīl

City in Palestine. Hebron is a holy city, both to Islam and Judaism, as it is believed that Abraham is buried there together with his wife Sarah, their son, Isaac, and grandson, Jacob, Isaac's wife, Rebecca, and Jacob's wife, Leah, in the Machpelah cave. Over this cave, the Ibrahimi Mosque now lies. (Wikipedia)

Hebron, Palestine.



One day, Allah sent his messengers (angels) to visit Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam. Prophet Ibrahim did not know who they were, but when they greeted him with "Salaam!" he replied "Salaam!" back to them. Then he hurried off to cook them a nice meal of roast beef.

When they all sat down to the meal, his visitors did not eat anything. Ibrahim, 'Alaihis salaam, wondered why and was worried. He started to feel nervous about his visitors because it was unusual in those days to refuse food. But his visitors told him not to worry, as they were sent by Allah to give him a message.





They told Ibrahim’s wife, Sara, that soon she would have a baby boy and she should call him Ishaaq. They said that when Ishaaq grew up he would have a son called Yaqub, and they would both be prophets of Allah.



Sara was amazed when she heard this. “But I am an old woman and my husband is an old man!” she said. “How can we have a child now that we are so old?”

“Do you wonder at something after Allah has said it will happen?” said the messengers. “May Allah’s blessings be on you and your family,” they said, as they left.

What the messengers told Prophet Ibrahim and Sara soon came true. They had a baby son and called him Ishaaq, and when he grew up he did indeed become a prophet of Allah, just like his father. And so did Prophet Ishaaq's son, Yaqub, ‘Alaihimus salaam.

Prophet Ishaaq was much younger than his brother, Prophet Ismail. Allah describes Ishaaq as a pious Prophet, whom He blessed. He always prayed and gave things in charity (Sadaqah). He was always doing good deeds to please Allah and be a good servant of His. He was a good leader and an example to his people, showing them how to live a pious and successful life.

One of Prophet Ishaaq's sons was named Ya’qub (Jacob). He was also a prophet of Allah. Prophet Ya’qub, ‘Alaihis salaam, had twelve sons and they each in turn had many children, until they became a very large family. Later, this large family became the Bani Israil, or the twelve tribes of Israel. There were many prophets from this large family and their descendants, including Prophets Musa, Dawud, Sulaiman, Yahya, Zakariya and Isa, ‘Alaihimus salaam. One of the things we remember about Prophet Ishaaq, ‘Alaihis salaam, is that he was the forefather of many prophets.

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 11, Hud, Ayaat 69-73; Surah 15, Al Hijr, Ayaat 51-56)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Prophet Ibrahim’s 2 wives were	
Prophet Ibrahim’s 2 sons were	
Prophet Ibrahim was nervous about his visitors because	



Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.



Exercise: Even if we have strong faith in Allah like Ibrahim and Sara did, sometimes we still get shocked when unusual things happen. Discuss why you think Sara was so surprised when the messengers told them they would have a son.



Exercise: On the map, show where Prophet Ibrahim's two families and their descendants lived.



Exercise: Draw a family tree showing how both the Arabs and the Bani Israil have descended from Prophet Ibrahim.



IBRAHIM





Purity of Faith

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.

Say! He is Allah the One and Only
Allah is Independent and Absolute

He does not have any children and He was not born (from parents)
And there is no one like Him.



All the Prophets of Allah had one main mission; to remind people about Allah, the only One to worship and serve. Surah Al Ikhlas teaches this important lesson in a very clear way.

Allah, Subhanhu wa Ta'ala, is independent and doesn't need us at all. But we need Him, or else we cannot survive, even for a microsecond! When we understand that Allah is Alone and Unique and that there is no one and nothing like Him, we call this concept Tawheed.

Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said that this surah is like one third of the Quran, because nearly one third of the Quran tells about the Uniqueness of Allah and His Greatness and His Qualities.

Allah is Al Ahad, the One and Only. This is one of the 99 Names of Allah. No one shares any powers or position with Allah. Allah does not have any partners or equals. He is the Master of the Universe, including our own world and everything we see and everything we don't see.



The universe is not a power by itself. It has its Lord Who made it and controls it. In fact, everything in the universe serves Allah and can't do anything for us, so we should never think that there are mysterious powers in the universe that help us! Help is only from Allah SWT, the Lord of the Universe.



Allah is As Samad, another of His 99 Names. When we say As Samad, we remember that Allah is the One Who does not need anyone or anything, but everyone and everything needs and depends on Him. He is Independent and Absolute and Eternal. He has lived forever and will never die and He does not need anything or anyone to keep Him alive. He exists by Himself and He is the only Reality. All of us exist only because He wants us to. The moment He changes His mind, we will cease to exist!



Allah does not need us or anything from us. He does not even need our prayers and our good works! Actually, we pray because we need Allah. We need food, water, plants, animals, air and even the ability for our lungs and other organs to work. There is nothing that we don't need Allah for!

Allah was not born or created, but He is the Creator of everything and everyone. When He wants to create something, He just needs to say 'Be!' and it is done. Allah does not have parents and He does not have children. He is not a human being! And He does not have any need for sons or daughters or any kind of family.

Allah is not like any person or thing that we know or can imagine. We should not try to think about Allah's form or looks because we could never do it correctly and we would always make a mistake. We are just tiny creatures of His, whose brains cannot comprehend Him. If you made a pot out of clay, would the pot be able to imagine what you looked like or what you are? No, it is a completely different thing from you! We can try to think about the Qualities or Names of Allah, and what He does for us and how we can be thankful to Him. In this way we can start to feel as if we would be able to get to know Him and love Him in our hearts.



Exercise: Write the correct answers in the boxes.

Allah's Name that means The One	
Allah's Name that means The Eternal	
Something that this surah says Allah does not have is	
Something that this surah says did not happen to Allah is	
Two examples of how we need Allah are	



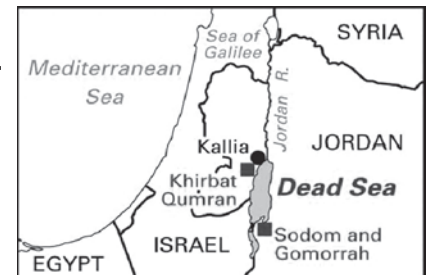
Lesson 20: PROPHET LUT



A prophet whose people went against the way Allah created them.

Prophet Lut was a nephew of Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihimus salaam. When Prophet Ibrahim left his home town of idol worshipping people in Iraq, Lut also left with him, saying, "I will leave home for the sake of my Lord." They travelled to Palestine together and lived near one another.

Prophet Lut settled in a place called Sodom near the Dead Sea. The people of Sodom and another nearby town named Gomorrah had many evil ways and they also prayed to idols. One of the worst things that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did was practice homosexuality.



Prophet Lut, 'Alaihis salaam, tried hard to explain to the people that their behaviour was going against the natural laws in Allah's creation. He asked them to be grateful for the way that Allah had created them.

"Of all the creatures in the world," said Prophet Lut to the men of the town, "will you approach males, and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Surely you are a people going past all limits!" But most of the people refused to listen to him. They made a plan to force Prophet Lut to leave the city.

One day, Allah sent three angels to Prophet Lut. They were the same angels who visited Prophet Ibrahim and Sara to tell them the news of their son Ishaq. These messengers came to tell Prophet Lut that Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, was going to destroy the town.

The angels came to Prophet Lut looking like handsome young men. It was a kind of test for the people of the town. "You appear to be unusual folk," said Lut, not knowing who they were. But he treated them politely as his guests.

News of the arrival of three handsome men soon spread through the town and the evil people came rushing to Prophet Lut's door, demanding that he hand over his guests to them. Lut, 'Alaihis salaam, was upset and worried that he would not have the power to protect his guests from the mob of people. "This is a distressful day!" he exclaimed. Then he called out to the mob, "O my people! Here are my daughters. They are purer for you (if you marry them).





“Now fear Allah,” he said, “And do not shame me in front of my guests! Is there not among you a single right-minded man?” But the evil people would not listen. "You know well that we have no need of your daughters," they exclaimed. "Indeed, you know quite well what we want!"

Then the three angels told Prophet Lut who they were and that Allah had ordered a punishment for the people of the town. The angels told Prophet Lut that he should leave home that night, and take with him all the people who believed in Allah. The angels also told them not to look back at the town when they heard the sound of the punishment of Allah.

In the quiet of the night, Prophet Lut, ‘Alaihis salaam, and the believers left the town. At sunrise, when they were safely away from the town, they heard a loud noise as the city was destroyed by a great earthquake and falling stones. Prophet Lut's wife did not follow the instructions given by the angels and she also died in the punishment. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta’ala, says in the Quran about the people of Lut:

“In their wild intoxication, they wander in distraction, to and fro. But the blast overtook them at sunrise. We turned the cities upside down and rained on them brimstones, hard as baked clay.”

(Quran Surah 15, Al Hijr, Ayaat 72-74)



Even today, travellers near the Dead Sea can see the sulphurous land where the two cities once were, but now it is a place where nothing grows and nobody lives.

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 7, Al A’raaf Ayaat 80-84; Surah 26, Ash Shu’araa, Ayaat 160-175; Surah 27, Surah 27, An Naml, Ayaat 54-58)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

The people of Prophet Lut worshipped idols and also they	
Prophet Lut showed hospitality to his guests by	
When we travel and sightsee, we should remember that	

“Say: ‘Travel through the earth and see what was the end of those who rejected Truth.’”

(Quran Surah 6, Al An’am, Ayah 11)



Lesson 21: MORAL TEACHINGS IN ISLAM



(Teachers should inform parents and obtain their permission to teach this lesson. Teachers and trusted adult helpers might want to talk with boys and girls separately for part or all of this lesson.)

One of the things that the people of Prophet Lut, A'alahis salaam, were punished for was their practice of homosexuality and the fact that they tried to push their beliefs onto others and tried to harm other people's bodies.

The Quran teaches that the laws of nature are also the laws of Allah because this is how Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, made His creation. When we study biology, we learn about how Allah created the human body.

Puberty is when children's bodies start to change and become more like adult bodies. Boys start to feel and look more like men and girls start to feel and look more like women. A small number of people are born without clear biological gender (hermaphrodite/intersex) and at puberty they might feel confused. If this confusion is because of their biology, then this is how Allah made them and they don't have to change anything about themselves.

When we are young, gender difference is not significant but after puberty, gender difference is something that Muslims learn about. Muslims believe that people should stick with the biological gender that Allah gave them. (Quran Surah 7, Ayaat 80-81; Surah 26, Ayaat 165-166) Gender is only important when talking about sexual roles, not about gender roles in society. Boys can do anything and girls can do anything! (But what we do should be within the Halal bounds that Allah sets for us.)

Allah has told us that sexual roles and relationships are only between men and women, because this is the biological way that humans are made. As Muslims, Allah also taught us to commit to being together and looking after each other in marriage before we start a sexual relationship. This is because a sexual relationship is very strong and affects people's emotions deeply. It is also because children might be born from this relationship and then they need to be cared for properly in a secure family environment.

Puberty causes emotional changes and sexual feelings. This is normal. We are not bad people if we have sexual feelings but Allah teaches us to have good morals and not act on our feelings until we get married and commit properly to our partner in life. Allah has made any sexual activity outside marriage Haram (forbidden).

Some people get confused or they've had bad experiences in life, and they end up feeling sexual feelings towards someone of the same gender.





If this happens, Allah asks us to be patient and not act on those feelings or commit Haram physical acts. Allah is Kind and Merciful and He knows what we feel. A Muslim who does not feel like a 'normal' sexual person can still be a good Muslim if they don't commit any Haram sexual acts and they turn to Allah for help and guidance.

When we live in a non-Muslim society, it is sometimes hard to explain our beliefs about gender and sexuality, to others. We need to be polite and respectful towards other people and their beliefs, but we also need other people to respect and be polite about our beliefs. People are all different and we need to allow each other to have differences. At the same time, we cannot allow ourselves to be part of things that we believe are wrong.

Just like Prophet Lut protected his guests from the harm that people wanted to do to them, we must also protect ourselves and our bodies from being harmed by others. Our bodies are given to us as a Trust (Amanah) from Allah. We deserve respect and safety for our bodies. Rape, assault, sexual assault and sexual harassment to any person (female, male, adult, child) are all completely Haram in Islam.

Muslims have some physical rules after reaching puberty. While girls and women are having their period, they stop praying Salah or touching the Mushaf (pages of Arabic Quran). When it is finished, they need to make Ghusl before they start to pray Salah or touch the Quran. When boys and men have wet dreams or have semen come out, they need to make Ghusl before praying Salah or touching the Mushaf of the Quran. These body processes of humans are normal and there is no shame in them. But also, Muslims are taught to be clean and practice good hygiene as well as good morals.

To keep safe from harm or from being tempted into Haram acts, young adult Muslims are advised to go out in groups, not alone. Two people of opposite gender who are not Mahrem (closely related) should not be together alone in a closed space. This includes an adult with a child or teenager. Our Prophet, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, gave this advice because "the Shaitan would be the third amongst them". In other words, they might end up making a mistake or being harmed, or other people might make up bad stories about them - and all of this would bring trouble to their lives. (Source: Tirmidhi 2165)



Exercise: Have a teacher-directed discussion on the topics raised in this lesson. Don't be shy to ask questions that are on your mind. Always talk to people that you trust when speaking about these topics!





The Palm Fibre

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.
The hands (work) of Abu Lahab will perish and he will perish. His wealth and earnings will not benefit him. He will burn in the fire that has blazing flames. And his wife, the carrier of firewood, will have around her neck a rope of twisted palm fibre.



سُورَةُ الْمَسَدِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ ﴿١﴾ مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا
كَسَبَ ﴿٢﴾ سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ ﴿٣﴾ وَأَمْرَأَتُهُ
حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ ﴿٤﴾ فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ ﴿٥﴾

For most of the prophets that we read about in the Quran, their societies had some people who did very evil acts. Our Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, also had this happen. If evil people try to influence or harm others, or make them do the same as they are doing, then this is much worse than just doing something bad alone.

In Surah Al Masad, Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, speaks about a person who committed great evil in the time of Prophet Muhammad. He was the Prophet's own uncle, Abu Lahab, and his crime was to try to stop people from becoming Muslim and worshipping Allah.

Surah al Masad was revealed in the third year of the Prophet's mission, after Allah had asked the Prophet to preach Islam publicly to the people. The Prophet went to a hill in Makkah, gathered the people together and told them that he had something important to tell them. When they were ready to listen to him, the Prophet told them about Allah, about Islam and about the Hereafter.

On hearing this, Abu Lahab, who had come to listen but who was very much against the Prophet's mission, said: "May your hands perish today! Is this what you gathered us here for?"

(Source: Bukhari 4770)





After this happened, Allah revealed Surah Al Masad, saying that Abu Lahab will be the one to perish! The surah says that Abu Lahab and his wife, who helped him persecute the Prophet and the other Muslims, will be in the fire of Hell. Whenever the Prophet walked down their street, Abu Lahab's wife used to throw a whole lot of rubbish, wood and sharp thorns on the Prophet to harm him. In this surah, Allah calls her the wood carrier, who will carry the wood to fuel their own fire in the Hereafter.



This surah is one of the miracles of the Quran. It shows that no one can go against - or even pretend to go against - what the Quran says! Here, the Quran says that Abu Lahab will perish. Abu Lahab could have pretended to become Muslim and then tell everyone: 'I am a Muslim now and look, the Quran says that I, a Muslim, will go to Hell.'

But Abu Lahab never said such a thing. After this surah was revealed, Abu Lahab was alive for twelve years, so he had plenty of time to think about such a trick, but he never did. This proves the truth of the Quran and of Allah's Plan and Power.



Exercise: Write answers in the boxes.

When was Surah Al Masad revealed?	
Why did the Prophet call the people to the hill?	
What did Abu Lahab try to do?	
What did Abu Lahab's wife do to the Prophet?	
Why is this surah one of the miracles of the Quran?	



Lesson 23: PROPHET YA'QUB



A prophet and loving parent who accepted what Allah chose for him and his family.

Prophet Ya'qub (Jacob) was the son of Prophet Ishaq and the grandson of Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihimus salaam. He lived in Palestine with a large family of twelve sons. Prophet Ya'qub was a good father, a leader and teacher of his family. This was an important job because his family became very large when his twelve sons had children of their own. It was important to teach them all about Allah and how to serve Him, so that they could also teach it to their families. These twelve sons and their families later became the Bani Israil (Twelve Tribes of Israel).

Prophet Ya'qub, 'Alaihis salaam, had a lot of patience. He loved his young son Yusuf (Joseph) very much and because of the mischief and jealousy of his older sons, one day Yusuf was lost. After this, he used to cry for his son every day. He cried so much that he lost his eyesight. But even though he was so upset, he never lost his trust and faith in Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. He constantly prayed to Him about it, and always believed that Allah would bring his son back to him one day. Many years later, Allah answered his prayer. Ya'qub found Yusuf again and Allah even gave him his eyesight back, through a special miracle.

Prophet Ya'qub was very concerned about what his family would believe and practice after he died. He said: "O my sons! Allah has chosen the deen (faith) for you, so do not die except as Muslims (in submission to Allah)."



Because of the things that happened to his son Yusuf, Prophet Ya'qub and his whole family went to live in the land of Egypt. The twelve tribes of the Bani Israil were in Egypt for around 500 years.

(**Sources** for this lesson: Quran Surah 2, Al Baqarah, Ayaat 132-133; Surah 12, Yusuf, Ayaat 84-86)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Prophet Ya'qub's father and grandfather were	
Three good qualities of Prophet Ya'qub's	
Prophet Ya'qub advised his children to	





Abundance

**In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.
Indeed We have given you Al Kawthar (Abundance)
So pray to your Lord and sacrifice
He who insults you is the one who will be cut off**



When we go through difficult times, it is important to turn to Allah to ask about the problem. We need to practice self control and patience and remember that everything happens as part of Allah's Will. Prophet Ya'qub, 'Alaihis salaam, had to go through great hardship in losing his son, and Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, also had to go through similar hardship with the death of his two sons. This surah was revealed after the tragedy of losing his son, and it gave Prophet Muhammad relief and peace of mind after his sadness.

Surah Al Kawthar is the shortest surah in the Quran, with just three ayaat. It was revealed in Makkah when the Prophet's son Qasim died. Abu Jahl, one of the enemies of Islam, was happy when that happened and he started to say that now Muhammad had no son, he was cut off - meaning that he will not have any heirs or successors.





Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, then revealed to Prophet Muhammad that He has given him Al Kawthar, a beautiful and abundant spring in Jannah (Paradise). The water of Al Kawthar is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey. The Prophet will give his followers a drink from Al Kawthar and after this drink no one will feel thirsty.

So, Allah asked the Prophet not to get stressed or sad about what other people said and to keep patient and concentrate on his mission. He reminded him to keep praying and making sacrifices and effort, because this is how to achieve success.



Allah told the Prophet that, rather than him being cut off or left without followers, in fact his insulters would be the ones who would be cut off. It happened that Abu Jahl died in the battle of Badr, the first battle that was fought between the Muslims and the unbelievers of Makkah. Others of the Prophet's insulters died in other battles they fought.

Later, many of the disbelievers who were left in Makkah became Muslims and followed the Prophet. This proved that Allah's Promise comes true. Even though our Beloved Prophet Muhammad didn't have sons, he has billions of followers in the world who love him and always remember him!



Exercise: Write the answers in the boxes.

After what event was Surah Al Kawthar revealed?	
What is Al Kawthar?	
How were the Prophet's insulters cut off?	
Who are the followers of Prophet Muhammad?	



Exercise: Discuss how you think Prophet Muhammad felt when he lost his son and was being insulted, and how he might have felt after this surah was revealed. How does it make us feel when we have difficulties in life but then we are given a sign and reminder that Allah is with us and loves us? Write your comment in the box.



Lesson 25: PROPHET YUSUF



A prophet who went through many difficult adventures but who remained patient and trusting in his Lord.

Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) was one of the sons of Prophet Ya'qub, 'Alaihimus salaam. He was the son that became lost for many years. Prophet Ya'qub was Prophet Ibrahim's grandson, from his son, Ishaq, 'Alaihimus salaam. Yusuf had eleven brothers and he was the second youngest of them.

When he was a boy, Yusuf dreamt that the sun, the moon and eleven planets were bowing to him. He told this to his father, who knew straight away that Yusuf would be a special child.

Yusuf was very handsome and good to his parents, but his older brothers were jealous of him. One day they thought of a plan to get rid of Yusuf. They said to their father:

"O father! Send Yusuf out with us tomorrow to enjoy himself and play. We will take good care of him."

Prophet Yaqub said: "Really, it makes me sad that you take him out. I am worried in case a wolf eats him up while you are not looking."



Still, the brothers took Yusuf along with them the next day. They threw him into a deep well and left him there. In the evening they went back home and cried to their father:

"O our father! We went racing with each other and left Yusuf looking after our things, and a wolf came and ate him up!"

Poor Prophet Ya'qub was very upset, but he did not really believe the brothers. "You have made up a story," he said. "I will be patient and ask for Allah's help."

Prophet Ya'qub had strong faith in Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, and felt that Allah would bring his son back one day. But he was still very sad. He cried and cried, until slowly he lost his eyesight and went blind.

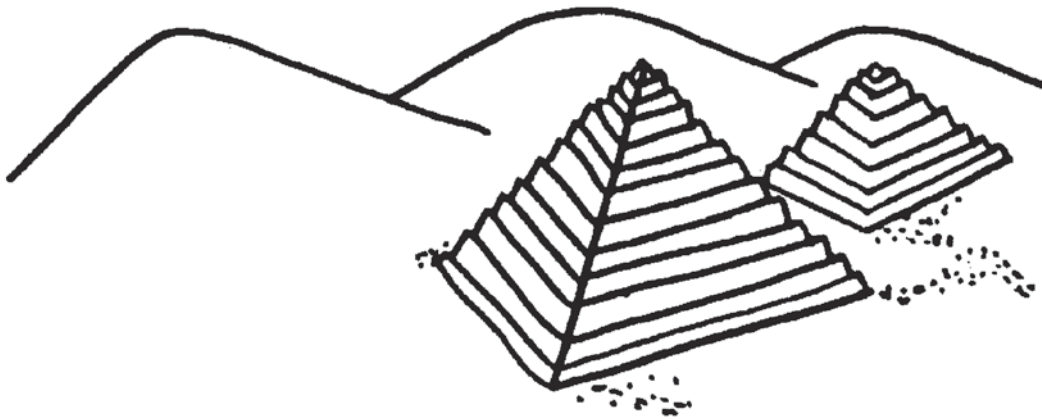




Yusuf sat alone and unhappy in the well, but Allah had a Plan for him and for his life. Soon a group of travellers came to the well and stopped to look for water. When they put their bucket down into the well, Yusuf held onto it and climbed out.

“Good news!” said the travellers. "Here is a young boy!" They decided to take him along with them, to sell in the market as a slave. And so it was that Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, sent Yusuf on a journey to start a new life in the land of Egypt.

PROPHET YUSUF IN THE LAND OF EGYPT



When they reached Egypt, the travellers sold Yusuf as a slave in the market place. The man who bought Yusuf liked the handsome young man and when he took him home, he said to his wife: “Maybe he will bring us much good, or we could adopt him as a son.”

Yusuf, ‘Alaihis salaam, also liked his master, and was happy in his new home. But as Yusuf grew up, he became so handsome that all the ladies in the city were amazed. They gave poor Yusuf a lot of trouble and even told lies about him.

The men of the city didn’t know what to do, but they finally decided that it could be a good idea to put Yusuf in prison for a while. Yusuf also said that he would be happy to go to prison, to get away from the ladies.



Yusuf spent years in prison. But he prayed to Allah and was constant and patient. During this time, Allah made him into a prophet and gave him the special skill of understanding the meaning of people’s dreams. In prison, Prophet Yusuf began to tell the people what their dreams meant. The other prisoners trusted him and believed what he said. When these people were ready to listen, Prophet Yusuf, ‘Alaihis salaam, told them about Allah and helped them change their lives and believe in Him.





Exercise: Write the answers in the boxes.



Why did Yusuf's brothers throw him into a well?	
How did Prophet Ya'qub show his trust in Allah to bring back Yusuf?	
What country did the travellers take Yusuf to?	
How did Allah help Yusuf when he got to the new country?	
What trial did Allah give Prophet Yusuf for a few years?	

PROPHET YUSUF AND THE KING'S DREAM

One day, the king of Egypt had a strange dream. He told his people: "I saw in a dream seven fat cows that were eaten up by seven thin cows, - and seven green corn cobs and seven dry, withered ones. Oh wise advisors, tell me what my dream means."

But his advisors could not think what the dream meant. Then one of the king's servants, who had been in prison, remembered Yusuf, 'Alaihis salaam. Prophet Yusuf was still in prison. The servant ran off to ask Yusuf about the meaning of the king's dream.

When the king heard how cleverly Yusuf, 'Alaihis salaam, had told about the meaning of the dream, he said: "Bring him to me! I will take him especially into my service."



And so, Prophet Yusuf was finally taken out of prison and given a high place of honour in the king's palace. The king made Yusuf in charge of all the food production in the land. Allah had given Prophet Yusuf a reward for all his years of suffering and patience. As Allah says in the Quran: "The reward of those who do good is never lost."

(**Sources** for this lesson: Quran Surah 12, Yusuf, Ayaat 4-57)

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from. (There is a lot more in the Quran about this story.)





Exercise: Answer the questions in the boxes.



What was Prophet Yusuf's special skill that Allah gave him?	
What did Prophet Yusuf teach the other people in prison?	
Describe the king's dream in your own words.	
How did Allah reward Yusuf for his years in prison and hardship?	

QURAN STORIES WORDFIND

I	B	R	A	H	I	M	A	Z	M	A	Z
S	A	A	N	U	H	A	I	D	R	I	S
M	R	J	M	D	Y	K	A	B	A	Z	J
A	A	A	M	W	A	K	I	N	G	Q	U
I	S	H	A	A	Q	A	N	G	E	L	S
L	E	M	A	C	U	H	A	J	J	D	R
R	Y	Q	U	R	B	A	N	I	L	H	T
I	P	A	L	E	S	T	I	N	E	U	A
D	D	R	E	A	M	S	Q	L	G	M	W
O	Q	I	S	H	F	U	S	U	Y	R	W
L	K	J	A	M	R	A	A	T	P	A	A
S	A	L	E	H	S	A	I	I	T	H	F

- | | | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|
| NUH | IDRIS | HUD | SALEH | IDOLS |
| CAMEL | IBRAHIM | ISMAIL | ISHAAQ | SARA |
| HAJAR | ANGELS | MAKKAH | ZAMZAM | KABA |
| HAJJ | QURBAN | UMRAH | JAMRAAT | LUT |
| SAII | TAWWAF | PALESTINE | EGYPT | IRAQ |
| YAQUB | YUSUF | DREAMS | | |





The Help

**In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate Most Merciful.
When the help of Allah comes and victory
And you see people enter
the religion of Allah in crowds
Then glorify and praise your Lord and ask for His forgiveness
Indeed He accepts repentance and forgives.**

سُورَةُ النَّاسِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ﴿١﴾ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ
يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ﴿٢﴾ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ
وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا ﴿٣﴾

Prophet Yusuf, ‘Alaihis salaam, remained patient with Allah’s decision for him to be taken into slavery and then to be in jail for years. After this, Allah opened the way for him to come out of jail and become a highly respected man in the Egyptian government. In a similar way, Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa salaam, remained patient during many years of hardship, where not many people listened to his message. Then suddenly after a long time, Allah opened the way for large numbers of people to listen to him and follow Islam.

Surah An Nasr was revealed during the Prophet’s last Hajj. At this time, many thousands of people were becoming Muslims, all around Arabia. Surah An Nasr is the last complete surah to be revealed of the Quran. All the revelations after this surah were ayaat from different surahs that had already begun to be revealed.





After this surah was revealed, Prophet Muhammad showed even greater humility in front of Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. He started to spend more of his time praying and asking Allah to forgive him. The surah reminds us that any situation can change when the help of Allah comes. When the help of Allah came to the first small Muslim community, lots of people start coming into the way of Allah and the small Muslim community started to gain strength.

We learn from other parts of the Quran that Allah's help comes to us when we trust in Allah fully and turn to Him completely. Allah's help is taken away when Muslims put their trust in other humans or in themselves, and when they stop making an effort to do the right thing by Allah. So it is important for us to have the right intentions for our actions (Niyah) and to follow all the teachings of Islam in the way the Prophet taught us.

We need to find out, through properly educated scholars, exactly what the right Islamic ways are. We can't always just follow our habits and customs without checking that they are right. If we do things wrongly or oppress groups of people in our families or societies, we will not get the help of Allah. Then we will remain weak and make it easy for our enemies to harm us.



We also learn in this surah that when the help of Allah comes, we should show our gratitude to Him by spending more time thanking and praising Him and asking Him for forgiveness, just like Prophet Muhammad did.



Exercise: Write the answers in the boxes.

When was Surah An Nasr revealed to Prophet Muhammad?	
For what situation did this surah give advice to our Prophet?	
What was the advice that Allah gave in this surah?	
How can Muslims of today get the help of Allah and become strong?	





A prophet who remained humble and thankful to Allah during his time of victory.

Prophet Yusuf, 'Alaihis salaam, became a very important man in Egypt. He was the keeper of the store-house where all the corn in the land was kept. Egypt had seven years where crops were so good that they had plenty of corn left over after everyone had eaten. Prophet Yusuf made sure that the extra corn was stored carefully for later years.

Then followed seven very hard years. There was no rain, and crops didn't grow. People didn't have enough to eat, and they came to the store-house to buy the corn that had been kept there. Even people from other lands travelled to Egypt to buy corn. Yusuf's own family also found these years very hard. Soon, they too had to travel to Egypt for food.

When Yusuf's brothers arrived in Egypt and came to him to beg for food, they didn't know he was their own brother! Yusuf decided he wouldn't tell them who he was for a while, and he would play a trick on them, to try to teach them about how Allah's Plan works in people's lives.

Prophet Yusuf, 'Alaihis salaam, had really missed his little brother, Binyamin (Benjamin), after being far away from home for so many years, so first of all he said to his brothers:

“Bring me a younger brother that you have (at home). If you don't bring him to me, then I won't give you any more corn (next time).”

Unknown to the brothers, Yusuf hid their money back in their bags with the corn, so that the brothers would have enough money to return and buy more corn later. When they got home, the brothers tried to convince their father to let them take Binyamin back to Egypt with them. Prophet Ya'qub, 'Alaihis salaam, said: “Shall I trust you with him and have the same thing happen as when I trusted you with his brother, the last time?”

He had not forgotten what they had done to Yusuf. But he also had firm faith in Allah. “Allah is the best One to take care of him,” he said, and finally he allowed Binyamin to go. But first he made the brothers promise to bring him back safely.





When the brothers arrived back in Egypt, Prophet Yusuf carried out the rest of his plan. He let them buy more corn and put it in bags on the backs of their camels. Then, secretly he hid a golden cup belonging to the king in one of Binyamin's bags.

When they were all about to leave, someone shouted: "Stop! You are thieves!" The brothers were surprised. "What have you lost?" they asked. "The king's drinking cup" the people said.



It was decided that if the king's cup was found in anyone's bag, that person would have to stay behind in Egypt as a prisoner. After searching, the cup was found in Binyamin's bag. The brothers remembered their promise to their father to bring Binyamin safely home, but now there was nothing they could do but go home without him!

When Prophet Ya'qub, 'Alaihis salaam, heard the story, he could not believe it. He was very unhappy to lose his second beloved son, but he kept firm faith in Allah. "I only complain to Allah about my troubles," he said. "Patience is best for me. Maybe Allah will bring them all back to me in the end." "O my sons!" he said to the older brothers, 'Go back and ask about Yusuf and his brother, and never give up hope of Allah's Mercy."

When the brothers went back to see Yusuf, (whom they still didn't recognize!), they begged him for some more food, even though they didn't have enough money. But instead, Prophet Yusuf said: "Remember what you did to Yusuf and his brother?"

Suddenly, the brothers realized. "Are YOU Yusuf?" they asked, even though they could hardly believe it!

"I am Yusuf" he said.

"Allah has indeed been very kind to us," he told his brothers.

"Listen, he who is good and patient, Allah will never let his reward be lost."

At that moment, the brothers understood how wrong they had been in the past, and how it had not stopped Allah from helping Yusuf, and from carrying out His Plan.

"Allah has indeed put you above us," they said to Yusuf. "And we certainly have been wrongdoers."

Everyone now realised what Prophet Yusuf's dream had meant when he was a young boy, and they knew that it had all been Allah's Plan all along.





When Prophet Yusuf could see that his brothers were truly sorry, he forgave them and reminded them that Allah can forgive all sins if we turn to Him.

“Go (home) with this shirt of mine,” he told his brothers, “and place it over the face of my father. He will be able to see clearly (again). Then come to me here with all your families (to live).”

While the brothers were returning home from Egypt, Prophet Ya’qub started to get a happy feeling. “Indeed,” he said to the people around him, “I sense the fragrance of Yusuf, though you might think I’m losing my mind...”

When the brothers returned home, they placed Yusuf’s shirt over their father’s face and he could suddenly see again, just like Yusuf had told them. Prophet Ya’qub said to his sons: “Didn’t I tell you that I know from Allah what you do not know?” All the sons begged him, “Oh father! Pray (to Allah) for forgiveness for our sins!”



After this, Prophet Ya’qub, his wife and all his sons and their families packed up their belongings and made the journey back to Egypt to live. Prophet Yusuf took his mother and father to live in his house with him. They all thanked Allah for the Kindness He had shown them and they were amazed at how great Allah’s Plan had been. Finally, they were all back together again as a happy family, after all their troubles.

The Twelve Tribes of the Bani Israil are descended from Prophet Ya’qub and all his twelve sons. Many prophets came from among this big tribe. We will learn about some of these prophets in Book 8.

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 12, Yusuf, Ayaat 58-101)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Prophet Yusuf worked for the king as the	
His job was important at that time because	
Prophet Yusuf didn’t tell his brothers who he was because	





Exercise: Write the answers in the boxes.

How did Prophet Ya'qub show that he still trusted in Allah?	
What does this story teach about Allah's Plan?	
How was Prophet Ya'qub rewarded for his trust in Allah's Plan?	
How was Prophet Yusuf rewarded for his patience with Allah's Plan?	
Why did Prophet Yusuf choose to forgive his older brothers?	



Exercise: Prophet Yusuf went through many misfortunes - thrown into a well, falsely accused, thrown into jail and forgotten there for years. But he never lost hope or got angry with his Qadr (Allah's choice in his life). Discuss how you think Yusuf might have felt through each of the events in his life, and how his faith in Allah might have helped him. Write a comment in the box.



Exercise: Tell a partner about a time when someone tried to encourage you to do something wrong in a group - like Yusuf's older brothers did to each other - but you didn't do it and you stuck to your beliefs.

Suggested Extra Activity: Read the ayaat in the Quran that this story came from.



Lesson 28: PROPHET SHU'AIB



Prophet Shu'aib (Jethro), 'Alaihis salaam, lived in ancient Madyan, which is probably around northern Saudi Arabia and southern Jordan. Some historians say he was a descendant of Prophet Lut or Prophet Ibrahim, 'Alaihimus salaam. His people were the Ashabul Aykah, the Companions of the Wood.

Prophet Shu'aib said to his people: "I am a trustworthy Messenger, so fear Allah and listen to me. I do not ask for any reward from you. My reward is only from the Lord of the Worlds."

Shu'aib's people did not listen to him. Some of the worst things they did, apart from idol worship, was cheat people when they did business or trade, lie to people about the products they sold, and rob people when they travelled on the roads.

Prophet Shu'aib said to them:

"Give correct measure and do not cause loss (to others by fraud). And weigh with the scales straight and correctly. And do not withhold what rightfully belongs to people, and don't do evil in the land, creating mischief after the earth has been set in order. And fear Him Who created you and the generations before you."



He also warned them, "Do not squat on every road, breathing threats, stopping people from the way of Allah and trying to make things crooked. Remember how you were small and He gave you increase. And see what was the end of those (other people in history) who did mischief."

Prophet Shuaib, 'Alaihis salaam, tried to explain to the people that they did not need to cheat others to get enough wealth to live comfortably. He showed them the example of himself. He was not a rich man but Allah had given him food, comforts and a contented life. "My success can only come from Allah," he told them. "In Him I trust and to Him I look."

But his people mocked him, and said:

"You are just bewitched. You are nothing more than a person like us, and truly we think you are a liar. (Why don't you) cause a piece of the sky to fall on us now, if you are telling the truth? O Shu'aib! We will certainly drive you out of our city, and those who believe the same as you. Or else you all will have to return to our ways."





But Prophet Shu'aib said, "What! We detest (your evil ways). We would be making a lie against Allah if we returned to your ways after He rescued us from them. My Lord knows best what you do. We put all our trust in Allah."

Prophet Shu'aib, 'Alaihis salaam, did his best to keep counselling the people but finally he knew that the matter was entirely in Allah's hands. "O our Lord," he prayed, "Decide between us and our people in truth. You are the best to decide."

One day, the dark punishment from Allah came. An earthquake took them by surprise at night. In the morning, they were all lying dead in their homes. Prophet Shu'aib and those who believed with him were saved, but the rest of the Ashabul Aykah were completely destroyed, as if they had never existed.



(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 7, Al A'raaf, Ayaat 85-93; Surah 11, Hud, Ayaat 84-95; Surah 26, Ash Shu'araa Ayaat 176-191)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Prophet Shu'aib came to the people of	
One evil thing the people did was	
Another evil thing the people did was	
An example from modern life of ways people cheat each another is	
The action that the people tried to force Shu'aib to do, that would have been a lie against Allah, was	



Exercise: Prophet Shu'aib did his best to counsel his people but, no matter how hard he tried, they didn't change their ways. In the end, he knew that the matter was in Allah's hands. Discuss how we need to balance keeping trying our best in life with understanding that Allah is in control and He knows best. Think of examples that you or your family have experienced. Write a comment in the box.



Lesson 29: PROPHET AYUB



Prophet Ayub (Job), 'Alaihis salaam, was a prophet who had many difficulties in his life, but he never gave up being a devoted servant of Allah. Prophet Ayub was most likely a descendant of both Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Lut, 'Alaihimus salaam. He was a prophet to the people living in the north east of Arabia, maybe around Oman.

Prophet Ayub worked hard to teach his people about Allah. Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, gave him lots of children, a large farm and a lot of cattle and sheep.

But later, Prophet Ayub suffered a lot. His cattle were destroyed. His servants were killed, and his children were crushed to death. His skin became covered with nasty sores. All his people rejected him because of his misfortunes. No one cared for him except his wife.

Prophet Ayub did not lose faith in Allah. He kept on praying to Him, and thanking Him and praising Him. Allah tells us that Prophet Ayub was full of patience and kept on serving Allah, through all his troubles.

Prophet Ayub, Alaihis salaam, asked for Allah's help by praying to Him: "Truly distress has seized me. But You are the Most Merciful of those who show mercy."

After some time, Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, decided to remove all of Prophet Ayub's problems. Allah made a fresh spring flow from where Ayub was lying. Prophet Ayub took a bath in the spring and his disease was cured. Then Allah made him able to get back his farm and twice as many cattle as he had before. Allah gave him and his wife more children and many grandchildren.





Allah tells us that Prophet Ayub was an excellent Prophet who always turned to Allah for his needs. Allah says in the Quran:

"Truly We found him full of patience and constancy, how excellent in Our service! He always turned to Us!"

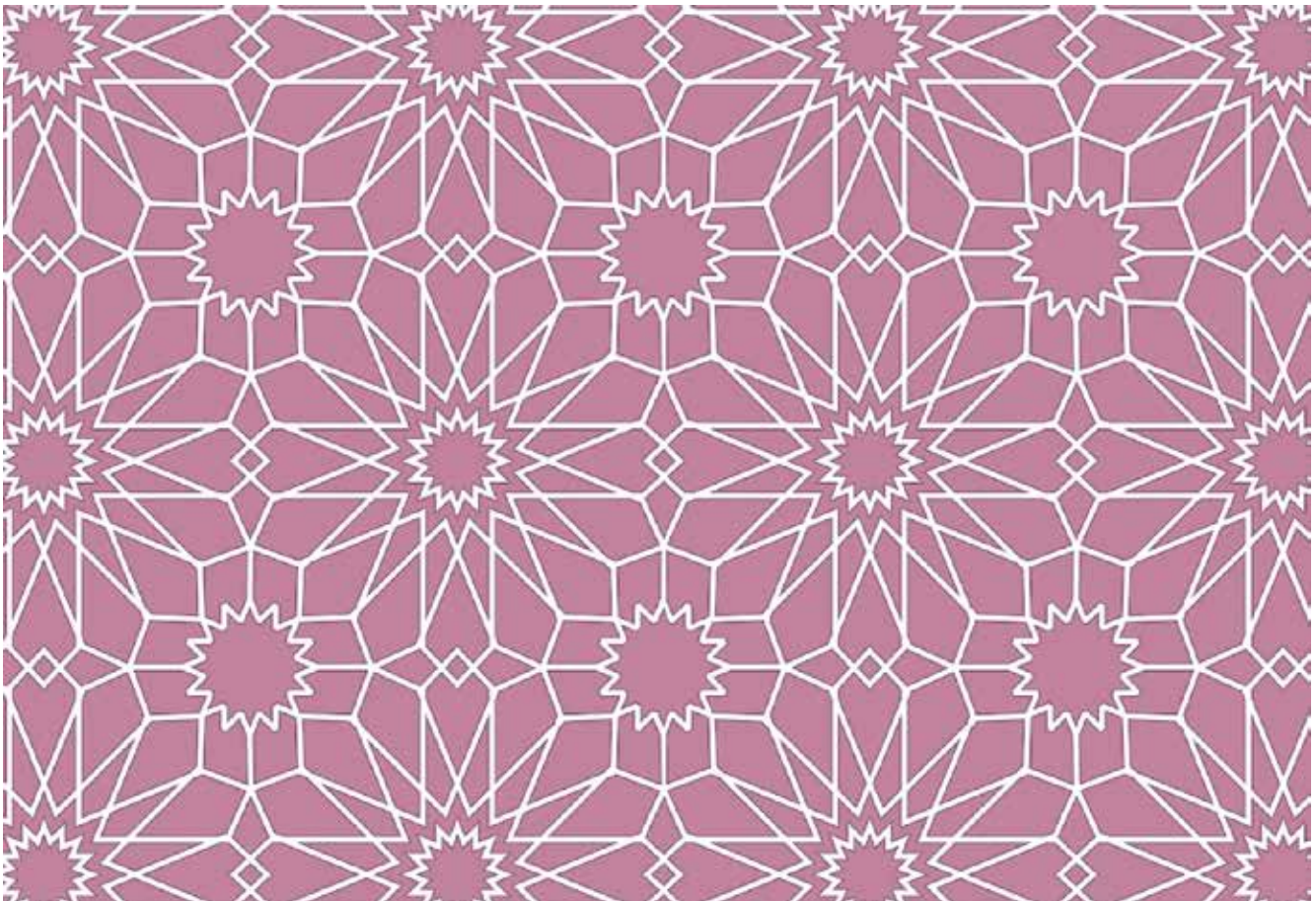
(Quran Surah 38, Ayah 44)

(Sources for this lesson: Quran Surah 21, Al Anbiya, Ayaat 83-84; Surah 38, Saad, Ayaat 41-44)



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

Three hardships that Allah tested Prophet Ayub with were	
Three things that Prophet Ayub did while he was having difficulties were	
Allah cured Prophet Ayub's illness by	



Lesson 30: ADVICE OF LUQMAN TO HIS SON



In Surah Luqman (Surah 31), there is the advice of a good man named Luqman, to his son. Although most scholars don't think he was a prophet, his advice to his son is important. Here is Luqman's advice, in Surah Luqman, Ayaat 13-19:

Ayah 13: And when Luqmân said to his son, while advising him, “O my dear son! Do not join in worship (anything) with Allah. False worship is truly the worst wrong-doing.”

Ayah 14: And We (God) have commanded people to be good to their parents. Their mothers bore them through hardship upon hardship, and their weaning takes two years. So be grateful to Me (God) and your parents. To Me is the final return.

Ayah 15: But if they (parents) pressure you to join in worship with Me (God) what you have no knowledge of, do not obey them. Still, keep their company in this world courteously, and follow the way of those who turn to Me in love. Then to Me you will all return, and then I will inform you of what you used to do.

Ayah 16: (Luqmân said) “O my dear son! Even if a deed was the weight of a mustard seed, and it was (hidden) in a rock or in the heavens or the earth, Allah will bring it out (to show it). Allah understands the finest mysteries (and) is All-Aware.”

Ayah 17: “O my dear son! Establish regular prayer, encourage what is good and forbid what is wrong, and endure patiently whatever befalls you. This is firmness (of purpose) in (life's) affairs.”

Ayah 18: “And do not turn your nose up at people, nor walk arrogantly upon the earth. Truly Allah does not love the arrogant boaster.”

Ayah 19: “Be moderate in your pace. And lower your voice; certainly, the ugliest of sounds is the braying of the donkey.”



To focus on how to live good, well rounded lives, we can think about two kinds of rights to honour. Luqman's advice includes both types of rights:

1. The rights of Allah (Huqooq-ullah), and
2. The rights of other people (Huqooq-ul 'Ibaad)



Exercise: Discuss the meanings of the points in Luqman's advice to his son. Choose two different highlighter pens and highlight parts of the verses with Huqooq-ullah in one colour and the Huqooq-ul 'Ibaad in the other colour.



Lesson 31: MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS



In the last lesson, the advice of Luqman showed two kinds of honouring. The first is the rights of Allah (Huqooq-ullah) and how we should show our love and gratitude to Him. The second is the rights of other people, especially other Muslims (Huqooq-ul 'Ibaad). The first people who have the right to our good treatment, gratitude and love are our parents (Huqooq-ul waalidayn). Then after this, our families and others in general, especially people we meet every day.

Muslims talk about Brotherhood and Sisterhood. It means having love for others and honouring them. It means not treating others harshly or arrogantly. It means not harming them, or taking away their rights or possessions, or being unjust to them in any way. It means dealing with each other on a daily basis with nice Adab (Islamic manners), courtesy and politeness.



Our love for Allah should extend to having love for our Muslim brothers and sisters, for His sake. The feeling of unity between Muslims should be strong. If we ignore this part of faith, we will start to feel as if being with other Muslims is not important, and slowly the Muslim Ummah (community) will become weak.

Prophet Muhammad, SallAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam, is reported to have said, "The believers are like a wall whose bricks are fitted tightly together; each one of them supports another." (Source: Bukhari 481)

The first and most simple thing that Muslims can do for each another is to say "Assalamu'alaikum" (Peace be upon you) when they meet. This is so easy and it is a big part of a strong brotherhood or sisterhood. It is also important to reply when someone says salaam to us. The Quran tells us to reply with the same words or better (Quran, Surah 4, Ayah 86). We should say:



"Wa 'alaikum assalaam" (and peace be upon you) or
"Wa'alaikum assalaam wa rahmatullahi wa barakaatuh"
(and peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah, and His blessings).

A person walking should say Salaam to a person who is standing or sitting. A younger person should say it to an older person. A person walking into a house or a room should say it to those inside. If we greet others with a smile as well, it can be counted as Sadaqah (charity).





In any situation, we should hurry to be the first to say salaam. It is not nice Adab (Islamic manners) to be proud or shy and wait for others to say it first.

Muslim brothers and sisters should try to help each other. This does not mean being nosy and asking a lot of questions, or spying or gossiping about each other, because these are negative things that will not be helpful or improve relationships.



Helping can be as simple as asking if they are well, how are their family, or going to visit them or ringing them sometimes, especially if we have not seen them at the mosque lately, for example. Maybe they are sick and nobody knows. Maybe they have a problem that we can help them to fix. Maybe they are lonely and need someone to talk to.

If we are going to help our Muslim brothers and sisters by being good friends to them, then it is important to be trustworthy. If we promise to do something for them, we should stick to it. This is how to build trust in our Muslim communities. If they tell us a secret, we should keep it (unless it is a serious crime). Again, if we fail in that, they won't trust us anymore, and we might cause a lot of trouble by telling the secret to others.

We should not talk about other community members behind their backs, or tease them in hurtful ways or pick quarrels with them. If they quarrel with us, we should be quick to forgive them and pray for their forgiveness with Allah. We should not take advantage of other community members by expecting favours from them, or borrowing things but not respecting them enough to give their things back. We should also be cheerful when we are with others, and not burden them by complaining about our problems.



Exchanging gifts is a good way to increase the feelings of brotherhood and sisterhood. If a Muslim brother or sister does something wrong, if we get the chance, we can gently remind them of a better way, without being harsh or dishonouring them. After reminding them politely one time, we should keep quiet and not nag them because nagging and criticising can backfire and turn them away from good actions. Last but not least, we should never criticise or shame a Muslim brother or sister in public. Instead, we should find a way to talk to them in private about a wrong action. Or we can think of another way of showing them what the correct action is.





This all means that we should truly wish good for other Muslims, not just pretend to like them while secretly envying them and not wishing them well. All the things we already know about being a good friend are important in communities too. Muslims should love each other for the sake of Allah, and pray for each other often.

Here is more advice about Islamic Brotherhood and Sisterhood from our Beloved Prophet Muhammad, SallAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam:

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, “A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. He does not abuse him or abandon him. Whoever helps his brother, Allah will help him. If anyone relieves his brother’s distress, Allah will relieve him of some of his distress on the Day of Resurrection. And if anyone covers (the faults of) a Muslim, Allah will cover him on the Day of Resurrection.”

(**Source:** Bukhari 2442)



The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, “Whoever visits a sick person or a brother of theirs, to seek the pleasure of Allah, an announcer (angel) calls out: “May you be happy, may your walking be blessed, and may you be awarded a dignified position in Jannah.”

(**Source:** Tirmidhi (Riyadh us Saaliheen))

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, “The rights of a Muslim over his brother are five: he should return his salaam, visit the sick, attend funerals, accept invitations, and bless a person when he sneezes.”

(**Source:** Bukhari and Muslim)

The Prophet is reported to have said, “O you who have faith with their tongues but faith hasn’t entered their hearts. Do not backbite the Muslims or look for their faults. Whoever seeks their faults, Allah will seek his faults. And if Allah seeks his faults, He will expose him even in the privacy of his own house.” (**Source:** Abu Dāwūd 4880)

The Prophet is reported to have said, “Do not rejoice over the misfortune of your brother, on case Allah has mercy on him and afflicts you with trials.”

(**Source:** Tirmidhī 2506)

The Prophet is reported to have said, “Whoever defends the reputation of his brother, Allah will defend his face from the Hellfire on the Day of Resurrection.” (**Source:** Tirmidhī 1931)

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, “If you are three, two of you should not talk privately and exclude the other, until more people join you, because that will make him sad.” (**Source:** Bukhari and Muslim)





The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, “Do not think little of any good deed, even if it is just meeting your brother with a cheerful face.” (Source: Muslim (Riyadh us Saaliheen))



Exercise: Complete the sentences in the boxes.

When Muslims meet, they should greet with	
It is Sunnah for a person to say Salaam first when	
Muslim brothers and sisters should love each other for the sake	
If we haven't seen a Muslim brother or sister for a while we can	
The most important feeling for Muslims to feel about each other is	
An example of being trustworthy is to	
An example of doing something good for other Muslims is	
An example of something we should not do to other Muslims is	



Exercise: Choose 4 of the Hadiths (sayings of the Prophet) above and write a sentence to summarise it. “The Messenger of Allah taught that:”



Exercise: One of the Hadiths above talks about the 5 rights of a Muslim over his Muslim brother or sister. List the 5 rights here:



Lesson 32: THE MOSQUE COMMUNITY



One way that loving each other for the sake of Allah can be increased is to build a strong mosque community. The mosque or masjid is an important focal point for Muslims to meet together to pray and talk.

The extra rooms in mosques, like libraries, classrooms, meeting areas and play rooms, can be good places for community activities.

The mosque is a place Muslims can visit every day, up to five times if they can manage it. Every Muslim man must go to the Friday Jum'ah prayer each week and women are encouraged to go too.

Mosques usually have classes where children and adults can learn about Islam.



Mosques need to be peaceful places where anyone can come and sit and relax and be reminded of Allah. Mosques also need to be welcoming places where anyone can enter without fear of being judged or criticised by others.



In the masjid, people spend their time in Salah, reading Quran and doing other kinds of dhikr (remembrance of Allah). If the mosque has a library, people can also spend time reading and learning. In many Muslim countries, mosques have Madrasahs (schools of learning) or universities attached to them.

In the days of our Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, the mosque was even more the focus of daily life. Everything, from important meetings to lectures and community announcements and hosting guests from different countries, all happened in the masjid. Many mosques are still used like this today.

No-one should set up a money-making business inside a mosque (this is forbidden in the Quran), but apart from this, the masjid can be used for many good community purposes.





Because the mosque is such an important place for Muslims, it is a special Sadaqah (charity) to support the building and maintaining of mosques. The mosque is owned by the community and not by any individuals. It is everyone's right to use it, and everyone's duty to look after it. The Quran says:

The mosques of Allah shall be visited and maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, establish regular prayers, and practise regular charity, and fear none except Allah. It is they who are expected to be on true guidance.

(Quran, Surah 9, At Tawbah, Ayah 18)



Both men and women have the right to visit the mosque. There are a number of Hadiths about this. For example:

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said, "When the wife of one of you seeks permission to go to the mosque, do not prevent her."

(Source: Bukhari and Muslim, reported by Ibn Omar (Sahih))

In western countries, many new mosques are being established. They are often called Islamic centres because they are used as community centres as well as for prayers. These centres are important for Muslims living in western countries because it is where they will meet their brothers and sisters in faith. Sometimes in a western country, if we do not visit the mosque or Islamic centre, we might not see other Muslims for many days! This is a different and strange experience for people who have migrated from a country where Muslims are all around them all the time.

If we do not mix with our Muslim brothers and sisters, we can be in danger of being the 'lone sheep' that the Shaitan 'picks off' and leads away from Islam. Especially in a non-Muslim country, it is easy to forget about the teachings of Islam if we are not reminded. Sometimes, just meeting another Muslim is enough to remind us and bring our hearts back to Allah.

In most places around us, there is encouragement to do many things that fill our time; screens and gaming, shopping, parties and much more. But when we meet other Muslims, there is a chance that Allah's Name will be mentioned and that we will be reminded of Him.





If we stay away from the mosque, we can be in danger of having no Muslim friends and it might be easy to drift away from Islamic habits. This might not be so bad for people who grew up in Muslim countries, who can remember what it was like to live an Islamic lifestyle, but what about their children? How will their children understand what it is like to be Muslim, if they are growing up in a non-Muslim country?

If Muslim men try to stop their wives and daughters from visiting the mosque, like the customs of their old countries, women and girls might drift away from the love of Islam and Allah. Islam teaches about which actions will cause the 'lesser harm' in any situation. When we live in a non-Muslim country, the action that will always cause the 'lesser harm' is for every Muslim, male and female, to stick closely to the mosque.



Parents might be able to make their children follow customs from their old countries, but it will be hard to link those customs to the heart of Islam, without their children being connected to other Muslim children. If they don't connect to the mosque, after maybe one or two generations, people would start to only be Muslims 'by name', and this would be a disaster for the Muslim Ummah (Muslim world community).



The beauty of going to the masjid is that, as well as getting multiplied rewards for praying in Jama'ah (all together), we can also satisfy our need to meet people and talk and make friends. These friendships will be stronger because of the bonds that we naturally feel between Muslim brothers or sisters. The mosque is an important place to put into practice all the advice about how to treat our Muslim brothers and sisters, to build a strong community.

When people see each other every day or every few days, they naturally notice each other's health and mood. They listen to each other's troubles and offer help or advice. If someone stops coming to the mosque, others notice and will message or visit them to see if they are alright. This is not being nosy, as long as we use good Adab (manners and courtesy). It is how Muslims take care of each another.





Some Hadiths about going to the masjid are below:

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said,
 “Salah in congregation is 27 times greater than Salah alone.”

(**Source:** Bukhari 649)

Abu Sha’tha reported that a man came out of the mosque after Adhan was called. Abu Hurairah said, “As for him, he has indeed disobeyed Abul Qasim.” (The Prophet)

(**Source:** Muslim 655)

The Messenger of Allah is reported to have said,
 “He who purifies himself (with wudu) in his house and then walks to one of the houses of Allah (mosques) for performing fard salah, one of his steps will wipe out his sins and another step will raise his rank (in Jannah).

(**Source:** Muslim, Riyadh us Saliheen 1054)



Exercise: Write answers in the boxes.

What is the minimum number of times per week for a male to visit the masjid?	
How many times a day could a person visit the masjid?	
What is a madrasah?	
What activities can take place in a mosque?	
How do people take care of each other in a mosque?	
Why is it praiseworthy to support the mosque by giving Sadaqah?	
Whose job is it to look after a mosque?	
Why is it important for men, women and children to visit the mosque regularly?	



Lesson 33: THE WELCOMING MOSQUE



A mosque should be a welcoming place for everyone, including non-Muslims. Of course, no prayers should be allowed in the mosque except prayers to Allah (Quran 72:18) but this doesn't mean we shouldn't welcome anyone into the mosque for a visit. This has always been the case, right from our Prophet's time.

Muslims should understand that the mosque is often the first place a non-Muslim might visit if they are interested in Islam. Who they meet there and how they are treated could have a big impact on their faith decision. How terrible it would be if someone came to the mosque and was treated rudely, and then they never came back! How would the Muslims explain this to Allah on Judgement Day?

Non-Muslims are not allowed to visit Masjid ul Haram in Makkah because Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, made it a rule in the Quran. But ordinary mosques around the world do not have these rules.
(Quran Surah 9, At Tawbah, Ayah 28)

If we visit our mosque often and take care of it, we can easily feel as if it is ours. We might react badly if someone new comes and does something inappropriate in the masjid. But a person who is visiting for the first time (Muslims or non-Muslims) might not know how to behave and might make some mistakes. For example, they might forget to take off their shoes or they might wear the wrong clothes or walk in front of someone praying. This is because they are new and they have not learnt these rules.

We should remind ourselves to be kind to new people. We should greet them nicely and make them feel welcome. We should not mention their mistakes because they might feel embarrassed and not come back another time. People are sensible and they learn from watching. Most of the time, we don't have to tell people the right way to behave because they will learn it naturally, as they start making a habit of attending the masjid.

We should remember that Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, watches our behaviour and we should think of the other person, not of ourselves. We should be conscious of the possibility that Allah might have sent that person to the mosque for a reason. We should never become the person that Allah could blame for chasing the person away!

Our Prophet, Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, understood this very well. He was always thinking of how a new person would feel, and hoping that something would encourage them to turn to Allah. This hadith shows just how understanding he was:





Abu Hurairah, RadhiAllahu ‘anhu, may Allah be pleased with him, said:

“A Bedouin urinated in the mosque and the people got up to sort him out (they were very angry)! But the Prophet said, ‘Leave him alone, let him finish and then throw a bucket of water over the urine, for you have been raised to be easy on the people, not hard on them.’”

(Source: Bukhari 6128)



Exercise: Write the answers in the boxes.

Who owns a mosque?	
Who can visit a mosque?	
What might a new person visiting the masjid be feeling in their hearts?	
How should we treat new people at the mosque?	
What should we not do to new people at the mosque?	
What does the hadith about the Bedouin urinating in the mosque show us about Prophet Muhammad?	



Exercise: Discuss some of the topics below as a group, then write your comments in the box.

1. Why it is especially important for Muslims to go regularly to mosques and Islamic centres, especially in non-Muslim countries?
2. How does good attendance at the mosque build a strong Muslim community?
3. What does the metaphor of the isolated Muslim being a lone sheep to be picked off by the Shaitan mean?
4. What is the ‘lesser harm’ when choosing to either follow the customs of some other countries, or encourage women to come to the mosque?





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