

It's **All** About Islam



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Yahiya Emerick

On the 'Asr Salah

The Prophet ﷺ once remarked, "Whoever misses their 'Asr prayer (frequently) makes all his or her good deeds become worthless." (Bukhari)

عن بريدة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ: «من ترك صلاة العصر فقد حبط عمله». رواه البخاري

From The Prophet:

The Blessed Prophet ﷺ asked some people, "If there was a river at your door and you bathed in it five times a day, would there be any dirt left on you?" The people nearby said, "No."

Then the Prophet ﷺ said, "This is like the five daily prayers which Allah uses to clean out bad deeds." (Bukhari, Muslim)

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أنه سمع رسول الله ﷺ يقول: «أرأيتم لو أن نهرا بآب أحدكم يغتسل فيه كل يوم خمسًا ما تقرول لل يبقى من درنه قالوا لا بقي من درنه شيئا قال فذلك مثل الصلوات الخمس يحو الله به الغالب». رواه البخاري ومسلم

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1. How do the Five Pillars of Islam protect us from Shaytan?
2. What is the name of each of the Five Pillars? What does each mean?
3. What does each part of the Shahadah teach us?
4. Why do you think Muslims are asked to pray so many times in a day? What could be the purpose, if you had to think of a reason?



WHAT TO LEARN

Before you go skating, you tie up your laces. Before going for a bike ride, you check the air in your tires. Why do you always make sure you're prepared before doing something?



VOCABULARY

Emaan

Wudu'

Niyyah



THINK ABOUT IT

Before we pray we make sure we have prepared our bodies to present ourselves to Allah ﷻ.



A boy in salah.

A. What is the Importance of Salah?

When we perform our five daily prayers, we're not just doing stretching exercises or aerobics. We don't stand up for prayer simply because we want something to do, either. We stand up for prayer to Allah ﷻ because Allah ﷻ told us to.

And be steadfast in Salah (prayer) and give Zakah. Whatever good you send forth for yourselves, you will find it with Allah. Certainly, Allah is watchful of what you do. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:110

﴿وَأَقِمْوْا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا
لَأَنْفُسِكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ جَدُّوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا
تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ﴾ سورة البقرة 2: 110

When we perform salah, we are standing before Allah ﷻ. Although we can't see Allah ﷻ, He can see us. We need to take our salah seriously, because if we don't, then we are not keeping our hearts pure and free from evil thoughts.

Our **Emaan** إيمان **Belief** in Allah ﷻ must be sincere and our salah must be performed well. By concentrating on offering our salah well, we show that our emaan is true and sincere. We defeat Shaytan completely. When we pray the right way, then our emaan increases even more, making us come closer to our Creator!

Salah is such an important part of our lives that we don't want to neglect it or waste it. As you learned before, by offering salah, our sins are forgiven, as if we were washing dirt from our bodies. The salah is not just a mere exercise, but it's one of the most important things we will ever need in this life.

B. Preparing for Salah

When it is time for salah, there are several things we must do to prepare for it. The Blessed Prophet ﷺ once said, To offer the prayer in the first hour is to please Allah. To offer it in late hours is to ask Allah's forgiveness. (Tirmidhi)

قال رسول الله : «الوقت الأول من الصلاة رضوان الله والوقت الآخر عفو الله» رواه الترمذي

To give you an idea of why it is important to prepare for salah, imagine that you are going to meet the leader of your country. Would you go in your pajamas or with a bad smell? You would never do that, because it is not appropriate!

Well, can you imagine presenting yourself to Allah ﷻ, the One Who is more powerful than all the leaders of the world combined, while you are not properly dressed or clean?

Allah ﷻ said in the Qur'an, O Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink: But waste not by excess, for Allah loveth not the wasters. Surat Al 'Araaf (The Heights) 7:31

﴿يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ﴾ سورة الأعراف 31:7

For a male, his body must be covered from his belly to below his knees. Then he should wear a shirt that covers up his upper body.

Females are also required to cover their bodies in prayer. The entire body must be covered from the neck to the ankles and the arms down to the wrists. In addition, they must cover their hair.

We are permitted to pray with our shoes on. We may also choose to take them off to keep the place where we pray clean. Wearing socks is allowed for prayer, as long as they are clean.

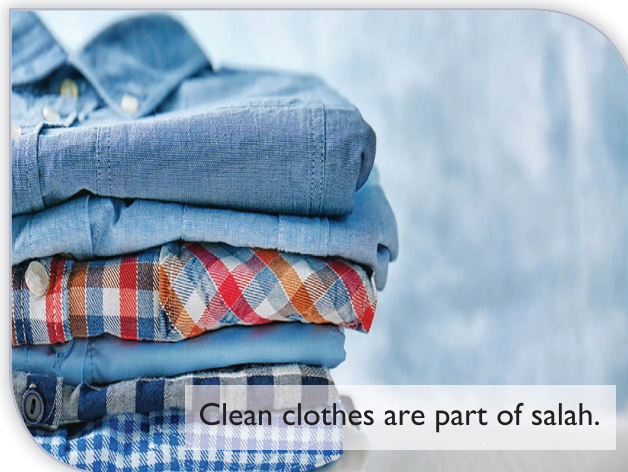
Our dress is one of the two major parts of preparation for salah. What is the other part? As you will soon see, it's an even more important part of preparing to present ourselves before our Creator.

C. Getting Clean For Prayer

What would you do if a person came to shake your hand and their hand was full of dirt? Would you shake it? Probably not. You would expect them to wash their hands first. Only if the person coming to you was clean would you accept their greetings.

As in our example before, would you see the leader of a country with a dirty face and stinky body? You would not. So also, we should wash ourselves before standing before Allah ﷻ and presenting ourselves for prayer.

How do we wash ourselves for prayer? There is a ritual called **Wudu'** **Ablution**, of washing up for prayer. It is a simple thing to do and only takes a few minutes to perform. When we have our wudu', we are clean for prayer.



Clean clothes are part of salah.

Allah ﷻ will not accept our prayer, unless we are purified in this way.

The Blessed Prophet ﷺ once said, A person who doesn't keep his promises has no emaan. And a person has no prayer if he is dirty and whoever doesn't offer their prayer has no (Islamic) way of life. The importance of prayer in this way of life is the same as the head to a body. (Tabarani, narrated in Al Awsat)

قال رسول الله ﷺ: «لا إيمان لمن لا أمانة له، ولا صلاة لمن لا طهور له، ولا دين لمن لا صلاة له، وموضع الصلاة من الدين كموضع الرأس من الجسد» رواه الطبراني في الأوسط

The Blessed Prophet ﷺ also said, The key to salah is being clean. (Ahmad)

قال رسول الله ﷺ: «مفتاح الصلاة الطهور» رواه أحمد
Can you memorize those two hadiths in English and Arabic?

We are required to repeat wudu' for salah if any one of the following things happens:

1. Using the bathroom (discharge of urine or stool)
2. Passing gas
3. Deep sleep
4. Unconsciousness (fainting) or losing one's mind (such as madness)

If you made wudu' and none of the above happened, you can continue to offer all of your prayers until one of those things occur.

D. How Do I Make Wudu'?

Making wudu' is easy. All you need is clean water! Before you begin, it is a good idea to make your **Niyah** نية **Intention**. This means that you are going

to settle in your mind what you're doing before you begin. You can say silently to yourself, نويت الوضوء, which means, **I intend to make wudu'.**

This is important because the Blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, Actions will be judged by your intentions. (Bukhari)

عن رسول الله ﷺ: «إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ» رواه البخاري

So your wudu' will count if you intended to make it. What if you were watching television and while the show was going on, you ran to make your wudu', but the whole time you were still thinking of the action on TV? You never settled in your mind what you were doing and thus might have even made mistakes.

Therefore, make the proper niyyah, or intention for everything you do.

To continue with your wudu' procedure say Basmala, بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ "Which means, "In the name of Allah, most gracious and merciful" The Prophet ﷺ advised us to start all things by saying this.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



"Water makes everything pure."
So said Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. (Dawud)

Believers! When you are about to offer your prayers, wash your faces and hands up to the elbows and wipe your heads and feet up to the ankles.

Surat Al Ma'ida (The Table) 5:6

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا
وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا
بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ ﴿٥﴾ سورة المائدة 5: 7

The steps of Wudu' are listed below as follows:

1. After making niyyah and saying the Basmala, begin by washing the right hand three times to the wrist. Then wash the left hand three times to the wrist.

3. Sniff water up and out of the nose three times with the right hand.



4. Take water into both hands and gently wash it over the entire face. Try not to splash all over the place. The Prophet ﷺ once warned us against wasting water even if making wudu' near a river. Every part of the face must be wet from under the chin to the forehead.

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2. Take water into the mouth with the right hand three times. Each time swish the water around and ensure you rinse your mouth thoroughly. Use your right index finger to rub the teeth and gums.



5. Next, wash the right arm up to the elbow three times and then the left arm three times.



6. Wet the palms with water and wipe them from the forehead to the back of the head. Then run your hands back up to the front of your head.



7. Use your index fingers and thumbs to rub the ears clean.



8. Wash both feet with the left hand up to the ankle three times. Start with the right foot.



9. Say this phrase:

أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن
محمدًا عبده ورسوله.

It means: I declare that there is no god but Allah; One, with no partners, and I declare that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

I say this phrase:

اللهم اجعلني من التوابين واجعلني من المتطهرين.

It means: Allah, make me among the repentant and make me among the clean.

Now you're ready to make your Salah!



1. Why should we consider our salah important?
2. How should we dress for prayers?
3. What are the four things that break our wudu'?
4. How does doing wudu' change our mental state or prepare us better for the prayers we will do?

The salah procedure is a simple one to learn. It consists of a set of movements while reciting certain phrases. Each of the five daily prayers is said in a similar way. The only difference between them is that some have more sets than others. We say our prayers in Arabic because this is how Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us to say them. He even taught people who were not fluent in Arabic to say their prayers in Arabic. This helps to make all Muslims united in the world and keeps us connected to the original language Allah ﷻ used for His last revelation to the world. As you learn how to pray, keep in mind that this is a serious act and is not to be taken lightly. During salah you are presenting yourself to Allah ﷻ.



A. Where Do I Pray?

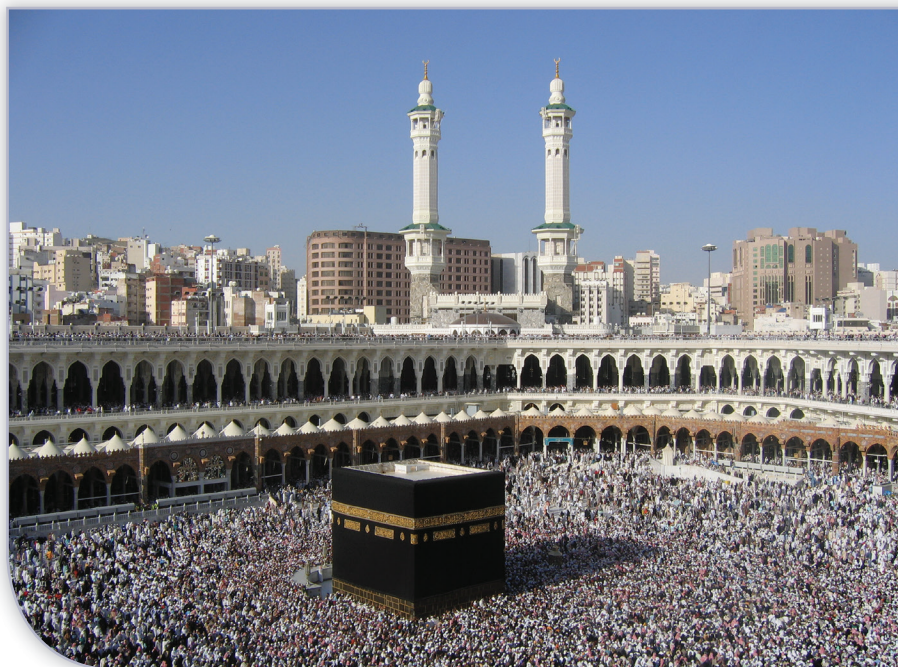
The Blessed Prophet ﷺ taught us that the entire world is our **Masjid** مسجد. Often, Muslims will go to a special building to pray together in groups.

The plural of masjid is *masaajid*. In English, the word for masjid is mosque. Some Muslims prefer to use the word masjid because it means "place of prayer."

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Masjid DarusSalam in Lombard, Illinois



The direction of Makkah is called the Qiblah.

Sometimes, a Muslim may find himself outside at the time of prayer. One may pray outside of a masjid if necessary, because the entire earth is acceptable as a place of prayer. The only places we are not allowed to pray include dirty areas, such as a muddy field or bathroom. The place must be clean. Muslims usually like to pray on prayer rugs or mats, but you can also pray on grass, cement, wood floors or any surface that is clean.

All Muslims face the direction of **Makkah** مكة, in Saudi Arabia, when they pray. They face the **Qiblah** قبة **the Direction of Makkah**. There is a special cube-shaped building there called the **Ka'bah** كعبة. We pray towards Makkah because this is the direction the Prophet ﷺ taught us to face in prayer.

The Ka'bah is an ancient building that was chosen by Allah ﷻ as the main place for people to pray to Him. It is the place that an ancient prophet named Ibrahim ؑ built, so that all the people of the world would have a common place to come to for pilgrimage.

Every masjid in the world is built facing in the direction of Makkah. When Muslims gather together to pray, this is called **Salat Al Jama'ah** صلاة الجمعة **Congregational Prayer**. The word jama'ah means group. When Muslims pray in jama'ah, one person stands in front of the others and leads the prayer. Such a person is called the **Imam** إمام **Leader**. Everyone praying behind an Imam follows along with him or her.

Every compulsory prayer consists of at least two and up to four **Raka'at** ركعات **Cycles**. One series of standing, bowing and prostrating (placing your palms and face flat on the ground) equals one **Raka'a** ركعة. Fajr has two raka'at. Thuhr, 'Asr and 'Isha have four raka'at each. Maghrib is the only regular salah that has three raka'at. The prayer that will be explained on the following pages will consist of two raka'at.

During Fajr Salah, all surahs are recited aloud. During Thuhr and 'Asr Salah, all surahs are recited silently. During Maghrib and 'Isha, the surahs are recited aloud only in the first two raka'at.



B. Steps of the Salah

Just like with wudu' and anything else important, we begin our salah with *niyyah*, or intention. This way we make it clear to ourselves what we're doing before we begin. While facing the *Qiblah*, properly dressed and in a state of wudu', we say silently to ourselves, **Nuwaytu Salatu** (name of the salah to be performed) **نويت صلاة**. What we say in the last space is the name of the prayer we are performing.



Step 1



Raise hands up and say, **الله أكبر Allah is The Greatest** (Greater than everything else).

Females may raise their hands up to the side of their head, or raise their hands just up to the shoulder level. After performing this beginning motion of the salah, a person must consider themselves cut off from the outside world until they are finished.

While we are standing in that position, **Qiyam قيام Standing Up**, we must take care not to look around or move our bodies. From the moment we say *Allahu Akbar*, the prayer starts and we shouldn't do anything except what is allowed in the prayer until we finish. If we laugh, start to talk or walk around, then that salah is broken and we have to start all over again.



Step 2

Then we fold our hands over our lower chest. Females put both of their hands on each other and place them on their upper chests. The right hand goes over the left. Some Muslims like to pray with their hands hanging loosely from their sides. This is allowed also, but it is better to fold your hands in front of you, right over left, based on an abundance of hadith about it.

Then say,

سبحانك اللهم وبحمدك، وتبارك اسمك، وتعالى جدك، ولا إله غيرك

This means:

Glory to You, Allah, and praise to You. Blessed is Your Name, great is Your Highness and there is no god except You.

Step 3

The very next thing we should say is what Allah ﷻ referred to as the Greatest Surah, or chapter, of the Holy Qur'an. It is the one surah that Allah ﷻ gave us which contains everything for us in just seven little verses, or *ayaat*. It is such an important surah that if we forget to say it in our salah, then the whole salah doesn't count. Here is the Arabic text of that surah, which is called *Al Fatiha*, or the Opening, along with the English meaning. In the salah, we say it in Arabic only.

Before reciting Al Fatiha we say,
أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

This means:

I ask Allah to protect me from the rejected Shaytan.

Surat Al Fatiha is said in Arabic this way:

This means:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Caring and the Most Kind. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe, the Most Caring and the Most Kind, Master of the Day of Judgment. We serve only You and only turn to You for help. Guide us on the straight path. The path of those whom You are happy with, not the path of those whom You are angry with and not the path of those whom have gone astray. Surat Al Fatiha (The Opening) 1:1-7

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿۱﴾ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿۲﴾
يَوْمَ الدِّينِ ﴿۳﴾ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿۴﴾
اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿۵﴾ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ
عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴿۶﴾

سورة الفاتحة 1:1 - 7

After saying *Surat Al Fatiha*, we say another portion of the Qur'an. It can be as little as three *ayaat* long or even a whole long surah! In a third and fourth *rak'a* of a prayer, only *Surat Al Fatiha* is said before bowing.

We chose *Surat Al Ikhlas* here, but you can choose any one you want.

Surat Al Ikhlas is said in Arabic this way:

This means:

Say (O Muhammad): He is Allah the One. Allah is always forever. He doesn't have any children and He was never born and there is nothing the same as Him. Surat Al Ikhlas (The Purity) 112:1-4

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿۱﴾ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ﴿۲﴾ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ﴿۳﴾
يُولَدُ ﴿۴﴾ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ﴿۵﴾ سورة الإخلاص 112:1 - 4

Step 4



After completing the short surah, the next thing you do is say,

الله أكبر

Then you bend forward at the waist and put your hands on your knees. This is called *Ruku'*. Say silently three times,

سبحان ربي العظيم

There are other similar phrases that are also allowed to be recited. Your parents or teacher will let you know about those. The basic phrase given here means 'Glory to my great Lord.'

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Step 5

Then we say,

سمع الله لمن حمده

which means,

Allah hears those who praise Him and return to a standing position. But our hands are left loose at our sides. We can also add the phrase,

ربنا و لك الحمد

which means,

Our Lord to You belongs all praise.

Step 6

Then we say,

الله أكبر



and lower ourselves to our knees and make **Sujud سجود** **Bowing on the Floor**. Our elbows must stay up in the air and our feet must be raised up so that the bottom of our toes are on the ground. Place your hands on the floor on each side of your head. Your nose and forehead should touch the ground. Say silently three times,

سبحان ربى الأعلى

which means
Glory to my Lord the Most High

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Step 7

Then we say,

الله أكبر



and sit up on our knees for a moment. Boys keep their right foot raised up. Girls leave both feet on the floor and lean a little more on one side. Your teacher can show you the difference.

Step 8



Next say,

الله أكبر

and do one more sujud and say three times,

سبحان ربي الأعلى

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Step 9

Then say,

الله أكبر

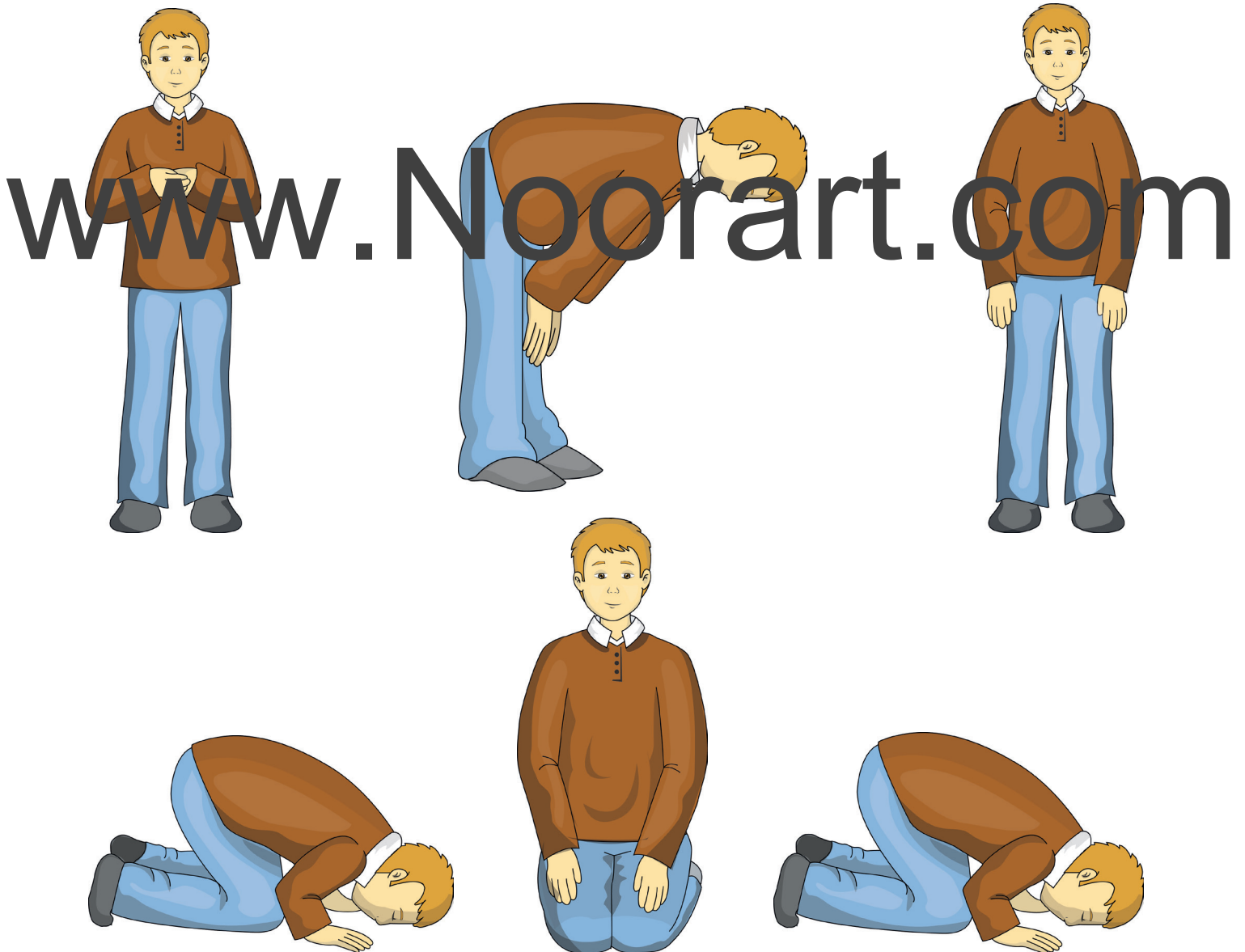
and return to a standing position with your hands folded in front of you. That was one *rak'a*, or cycle of prayer.

Step 10

Repeat steps 3-8

Now imagine that we were praying Fajr Salah, which has two rak'a't. We still have to complete another rak'a. That is easy. All you have to do is repeat steps 3-8. But after saying Surat Al Fatiha, choose a different surah to recite than what you said in the first rak'a. So, for example, if we said Surat Al Ikhlas in the first rak'a, in our second rak'a, after Surat Al Fatiha, we'll say Surat An Naas, or which ever one we choose! After the end of the second *sajdah*, instead of standing up after saying, **الله أكبر**, we will return to a sitting position and stay there.

(Note: If you were doing a 3 or 4 rak'a salah, all Qur'an reciting will be said to one's self.)





Step 11

While sitting we will say a special set of supplications and phrases. The first phrase we say is this:

التحيات لله والصلوات والطيبات
السلام عليك أيها النبي ورحمة الله وبركاته
السلام علينا وعلى عباد الله الصالحين

Then you raise the index finger while saying the next phrase:

أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله

This means:

All purity, prayer and goodness belong to Allah ﷻ. Peace upon you Prophet ﷺ and Allah's ﷻ mercy and blessing. Peace be upon all righteous servants of Allah ﷻ. I declare that there is no god but Allah ﷻ, He is One with no partners, and I declare that Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger.

Step 12

Then you say the prayer called الصلاة الإبراهيمية which is meant to ask Allah to bless the Prophet ﷺ. The words of الصلاة الإبراهيمية are as follows:

اللهم صل على محمد وعلى آل محمد كما صليت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم إنك حميد مجيد
اللهم بارك على محمد وعلى آل محمد كما باركت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم إنك حميد مجيد.

It means:

Allah send grace upon Muhammad and on the family of Muhammad, just like You sent grace upon Ibrahim and on the family of Ibrahim. You are worthy of all praise, the Majestic. Allah bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, just like you blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim in the world. You are worthy of all praise, the Majestic.

Step 13

Then you turn your face to the right and say,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

It means:

Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah ﷻ.

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Step 14

Then you turn your face to the left and say,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

Your prayer is now finished and you can rise and go about your business. It is recommended to stay seated, however, and say some small phrases to remember Allah ﷻ. Personal requests to Allah ﷻ for forgiveness or guidance can then be made. (This is called *thikr* and then *dua*’.)

10 How Do I Praise Allah ﷻ?



WHAT TO LEARN

If you love someone, what should you say to them? If you really need someone a lot, what should you tell them to thank them?



VOCABULARY

Tasbih

Thikr

Dua'



THINK ABOUT IT

A Muslim should remember Allah ﷻ many times throughout the day.



All that is in the heaven and on earth praise Allah ﷻ.

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A. Why Should I Praise Allah ﷻ?

Islam teaches us that one of the best things we can ever do is to praise Allah ﷻ. The word **Tasbih** تسبیح **Praise** means to say wonderful things about someone or something to show how excellent they are. Praising Allah ﷻ keeps us humble and reminds us that only Allah ﷻ is Great.

Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an that every creature in the world praises Him in its own way. If you remember, all the plants and animals follow their instincts in their daily life. By living the way they are supposed to, these creatures are actually praising Allah ﷻ. All the birds, squirrels, fish, bugs and trees always praise Allah ﷻ. They are all perfect Muslims. They have already surrendered to Allah ﷻ and are at peace.

Allah ﷻ gave us salah as a way to remember Him. It is also a way to have

some of our bad deeds forgiven. In addition to salah, there is another level of activity that can bring us closer to Allah ﷻ. If we really love Allah ﷻ and want to express our affection, then we should also say words to glorify our Creator. The word 'glorify' also means the same thing as praise.

Our last Prophet from Allah ﷻ, Muhammad ﷺ, told us this good news in a Hadith Qudsi Allah ﷻ says, I am near My servant when he thinks of Me and I am with him when he remembers Me. If he remembers Me to himself, then I remember him to Myself. If he remembers me in a gathering, then I remember him in a better gathering than his. If he comes an arm's length closer to Me, I come a yard's length closer to him. If he comes to Me walking, I go to him in a rush. (Bukhari)



عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله ﷺ «يقول الله ﻋَزَّ وَجَلَّ أنا عند ظن عبدي بي وأنا معه حين يذكرني إن ذكرني في نفسه ذكرته في نفسي وإن ذكرني في ملأ ذكرته في ملأ هم خير منهم وإن تقرب مني شبرا تقربت إليه ذراعا وإن تقرب إلي ذراعا تقربت منه باعا وإن أتاني يمشي أتيته هرولة» رواه البخاري

So when we remember Allah ﻋَزَّ وَجَلَّ, Allah ﻋَزَّ وَجَلَّ will remember us. Wouldn't you like to have the Lord of the entire Universe remembering you? I sure would!

The Blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us many beautiful phrases we can say to praise Allah ﻋَزَّ وَجَلَّ. We can say them after our salah is finished, or in the morning, on a bus or anywhere we want to. We don't need wudu' and we can even use our own words if we want to. Many Muslims like to say words of praise that the Prophet ﷺ taught because he said them in such a beautiful way. Let's learn a few of these words of **Thikr** **Remembering Allah** ﻋَزَّ وَجَلَّ and how they can help us.

B. Phrases of Thikr

The Blessed Prophet ﷺ once said, 'Whoever says, 'Glory to Allah and His is all Praise,' one hundred times will get all his or her sins forgiven even if they were as much as the foam in the sea. (Muslim)

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ: «من قال: سبحان الله وبحمده في يوم مائة مرة حطت خطاياها ولو كانت مثل زبد البحر» رواه مسلم

Once the Prophet ﷺ was talking to a man named 'Abdullah when he said to him, Abdullah, should I point out to you a treasure from the treasures of Paradise? 'Abdullah replied, Yes, Messenger of Allah. Please tell me. The Prophet ﷺ answered, say this phrase, 'There is no might or power except with Allah. (Bukhari)

عن أبي موسى الأشعري رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ «يا عبد الله بن قيس! ألا أدلك على كنز من كنوز الجنة؟ (فقلت: بلى يا رسول الله! قال: قل: لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله)» رواه البخاري

The Prophet ﷺ once said, There are some sentences that Allah loves the most. They are, Subhanallah (Glory to Allah), Al hamdulillah (Praise be to Allah), La ilaha ill Allah (There is no god but Allah) and Allahu Akbar (Allah is Great). You can say them in any order you want. (Muslim)

فعن سمرة بن جندب رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله ﷺ: «أحب الكلام إلى الله أربع: سبحان الله والحمد لله ولا إله إلا الله والله أكبر لا يضرك بأيهن بدأت» رواه مسلم

There is a phrase that is light on the tongue, the Prophet ﷺ said, Two words are light on the tongue, heavy in the balance, beloved to the Merciful: 'Glory be to Allah and by His praise. Glory be to Allah, the Immense.' (Bukhari)

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ: «كلمتان حبيبتان إلى الرحمن، خفيفتان على اللسان ثقيلتان في الميزان: سبحان الله وبحمده، سبحان الله العظيم» رواه البخاري

Praising and remembering Allah ﷻ, or *thikr*, is so important that the Prophet ﷺ once said, When a group of people sits together and makes *thikr*, the angels surround them, peace comes over them, Allah's mercy covers them and Allah speaks to the angels that are near Him (about the group) (Muslim)

عن أبي هريرة وأبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنهما شهدا على النبي ﷺ أنه قال: « لا يقعد قوم يذكرون الله إلا حفتهم الملائكة، وغشيتهم الرحمة، ونزلت عليهم السكينة، وذكرهم الله فيمن عنده» رواه مسلم

Many Muslims remember Allah ﷻ in large gatherings and make *thikr* in a group. Other people praise Allah ﷻ alone or silently. Whichever way you like to do it, always remember Allah ﷻ every day with special words of praise. Allah ﷻ said in the Qur'an, Remember Me and I will remember you. Be grateful to Me and reject not My Faith. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:152

﴿فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونَ﴾
سورة البقرة 2: 152

Let's make it our goal to think about Allah ﷻ often and when we do, to say some words that praise and glorify Him.



C. What is Dua'?

So far, we have learned about *salah* and *thikr*. There is one more way to make our connection to Allah ﷻ strong and meaningful in our lives. This is making **Dua'** **to Call on Someone**. Allah ﷻ said in the Qur'an, When My servants ask about Me, I am indeed close. I listen to the request of every person when he or she calls on Me. So let people listen to My call also and believe in Me, so they can be rightly guided. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:186

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ﴾
سورة البقرة 2: 186

How do we make dua'? How do we call on Allah ﷻ? This is also an easy thing to do and it doesn't require wudu' either. All you need to do is raise your hands in front of you like you were going to receive something from someone and then ask Allah ﷻ for whatever you like.

You can ask Allah ﷻ in any language, not just in Arabic and you can use your own words or some of the beautiful dua' that Allah ﷻ taught us in the Qur'an. What should we ask Allah ﷻ for?

You can always make dua' for personal reasons. For example, if your mother is sick, you can ask Allah ﷻ to make her healthy again. Or you can ask Allah ﷻ to help you do well in your school.

In addition, we can ask for Allah's ﷻ forgiveness for our bad deeds and sins. We can ask for Allah's ﷻ help in a tough time or before we perform a difficult task. We can thank Allah ﷻ for something good that happened and ask Allah ﷻ to help us



Hold your hands in front of you like this when making dua'.
It shows you are asking to receive something from Allah ﷻ.

get through a bad time. We can even just talk to Allah ﷻ about our feelings if we like to because He said, He hears every dua' we say and that He is near.

Don't shy away from Allah ﷻ. As long as what you are asking for is not haram, He will listen to you. Of course, Allah ﷻ knows best and sometimes what you think is bad for you might actually be better for you. So even if you don't get what you want, don't ever get discouraged to seek Allah's ﷻ help in anything else.

Here are some of the beautiful dua' that Allah ﷻ taught us in the Qur'an. Try to learn them in Arabic, English or both, and recite them any time you would like. We need Allah ﷻ, so let's not neglect the One Who can help us more than anyone else in the whole world.

The following three dua' are taken from the Holy Qur'an.

Our Lord, give us the best in this life and the best in the next and protect us from the punishment of the fire. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:201

﴿رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾
سورة البقرة 2: 201

Our Lord, don't let our hearts go wrong after You've guided us. Give us mercy from You because You are the One Who gives endlessly. Surat Ali 'Imraan (Family of 'Imran) 3:8

﴿رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ﴾
سورة آل عمران 3: 8

Our Lord, we believe, so forgive us our sins and save us from the punishment of the fire. Surat Ali 'Imraan (Family of 'Imran) 3:16

﴿رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَمْنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾

سورة آل عمران 3: 16

There is another *dua'* from the Qur'an that is very long, but it is also very beautiful. You can find it in Surah 3, *ayaat* 26-27 and 29-30. Look them up and read them aloud and remember your Lord as much as you can!

D. How is Dua' Answered?

Allah ﷻ has promised to hear our *dua'*. How are they answered? Allah ﷻ has said in the Qur'an that He will help us if we are sincere. If we say our *dua'* with no sincerity, how can we expect to be helped?

When trouble touches a person, he cries to Us (Allah) lying down, sitting or standing. But when We have solved his problem, he passes on his way, as if he never called on Us while in trouble! Surah Yunus (Jonah) 10:12

وَيَا مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ الضَّرُّ مَا تَجْنِبُهُ وَكَعْدًا
أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا
إِلَى ضُرِّ مَسَّهُ كَذَلِكَ زِينٌ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ مَا كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿سورة يونس 10: 12﴾

Tell people, If you love Allah, then follow me (the Prophet). Allah will love you and forgive you your sins because Allah is the Forgiving and the Kind. Then tell them, Obey Allah and His Messenger.' But if (people) turn away, then know that Allah doesn't love those who cover up (the truth). Surah Ali 'Imraan (Family of 'Imran) 3:31-32

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾ ﴿قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ﴾ ﴿سورة آل عمران 3: 31-32﴾

If we are sincere and call on Allah ﷻ in both good times and bad, then we become more deserving of Allah's ﷻ special favors.

Everything happens for a reason and only Allah ﷻ knows the reason. Allah ﷻ has said He will answer the call of the sincere, but how is the answer given to us?

Man does not weary of asking for good (things), but if ill touches him, he gives up all hope (and) is lost in despair. When we give him a taste of some Mercy from ourselves, after some adversity has touched him, he is sure to say, "This is due to my (merit): I think not that the Hour (of Judgment) will (ever) be established; but if I am brought back to my Lord, I have (much) good (stored) in His sight!" But We will show the Unbelievers the truth of all that they did and We shall give them the taste of a severe Penalty. When We bestow favors on man, he turns away and gets himself remote on his side (instead of coming to Us); and when evil seizes him, (he comes) full of prolonged prayer! Say: See if the (Revelation) is (really) from Allah and yet you reject it? Who is more astray than one who is in a schism far (from any purpose)? Surah Fussilat (Explained in Detail) 41:49-52

﴿لَا يَسْأَلُ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ دُعَاءِ الْخَيْرِ وَإِنْ مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَيَوْسُقْ فَنُوطٌ﴾ ﴿وَلَيْنِ أَدْقَنَاهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ ضَرَاءٍ مَسَّتْهُ لَيَقُولَنَّ هَذَا لِي وَمَا أَظُنُّ السَّاعَةَ قَائِمَةً وَلَيْنِ رُجِعْتُ إِلَى رَبِّي إِنَّ لِي عِنْدَهُ لِلْحُسْنَى فَلَنُنَبِّئَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ﴾ ﴿وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَذُو دُعَاءٍ عَرِيضٍ﴾



“Allahumma...”.

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﴿قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ كَفَرْتُمْ بِهِ مَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ هُوَ فِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ﴾ سورة فصلت 41: 49 - 52

Allah ﷻ said that He will help us in ways we won't even expect.

You don't know that maybe Allah might bring out a new situation. Surat Al Talaq (The Divorce) 65:1

﴿لَا تَدْرِي لَعَلَّ اللَّهَ يُحْدِثُ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ أَمْرًا﴾ سورة الطلاق 65:1

For those who fear Allah, He always prepares a way out. Surat Al Talaq (The Divorce) 65:2

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا﴾ سورة الطلاق 65:2

This means that He will answer our sincere dua' but that we don't always see how this is done. Perhaps most of our dua' will be answered without our ever knowing it.

O people! Call to mind the grace of Allah unto you! Is there a creator, other than Allah, to give you sustenance from heaven or earth? There is no god but He: how then are you deluded away from the Truth? Surat Al Faatir (The Originator) 35:3

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ هَلْ مِنْ خَالِقٍ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّى تُؤْفَكُونَ﴾ سورة فاطر 35:3

Remember to always call on Allah ﷻ and He answers your prayers.



The Blessed Prophet ﷺ once said, "Your prayers will be answered unless you are in a hurry or have no patience." (Bukhari)

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه، أن رسول الله ﷺ قال:
((يستجاب لأحدكم ما لم يعجل، يقول: قد دعوت ربي فلم يستجب لي)) رواه البخاري

Some people asked what it meant to be in a hurry. The Prophet ﷺ explained that those who are in a hurry are the people who always complain that their prayers are not being answered. Remember that Allah ﷻ promised to answer the prayers of the sincere. Sometimes prayers are answered and we don't even know it. Other times, what we ask for may not be the best for us in the long run.



1. What is the difference between thikr and dua'?
2. Why should we remember Allah ﷻ in our daily life?
3. Why do you think we cup our hands in front of our bodies when we make du'a?
4. Choose one of the du'as in this lesson that you think is very powerful or relevant to the life of a sincere believer. What is that du'a, and why do you think it is important?
5. How can du'a help a person going through a crisis?

Unit
03

Review Exercise



VOCABULARY REVIEW

On a separate piece of paper, write the meaning of each word below. Remember to write in complete sentences.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Thikr | 5. Niyyah | 9. Dua' |
| 2. Qiyam | 6. Pillar | 10. Emaan |
| 3. Wudu' | 7. Qiblah | 11. Salah |
| 4. Zakah | 8. Rak'a | |

 **REMEMBERING WHAT YOU READ**
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On a separate piece of paper, answer the questions. Remember to write in complete sentences.

1. What are the two parts of the Shahadah and what does each part teach us?
2. List all the Five pillars of Islam and what they mean in English.
3. What are the names of the five daily prayers?
4. When do we perform each of the five daily prayers?
5. List four things that break our wudu'.
6. What is a masjid and why is it important?
7. Why must we remember Allah ﷻ often?
8. How is our dua' often answered?
9. How does Zakah make us cleaner inside?
10. How do the five pillars of Islam come together in a person's life to create a sincere believer?



THINKING TO LEARN

Read the following statement and explain if it is true or false. Write in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper and give examples to support your answer.

A Muslim only needs to pray five times a day and can forget Allah ﷻ the rest of the time.

UNIT 4

Meet New Muslim Friends



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11 An 'Eid With Nadia



WHAT TO LEARN

Which kind of holiday is better: one where everyone gets things, or one where everyone gives to those in need? Explain.



VOCABULARY

'Eid ul Fitr	Tatar	Ramadan
Taqwa	Tarawih	Khutbah
Miskeen		



THINK ABOUT IT

Ramadan brings the Muslim community together to serve Allah.



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A. Living in Poland

As-salaamu 'alaykum! Peace be with you! My name is Nadia Hamidovic and I'm a Muslim from a country called Poland. I know it's hard to think that there are Muslims in this Eastern European country, but our history goes back over 600 years!

I live in a small town called Bohoniki. Most of the people around here are farmers or merchants. My dad, whose name is Selim, owns a local grocery store. Although there are also a lot of non-Muslims living around here, most of us in this town are Muslims.

My ancestors were called Tatars by the Europeans, but we just like to call ourselves Muslims. The **Tatars** التتار were a Muslim tribe which came from a place called Crimea. When the Mongol empire was very powerful about 700 years ago,

the Tatars were a part of their army.

The ancient Christian kingdom of Lithuania, which controlled Poland then, signed a treaty of peace with the Mongols of the Golden Horde in 1319 CE (719 AH).

Many Muslims were soldiers in the Mongol army. After this, many Muslims came to Eastern Europe to help defend the Lithuanians against an invading German army called the Teutonic Knights. This is how the Muslims also helped defend Poland.

After that, thousands of Muslims began living in Eastern Europe. Since then, Muslims have been here and were always welcome to stay in this land. There are less than ten thousand of us today, but we are a growing community. Occasionally,

some non-Muslims even convert to Islam.

I learned all about our history from our Imam in my Friday night Islamic Studies class. We meet in a very old and beautiful masjid made of wood and stone called the Bohoniki Masjid.

We just finished fasting the month of Ramadan and had a big celebration. Let me tell you what we did this month and how we spent our holiday. Come on, let's go to the masjid and talk some more!

B. Ramadan Means Fasting

We'll sit up here on the second floor. This is where the sisters pray. We can see the Imam from the edge of the balcony down there on the first floor.

My father told us a couple of months ago about Ramadan رمضان, a Month in the Islamic Calendar. In the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast all day long, and this is known as **Siyam** صيام **Fasting**. Do you know what fasting is all about? It's one way of worshiping Allah ﷻ by trying to control your desires as much as you can.

One of my friends overeats and buys junk food all the time. She can't stop and always complains about being tired or feeling sick. She is allowing her 'sweet tooth' or desire for food to control what and how much she eats. This also makes her weak and lazy. Fasting is a great way to put the 'brakes' on over-eating and craving junk food since you go without food for so many hours each day for one whole month.

My Imam taught me to memorize the ayat in the Qur'an where Allah ﷻ command us to fast.

You who believe, Fasting is written for you even as it was written for those



before you so you can learn to have Taqwa. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:183

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾ سورة البقرة 2:183

When we have **Taqwa** تقوى **Consciousness of Allah** ﷻ, we always remember we are Muslims and we avoid doing bad deeds. Can you memorize that important ayat about fasting, too? Try it!

When we fast in Ramadan, we don't eat or drink any food from before the first light in the morning until after the sun has set in the evening.

My mother, Mu'mina, also told me that we aren't even allowed to fight or argue during the day. You won't believe how hard it is to follow that rule with two younger brothers around!

The first few days are kind of hard for



all of us. Just think - you were eating and drinking all you wanted and then suddenly food is off-limits and you are not allowed to drink water. My uncle sleeps all day in the beginning of Ramadan. My dad says that's being lazy, but at least he's fasting.

C. How I Spent My Time in Ramadan

Every night in Ramadan, my family and a lot of other people went to the masjid at night for **Salatu Tarawih** صلاة التراويح a series of two raka'at prayers done one after another only during Ramadan. These prayers are done after 'Isha Salah and they usually last for over half an hour! I always stand next to my best friend, Aliya, in the women's rows up here on the second-floor balcony. I love staying up late!

At least one out of thirty sections

of the Qur'an is read each night. Since Ramadan is either 29 or 30 days long, we try to finish reciting the entire Qur'an in salah during the month.

An hour before dawn each morning, my entire family wakes up to have a meal known as **Suhur** سحور. It's our last chance to eat for the rest of the day and we pay close attention to the time when we have to stop eating. When suhur time is over, we make our niyyah for fasting and then pray Fajr. The words we say go like this: نويت صيام اليوم من شهر رمضان. This means, 'I intend to fast today in the month of Ramadan.' After that, I go back to sleep for a few hours.

My mother stays up and reads Qur'an for a little while, but since I have to go to school, I need to be well rested. After school, I go to the masjid with some of my friends and we read the Qur'an together



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In a circle. Each person takes turn reading a few ayat at a time. Then we read the translation of the meanings afterwards. This is followed by group dua'. This is how I spend most of my days in Ramadan.

D. Important Lessons

Our Imam told us that during Ramadan, the Shayateen are locked up in chains so that it's easier for us to do good deeds. Every good deed done during Ramadan, he told our class, receives the reward of ten good deeds. He also said that the Blessed Prophet ﷺ taught that, Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan with Emaan and sincerely looks to please Allah and get only His reward will have all his or her previous bad deeds forgiven. (Ahmad)

عن النبي ﷺ قال: «ومن صام رمضان إيماناً واحتساباً غفر له ما تقدم من ذنبه» رواه أحمد

At the same time, we're supposed to control our tongue and behavior, too. I learned that the Prophet ﷺ said, Whoever does not give up lying and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink. (Bukhari)

قال رسول الله ﷺ: «من لم يدع قول الزور والعمل به فليس لله حاجة في أن يدع طعامه وشرابه» رواه البخاري

That means that we don't only learn the lesson of controlling our desires in Ramadan, but we also learn to control our behavior. If we don't try to, then our fasting is not valid.

It's possible that the biggest lesson of all is to appreciate Allah's ﷻ blessings on us. I realized that there are some people in town who don't have as much as I do. When I'm fasting and feeling hungry in the day, I realize that they may have only a little food, or none at all. I am fortunate that I get to eat a nice **Iftar Meal to break our fast**. Some other people may not be able to do the same.

My Ramadan Star (A Song of Celebration)

My Ramadan Star, she shines so bright, she lights my way all through the night.

In darkness and fear we all have tread until that blessed night,

When Prophet Muhammad received the call and told us of God's love and how not to fall.

My Ramadan Star dwells in my heart and is brought out each night in one equal part.

Though life is uncertain and the future's dim, My Lord's noble message says "Trust in Him."

For all that I know and all that I am, I thank Allah ﷻ for revealing the Qur'an.

My dad always pays his Zakah in this month to the masjid, so they can help feed the **Miskeen** مسكين **Needy People** and **Faqeer** فقير **Poor People**. Zakah is the money every Muslim must give for the sake of Allah ﷻ so the poor can be helped and to purify our wealth. My dad says its two and a half percent of all his money at the end of the year.

The masjid volunteers collect the Zakah money from all the Muslim families and use it to run a soup kitchen all year-round in the big city of Warsaw. During Ramadan, our masjid serves a daily iftar so that everyone can have a nourishing meal to break their fast, and so that people who want to spend more time in the masjid can do so. Before eating iftar we make a dua' that goes like this,

اللهم لك صمت وعلى رزقك أفطرت

"Allah I fasted for you and I break my fast with what you gave me."

E. The Big Holiday

When Ramadan comes to an end, all of us are very excited about the holiday that follows. We call that day 'Eid ul Fitr عيد الفطر the **Holiday of Breaking the Fast**.

Everyone dresses in their best clothes and goes to the masjid in the morning. My mom bought me a new dress for 'Eid and I was so happy! My two little brothers got some toys as presents and they were jumping for joy.

At the masjid, we all offer **Eid Prayer** صلاة العيد, a special prayer on the occasion of Eid. Afterward, we listen to the Imam give a speech called the **Khutbah** خطبة. This year he talked about how Muslims must remember the lessons they learned in Ramadan throughout the year. He said that now that we realize that we can control our bodies and tongues in Ramadan, we should be stronger Muslims and kinder to people.

He said not to forget the Qur'an the rest of the year and to remember that there are always people less fortunate than us who need help. When his khutbah was finished, he said, **Eid Mubarak!** عيد مبارك **Blessed Holiday!**

Everyone stood up and started hugging and wishing each other a 'Happy 'Eid!' After the prayer, we went to visit family and friends. We also went to parties and had a very good time! If you want, you can come and stay with our family for Ramadan next year. *Insha'Allah*, if Allah ﷻ wills, we'll meet again. *As-salaamu 'alaykum!*



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Questions to Answer

1. *How did Nadia's ancestors come to Poland?*
2. *What are some of the things a Muslim does in Ramadan?*
3. *List three lessons we should learn from Ramadan.*
4. *What does it mean that Shaytan and his minions are 'locked up in chains' during Ramadan?*
5. *Memorize the ayat (2:183) about fasting that is given in this lesson in both Arabic and English.*
6. *What does your community do for 'Eid?*

Islam has its own calendar. For Muslims to practice Islam fully, they must learn to use it. The following lesson will highlight the importance of our calendar as well as how to use it.



A. A Lost Day in India

There is an interesting story about the importance of calendars. A long time ago, India was invaded by England, a country in Europe.

For almost two hundred years the Indian people were like slaves to the British. To keep the Indians under control, the English encouraged them to forget their own calendar, culture and in some cases, even their language.

However, even though many Indians tried their best to look and act like the British, they never accepted the Indians as their equals. The British considered the Indians to be lower than them and not very civilized, no matter what they did. This made many Indians feel bad, and they tried to show the British that Indian history and culture was great and full of glory, as well.

Once a British writer was traveling around India and visiting the palaces and lands of local Indian rulers. The rulers had no real power, of course, because the power and arms belonged to the British. Even so, the British let them remain in their palaces on the condition that they control the local people for them. The Indian rulers did a good job of this and hurt many of their own people, even as they tried to act as English as they could



Taj Mahal in India.

to get more favors and honors from their masters.

This British writer wanted to see for himself if there was anything great about India. He went to the palace of a Muslim ruler, called a Nizam and sat with him for tea. The Nizam wanted to impress the Englishman about Indian history and started bragging about how powerful his ancestors were and how great their Kingdom was.

The English writer listened for a while and then asked the Nizam a simple question: “What day is it today?”

The Nizam smiled at this chance to impress an Englishman and almost sang out the date according to the Christian calendar.

“No,” the English writer said, “What’s the date according to your Muslim calendar?”

The Nizam was silent. He didn’t know what the Islamic date was. He bowed his head in shame and the English writer left, knowing why it was so easy for his tiny country to control the huge land of India.



B. Keeping Track of Time

Every society or civilization has invented its own calendar to keep track of days, months and years. Hindus, Jews, Buddhists, Aztecs and others have all invented calendars for this purpose. Muslims also have their own calendar.

Muslims who live in non-Muslim countries usually use the calendar the rest of the population is using, but we can also use our own alongside theirs.

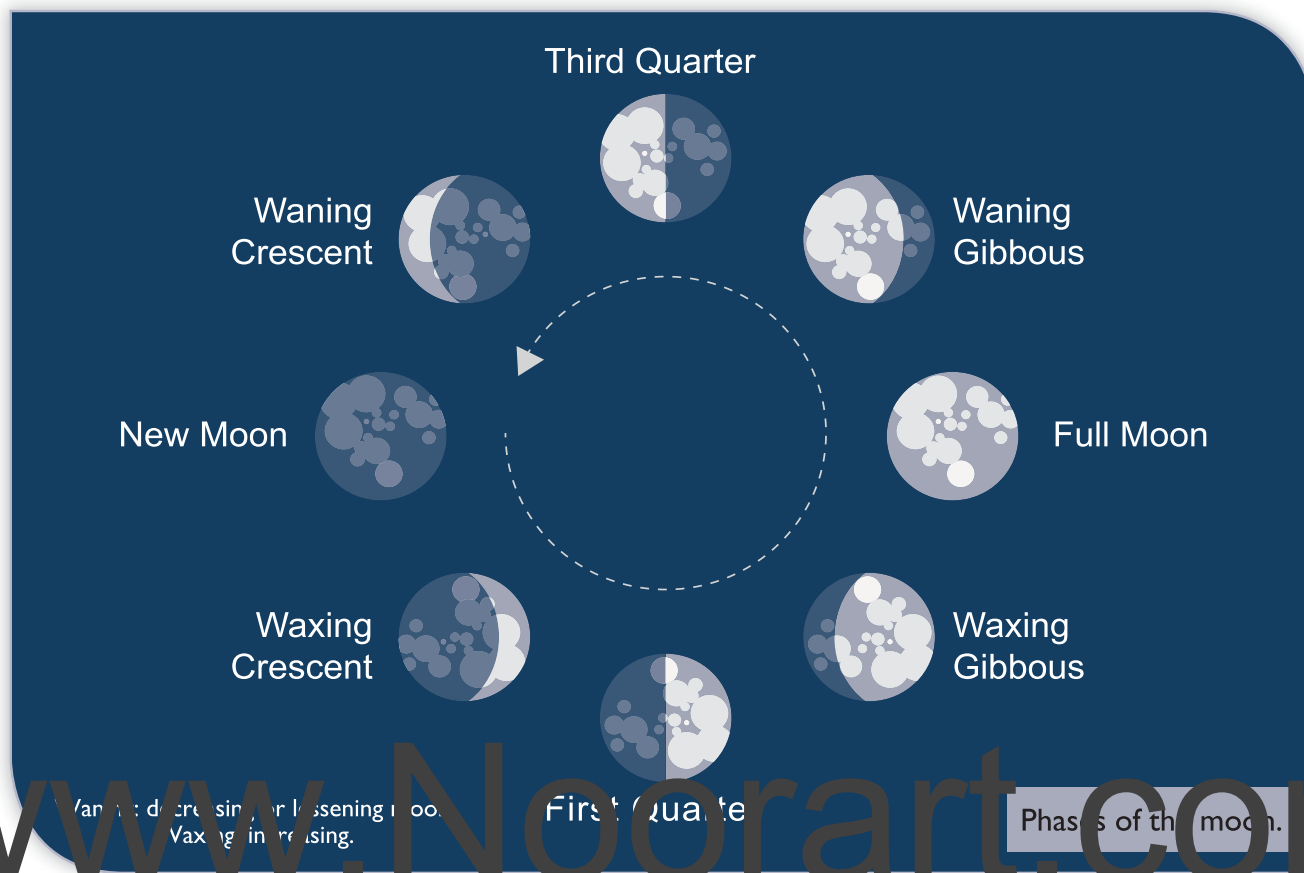
In countries and lands that were settled or conquered by Europeans, the people use what is called the Gregorian Calendar. It is named after Pope Gregory XIII, who took a calendar (invented by the Romans) and modified it for use by Christians. He did this in the year 1582 of the Christian calendar. All the names of the days and months are named after idols and false gods.

The starting year of the Christian calendar is based on the year Christians believe that ‘Isaﷺ, or Jesus, was born. Although Muslims believe that ‘Isaﷺ was a prophet, most Christians call him God. Everything before that first year they refer to as BC, or Before Christ, and everything afterwards they call AD, or Anno Domini, which stands for “the Year of our Lord.”

This goes along with the Christian belief that Prophet ‘Isaﷺ was the son of God. What is the name of the terrible mistake the Christians are making here? Shirk.

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Because the Christian calendar is, in fact, an idol-worshipping calendar with a starting year based on a shirk concept, Muslims prefer using their own calendar to keep track of time.

Just like other civilizations, we have twelve months in our calendar. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. The Islamic month is calculated by the orbit of the moon around the earth. It takes about thirty days for the moon to make one complete cycle around the earth. You can see how the moon at night slowly changes over the month with a crescent moon, a quarter moon, a half moon, a full moon and finally it goes down to no moon at all! When the first sliver of the returning moon is seen, the new month begins! An Islamic month can have either 29 or 30 days in it, depending on when the new moon is visible.

The week in the Islamic calendar has seven days. It's easy to remember their names because their names are just numbers, except for the days of *Jumu'ah* and *Sabt*. *Jumu'ah* corresponds to Friday in the Christian calendar. The name *Jumu'ah* means gathering and it's the day Muslims gather in the masaa'id to hear the weekly Khutbah. The name *Sabt* means resting and it is the seventh day of the week.

Our calendar, whose first year was decided by the Muslim ruler, 'Umar ibn Al Khattab رضي الله عنه, has as its first year an event called the **Hijrah** هجرة, the migration of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from Makkah to Al-Madinah. Everything before that starting year is labeled BH, or Before Hijrah, while every year afterwards is labeled AH, or After Hijrah. Remember, our calendar is called the *Hijri* calendar. In the Christian calendar, the Hijrah happened in the year 622.



C. Finding the Date

To convert a date from one calendar system to the other, there is an easy formula you can use. To find out the Islamic Hijri year when you only have the Gregorian year, do this: Take the Gregorian year and subtract 622 from it. Then divide 33 by 32. Next, multiply the first number you got by the second number. Then you have the approximate Islamic Hijri year!

Example: Let us assume the Gregorian year is 1999. Subtract 622 to get 1377. When we divide 33 by 32, we get: 1.03125. Multiply this number by 1377 and the Islamic Hijri year is 1420!

We must learn to use our own calendar and stick by it because Allah ﷻ said in the Quran, The number of months in the sight of Allah is twelve. This was decided by Him on the day He created space and the earth. Four of them are holy. This is the correct way to use them so don't do wrong against yourselves (in the calendar). Surat At Tauba (The Repentance) 9:36

﴿إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ﴾ سورة التوبة 9: 36

Therefore the lunar calendar is best for Muslims to live by. The month of Ramadan and other times of the year are important to us.

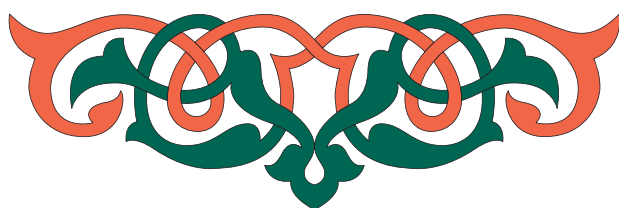
To help us get familiar with the Islamic calendar, we can have them in our Islamic school classrooms and homes. Every time we look for the date on the non-Muslim calendar, we can also check the date on the Islamic one. When we write the date on our homework, we can write the Islamic date and year first and put the non-Muslim one underneath it.

To help learn the Islamic calendar, you will find a list of the Islamic months and days in the following Skill Builder exercise. By the way, what's today's date according to the Hijri calendar?

The Days of the Week

Sunday: الأحد
Monday: الإثنين
Tuesday: الثلاثاء
Wednesday: الأربعاء

Thursday: الخميس
Friday: الجمعة
Saturday: السبت



Islamic Months and Their Meanings

1. Muharram	محرم	The Sacred Month
2. Safar	صفر	The Void Month
3. Rabi Al Awwal	ربيع الأول	The First Spring
4. Rabi Ath-Thani	ربيع الثاني	The Second Spring
5. Jumada Al Awwal	جمادى الأول	The First Dry Month
6. Jumada Ath-Thani	جمادى الثاني	The Second Dry Month
7. Rajab	رجب	The Month of Respect
8. Sha'ban	شعبان	The Dividing Month
9. Ramadan	رمضان	The Month of Great Heat
10. Shawwal	شوال	The Hunting Month
11. Dhul Qa'dah	ذو القعدة	The Resting Month
12. Dhul Hijjah	ذو الحجة	The Month of Pilgrimage

.....
 Exercises
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Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use a separate piece of paper.

1. What point did the Englishman want to make to the Nizam who was bragging about past Muslim achievements?
2. What does this example mean for Muslims today?



B. Exercises

1. Describe the features and history of the Islamic calendar.



C. Exercises

1. Calculate the approximate Islamic Hijri year from the current Gregorian year. Show all of your math work.

12 Saira: A Girl from Makkah



WHAT TO LEARN

What if there was a place on earth where there was no hatred and bad influences? What would such a place be like?



VOCABULARY

Jumu'ah 'Umrah Baytullah
Ka'bah Laylatul Qadr



THINK ABOUT IT

Hajj is an important part of Islam.



Modern Makkah is like any other developed city in the world.

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As-salaamu 'alaykum wa ahlam wa sahlam!
السلام عليكم وأهلاً وسهلاً Greetings of peace and welcome to you! My name is Saira bint Abu Zayan and I live in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Sometimes I think this is the busiest city in the whole world, because so many Muslims come here all year round. Come, let's sit together and talk about my hometown.

Muslims come here to visit the **Baytullah** بيت الله **House of Allah**. It's called the House of Allah ﷻ to express the holiness of the place, even though no one actually lives there! It was built by Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ and his son, Isma'il ﷺ, thousands of years ago to unite people in the worship of Allah ﷻ. It is also called the **Ka'bah** كعبة **Cube**, because it's shaped like a box with six sides. Although it's made out of bricks, the Ka'bah is covered by a pretty black cloth called the **Kiswah** كسوة. It has

verses of the Qur'an embroidered in gold thread all around it.

On Fridays, I go with my parents to the big masjid that's built around it. They call it **Al Masjidul Haram** المسجد الحرام. During **Salahtul Jumu'ah** صلاة الجمعة **Friday prayer**, we listen to the Imam of the Ka'bah as he gives the khutbah. My mother and I sit with all the other women, while my dad sits with all the men. On Fridays, there are thousands and thousands of Muslims there.

Last week, I met a girl my age from Canada. She was here on '**Umrah** عمرة **Short Pilgrimage** with her parents to the Ka'bah where one comes to remember Allah ﷻ. It's like a mini-Hajj. Her name was Sadia and she was very nice. I invited her and her entire family to come to our house for dinner one night; everyone had a good time.



Hujjaj in 'Arafat.

Most Muslims come here during the month of Hajj, though. It's at that time when the city is full of people! Last year, four million people came and stayed for one week! Why do they all come every year during that month? They come because performing the main Hajj, or pilgrimage, is a duty that every Muslim man and woman must complete at least once in his or her life, if they are healthy and can afford it. Allahﷻ says so in the Qur'an.

And complete the Hajj and 'Umra in the service of Allah. But if you are prevented (from completing it), send an offering for sacrifice, such as you may find and do not shave your heads until the offering reaches the place of sacrifice. And if any of you is ill, or has an ailment in his scalp, (necessitating shaving), (he should) in compensation either fast, or feed the poor, or offer sacrifice; and when you are in peaceful conditions (again), if any one wishes to continue the 'Umra on to the Hajj, he must make an offering, such as he can afford, but if he cannot afford it, he should fast three days during the Hajj and seven days on his return, making ten days in all. This is for those whose household is not in (the precincts of) the Sacred Mosque. And fear Allah and know that Allah

is strict in punishment. For Hajj are the months well known. If anyone undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the Hajj. And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct. So fear Me, O you that are wise. It is no crime in you if you seek of the bounty of your Lord (during pilgrimage). Then when you pour down from (Mount) Arafat, celebrate the praises of Allah at the Sacred Monument and celebrate His praises as He has directed you, even though, before this, you went astray. Then pass on at a quick pace from the place where it is usual for the multitude so to do and ask for Allah's forgiveness. For Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. So when you have accomplished your holy rites, celebrate the praises of Allah, as you used to celebrate the praises of your fathers, - yes, with far more heart and soul. There are men who say: "Our Lord! Give us (Your bounties) in this world!" But they will have no portion in the Hereafter. Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:196-200

﴿وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ فَإِنْ أُخْصِرْتُمْ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ وَلَا تَحْلِقُوا رُءُوسَكُمْ حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ الْهَدْيُ مَحَلَّهُ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَّرِيضًا أَوْ بِهِ أَذًى مِّن رَّأْسِهِ فَفِدْيَةٌ مِّن صِيَامٍ أَوْ صَدَقَةٍ أَوْ نُسُكٍ فَإِذَا أَمِنْتُمْ فَمَنْ تَمَتَّعَ بِالْعُمْرَةِ إِلَى الْحَجِّ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ فَمَنْ لَّمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامٌ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ فِي الْحَجِّ وَسَبْعَةً إِذَا رَجَعْتُمْ تِلْكَ عَشْرَةٌ كَامِلَةٌ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ لَّمْ يَكُنْ أَهْلُهُ حَاضِرِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ﴿٩٦﴾ الْحَجَّ أَشْهَرُ مَعْلُومَاتٍ فَمَنْ فَرَضَ فِيهِنَّ الْحَجَّ فَلَا رَفْتٍ وَلَا فُسُوقَ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِي الْحَجِّ وَمَا تَفَعَّلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿٩٧﴾ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَإِذَا أَفَضْتُمْ مِّنْ عَرَفَاتٍ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ عِندَ الْمَشْعَرِ الْحَرَامِ وَاذْكُرُوهُ كَمَا هَدَاكُمْ وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ مِّن قَبْلِهِ لَمَنِ الضَّالِّينَ ﴿٩٨﴾ ثُمَّ أَفِيضُوا مِنْ حَيْثُ أَفَاضَ النَّاسُ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿٩٩﴾ فَإِذَا قُضِيَتْ مَنَاسِكُكُمْ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ آبَاءَكُمْ أَوْ أَشَدَّ ذِكْرًا فَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ

شَيْءٍ ﴿١٠٠﴾ سورة هج: 96 - 200

Since I live here, I get to perform the 'Umrah several times a year and I've done the main Hajj four times already! It's so much fun being with all those other Muslims and uniting together to serve Allah ﷻ.

B. Where Did the Hajj Begin?

The Hajj was started by Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ. He had two wives, one named Sarah and the other was Hajar. They all lived in Palestine. Allah ﷻ told Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ to take Hajar and her son, Isma'il ﷺ, to a barren valley in the Arabian wilderness. The valley was called Becca at that time.

After Ibrahim ﷺ left them in that lonely place, Hajar and Isma'il ﷺ quickly ran out of food and water. The only reason that Ibrahim ﷺ left them there was because

Allah ﷻ said He would take care of them. When they started getting really thirsty, Hajar ran around looking for water. She ran up and down two small mountains called Safa and Marwa, but found nothing.

Then, when she went back to Isma'il ﷺ, who was tired and lying down, she saw a bubbling spring gushing out of the ground near his foot, where he had just kicked the dirt. That spring is called the **Well of Zam Zam** بئر زمزم. The angels made the water come up through the earth for them.

After that, Hajar and Isma'il ﷺ had all the water they needed. They traded water with passing caravans for food and soon people began settling down in the valley. When Ibrahim ﷺ returned from Palestine for a visit a while later, he was so happy that he wanted to build a special shrine for Allah ﷻ right there.

But before he began, he had a dream one night that he was sacrificing his son. He knew that this was a revelation from Allah ﷻ, since Allah ﷻ sometimes gives messages to His Prophets through dreams. When Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ told his son what he saw in his dream, Isma'il ﷺ replied, "Do what Allah ﷻ commanded you to do."

Ibrahim ﷺ didn't want to sacrifice his son, of course, but he also didn't want to



Ram for Sacrifice.



The Ka'bah in Makkah.

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disobey his Creator. So he took Isma'il عليه السلام out to a place to sacrifice him. He was about to do so, when an angel came from Allah ﷻ and told him to stop. The angel told him that he had already proven he would give up everything he loved for Allah ﷻ and that he could now release Isma'il عليه السلام.

The father and son were so happy. Then they saw a ram, a male sheep, in some bushes nearby. They sacrificed that instead and gave the meat to the poor. Then Ibrahim عليه السلام and his son built the first Ka'bah together.

C. Why is Makkah so Special?

My father introduced me to my Qur'an teacher when I was six years old. She's a really nice lady and always tells me interesting stories and answers my questions. When I asked her why many

Muslims come to Makkah, she recited the prayer that Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام made to Allah ﷻ.

And (remember) when Ibrahim said, "My Lord, make this a city of peace and provide its people with fruits - those of them who believe in Allah and the Last Day." He (Allah) said, "As for the one who disbelieves, I shall let him enjoy a little, then I shall drag him to the punishment of the Fire. How evil an end it is! Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:126

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ قَالَ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَأُمَتِّعُهُ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ أَضْطَرُّهُ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ النَّارِ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾ سورة البقرة 2: 126

When Ibrahim was raising up the foundations of the House, along with

Isma'il (Ishmael) (supplicating): Our Lord, accept this from us because You are the All-Hearing, All-Knowing. Our Lord, make us Muslims and make our descendants Muslims. Show us where to perform our rituals and turn towards us because You are the Forgiving and Merciful. *Surat Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:127-128*

﴿وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾ ﴿رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ وَأَرِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

سورة البقرة 2: 127 - 128

My teacher explained that this is a very special place. There are no idols, no statues and no evil things. The Ka'bah was made by the Prophet Ibrahim and Isma'il long ago for the benefit of all

people who surrender to Allah. People who come here will find peace.

I learned that all the things people do on Hajj go back to an important part of the history here. When people walk around the Ka'bah seven times and praise Allah saying, **Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk** **لبيك اللهم لبيك** Here I am, O Allahy, at Your service, they are following the tradition of Prophet Ibrahim.

When they go up and down the hills of Safa and Marwa, they are remembering Hajar and her struggle and when they sacrifice the animals at the end, they are recalling the obedience of Isma'il.

The other parts of the Hajj also have a lot of meaning. We drink the water of Zam Zam and stand on the plain of Arafat to remember Judgment Day. My favorite part is called 'Stoning the Shaytan' when we throw small rocks at three stone pillars that symbolize when Shaytan approached Ibrahim as he was going to sacrifice





Stoning of the Jamarat.

his son as commanded by Allah ﷻ. Each pillar represents a time when Shaytan approached Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ and each time he chased Shaytan away by throwing small stones at him. We also sacrifice animals near the end of the Hajj again imitating Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ to show that we are willing to give up everything for the sake of Allah ﷻ. The meat from the camels and goats is used to feed poor people. When I was taught the full meaning of what we do in the Pilgrimage, I asked my dad if I could go on another one right away!

D. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Hajj

Allah's ﷻ last prophet to the world, Muhammad ﷺ, was born in Makkah in about the year 570 CE (53 BH). When he lived here, idol-worshippers were in control of the city. They prayed to statues and never cared about doing good or right. They knew the Ka'bah was built by a Prophet of Allah ﷻ, but they worshipped idols along with Allah ﷻ.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never liked idols and thought it was wrong to worship them. When he was forty, Allah ﷻ chose him to be His Last Messenger and began revealing the Qur'an to him. The night Allah ﷻ first revealed the Qur'an was during the month of Ramadan. This night is called **Laylatul Qadr** ليلة القدر **the Night of Power**.

The idol worshippers didn't want to listen to the Prophet ﷺ when he told them about Allah ﷻ. They even hurt him and his followers. Finally, the Prophet ﷺ had to leave Makkah with the other believers and live in a city called Al-Madinah. Al-Madinah is about 500 km from Makkah. After that, the idol worshippers came and attacked the Muslims three times. But they were never able to win against the Muslims, who were growing in number all the time. Finally, the Prophet ﷺ took an army to Makkah to take over the city peacefully. He even forgave all the idol-worshippers and took no revenge on them. This made most of them become Muslim right then and there. They were so impressed by his kindness.

Then the Prophet ﷺ ordered all the idols that were in and around the Ka'bah to be destroyed. He prayed to Allah ﷻ for guidance and taught the people how to perform Hajj the correct way; the way that Allah ﷻ wants it to be done. After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, the Muslim population kept on growing so rapidly that the Hajj became a huge annual event.

When I look out of my window on the street below, I see Muslims of every race and color. They're dressed in all kinds of clothes and everyone greets each other with *salaam* and smiles, even though they don't know each others' language. When the Hajj is over, we have a big holiday



The Prophet's Masjid in Al-Madinah.

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called 'Eid al-Adha عید الأضحی'. I get a lot of presents from my relatives and parents that day.

I sincerely hope you get the chance to perform Hajj and see all the wonderful places we talked about for yourself, too. Make dua' to Allah ﷻ for the chance to perform Hajj soon. Maybe we will even see each other when you come here. Until then, As-salaamu 'alaykum!



1. What is the Ka'bah? Why do people visit it?
2. What is the difference between Hajj and 'Umrah?
3. Who was Ibrahim ؑ? How is he connected to the Ka'bah?
4. How was Hajar ؑ tested by Allah ﷻ, and how can her example give us strength today?
5. List three activities people do on Hajj.
6. How did the Blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ purify the Ka'bah for Allah ﷻ?

13 Ayesha: An American Girl



WHAT TO LEARN

If you're going to study Islam, where is the best place to learn?



VOCABULARY

Musalla **Mu'athin** **Fard**
Ta'leem **Kiraaman Kaatibeen**



THINK ABOUT IT

The masjid is a great place for Muslims to go to learn and pray.



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A. Welcome to my Masjid!

As-salaamu 'alaykum! Peace be with you! How are you doing? My name is Ayesha 'Ali and I live in a city called Boston in the United States of America. My Ummi (mother) is a store manager and my Abi (father) works for the city. Why don't you come and hang out with me for a while? I'm going to the masjid for weekend school. You can come, too!

This is the Islamic Society of Boston Mosque. It's been here a long time and a lot of Muslims come here. We have a really nice **Musalla** **مصلی** **Prayer Area**. On Fridays, the entire masjid is full! There's also a small Islamic bookstore here. Whatever books we need for weekend school we can get there. They have other stuff as well. Last week, I bought a necklace that says 'Allahu Akbar' on it and some nice-smelling oils.

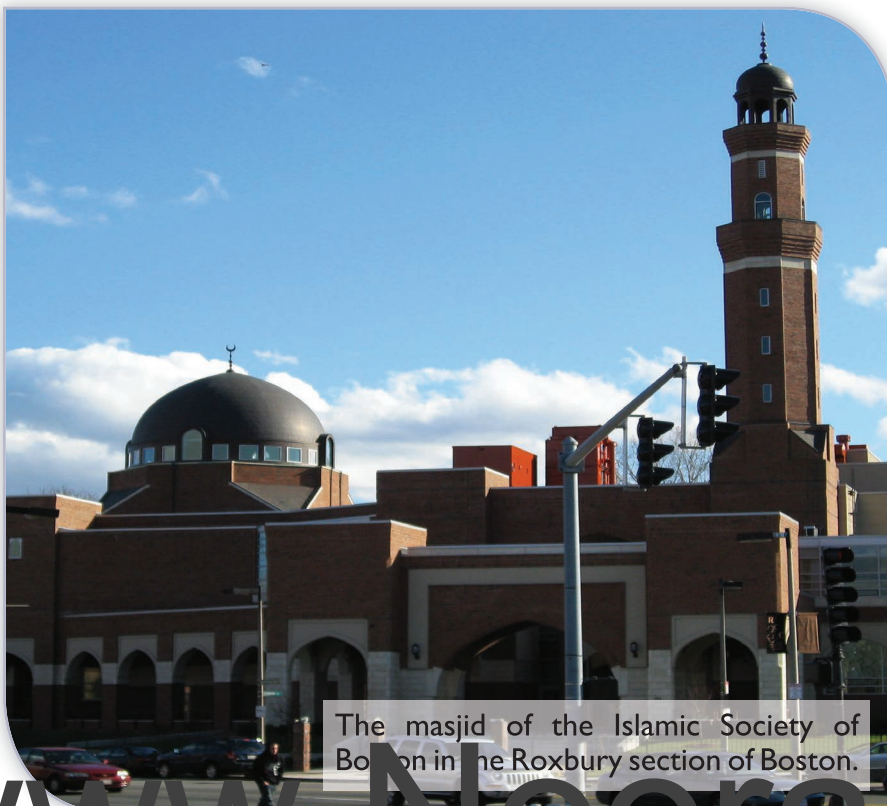
As we enter the masjid, we should say, اللهم افتح لي ابواب رحمتك. That means,

"O Allah, open up for me the doors of Your mercy." I always say it and you can learn that little dua' as well!

My Abi and Ummi go home after dropping me off. My Abi comes to the men's study group on Thursday nights and my Ummi comes to a study class they called Ta'leem on Fridays. The word **Ta'leem** **تعليم** means **Learning and Knowledge**. She and the other women study Islamic teachings and the Qur'an. When I'm older, I'll start going with her, too!

Let me show you around. Our masjid has two floors. The Musalla is on the first floor and the classrooms are up here on the second floor. I'm in class 'C' because of my age level. My teacher is sister Shakeela Shabazz. She's a smart sister and I like her a lot. She really knows how we kids think.

Well, class is going to begin in a few minutes. I see my friends Aziza, Safia



The masjid of the Islamic Society of Boston in the Roxbury section of Boston.

deeds go in that one's book. On Judgment Day, they're going to give your book to Allah ﷻ for review and you would better have a thicker book from the angel on the right!

I think angels are so cool. Allah ﷻ placed them everywhere! Do you remember the part about the two angels standing by the door of the masjid on Fridays? They write down the names of all the people who come to Jumu'ah Salah. But when the Imam is ready to start his khutbah, the angels

fold their books away and go inside to listen. I guess that means that a Muslim should be on time for Jumu'ah!

I also thought it was neat when the sister explained why Muslims line up in rows when they pray in **Jama'a** **جماعة** **Congregation**. She mentioned the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ, where he said the angels line up in rows in front of Allah ﷻ and that they fill in all the spaces in each row until they're full. That's why we line up that way, too.

Oh, I see it's almost time for Thuhr Salah. I need to make wudu' and then we can go in the musalla to pray. I'll see you in there in a minute. Don't forget to say that little dua' I told you about before you walk into the musalla!

C. Waiting for Prayer

Okay, I'm ready, let's say the dua' and go inside. The brothers line up there in the

and Rochelle. Come on in with me and after class, we can talk some more. Sister Shakeela won't mind because she always tells us that Allah ﷻ loves big gatherings where His name is mentioned, so the bigger, the better. I believe her.

B. The Angels Are Watching Us

That seemed like such a short class! It's really true that time flies when you're having fun. I especially liked the part where sister Shakeela was telling us about how angels are sitting on our left and right shoulders. What did she call those two angels? Oh yeah, the **Kiraaman Kaatibeen** **كِرَامَاتُ كَاتِبِينَ** the **Noble Writers**.

The one on the right records all your good deeds and the one on the left does what? Yep, you guessed it! All your bad

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front rows near the Imam. Then they fill up the rows one at a time going back. We sisters start from the very back rows and fill them up first and then move forward. Ummi says it's the best way for us to be organized because it keeps the men and women from looking at each other.

Both my parents are converts to Islam. Abi became a Muslim in the 1960s during the Nation of Islam movement. Most of my parents' older friends also came into Islam that way. I guess it wasn't really a true Islamic movement, however, because they had a lot of un-Islamic teachings. But after a few years, most of the Muslims discovered what real Islam was and entered the universal world of Islam.

Have you ever heard of Malcolm X? He was a famous Muslim American who helped many people move from the Nation of Islam to authentic Islamic teachings. Warith Deen Muhammad carried the trend on after him and helped lead a lot of Muslims, including Abi, into Islam.

Ummi became a Muslim about two years before I was born. She met Abi at a Muslim convention in Philadelphia and they got married a few months after that.

Hey, do you see that brother coming in over there? That's brother Jamal. He's the **Mu'athin مؤذن Caller to prayer**. He calls the **Athan أذان**. He has such a beautiful voice. My cousin, Lateef, is also learning how to be a mu'athin. Insha'Allah, he will be chosen to do the athan in a few months. Right now, brother Jamal has the honor to make the athan every Friday. He definitely deserves it. Let's listen to the words of the athan. Ummi says when we hear the athan, we should repeat the words we hear silently to ourselves.

الله أكبر الله أكبر
الله أكبر الله أكبر

أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله
أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله

أشهد أن محمداً رسول الله
أشهد أن محمداً رسول الله

حي على الصلاة حي على الصلاة

حي على الفلاح حي على الفلاح

الله أكبر الله أكبر

لا إله إلا الله

(It translates like this:)

Allah is The Greatest Allah is The Greatest.
Allah is The Greatest Allah is The Greatest.

I declare there is no God but Allah.

I declare there is no God but Allah.

I declare that Muhammad is
the Messenger of Allah.

I declare that Muhammad is
the Messenger of Allah.

Come to Prayer.

Come to Prayer.

Come to Success.

Come to Success.

Allah is The Greatest Allah is The Greatest.

There is no God but Allah.

The Athan is often called from a **Mi'thanah** مِثْنَانَة **Minaret** so Muslims all over town can hear it and come to the masjid for salah. Have you ever seen one?



D. The Sunnah Salah

Now, let's do our Sunnah Salah. That's the name for any extra prayer you do besides the five **Fard** فرض **Obligatory** prayers to get extra rewards from Allah ﷻ. You do them by yourself. Since It's Thuhr time now, we do a four raka'at sunnah prayer individually. It'll just take a few minutes.

There, now we just wait until the Mu'athin gives the **Iqamah** إقامة **Call to stand and line up in the rows**. It's similar to the athan except for an extra phrase added in the end, **قد قامت الصلاة** **Stand up and establish the Salah**, which is said twice.

Oh, there's brother Jamal getting ready to give the Iqamah. Okay, now that he's finished, let's line up with the other sisters. The brothers are also lining up. Allahu Akbar.

Al hamdulillah, now that our four raka'at Thuhr Salah is finished, we can pray one more sunnah prayer. This one is two raka'at only. Oh, by the way, do you know how many raka'at are in each of the five fard prayers and how many sunnah raka'at we pray before and after them? Refer to the table in this unit.

Number of Raka'at in Each Salah

Fajr	Thuhr	'Asr	Maghrib	'Isha
2 Sunnah 2 Fard	4 Sunnah 4 Fard 2 Sunnah	4 Fard	3 Fard 2 Sunnah	4 Fard 2 Sunnah 3 Witr

That's not too hard to remember, but if you want to get it all organized for your own learning, you should copy down my list. That's how I learned it also! I learned all of the names and raka'at numbers a few years ago when I first started weekend school, so I don't need this page in my notebook anymore. I've got to go to class again for the afternoon session. It was nice meeting you and I hope you drop by again for a visit. Take care! Assalamu alaykum.

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1. What are some activities Ayesha and her family do in the Masjid?
2. Look at the words of the athan. How are they a reflection of the message of Islam in general?
3. Who are the Kiraaman Kaatibeen? What do they do?
4. What is a Sunnah Salah?
5. Why do you think Muslims say that special du'a when they enter the masjid?
6. Why do Muslims line up in rows in group Salah?
7. What's the difference between Fard and Sunnah prayers?

14 Ahmad of Malaysia



WHAT TO LEARN

How should a person treat a guest?



VOCABULARY

Halal

Ummah

Haram

Thabeeha



THINK ABOUT IT

Muslims have manners for eating and for serving their guests.

A. A Banquet in Kuala Lumpur

As-salaamu ‘alaykum! My name is Ahmad Dato and I’m from Kuala Lumpur in the beautiful country of Malaysia. There’s really a lot to do and see here. Why don’t you come to my house for lunch and then we can go out and explore the city!

My home is a two-story bungalow where I live with my parents and my three younger sisters. I think my parents are in the kitchen getting the food ready, so we have a few minutes to wait. This would be a good time to go and wash our hands. You know Prophet Muhammad ﷺ always taught us to be clean. This is why we wash our hands before eating and afterwards. We can use the sink over there in the bathroom.

That’s my mom coming out of the kitchen with a tray of cut-up vegetables and fried yams.

“As-salaamu ‘alaykum, mother. These are my new friends. Can they stay for lunch? Thank you!”



You know a Muslim kid is always supposed to respect his or her parents and get their permission before doing things. I learned a hadith about it that goes like this, *Indeed Allah has forbidden you to disobey mothers.* (Bukhari)

قال الرسول ﷺ : «إِنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ عَفْوَ الْأُمّهَاتِ».

رواه البخاري

Oh my God, look at the dishes my father is bringing! There’s pan-fried dumplings, chickpeas fried with potatoes and red pepper shrimp! I never realized how hungry I was until this moment! Al hamdulillah!

Do you know the dua’ we should say before eating? After all, Allah ﷻ is the One Who made this good food possible by letting my parents get good jobs and allowing them to buy food. The long dua’ is,

‘اللهم بارك لنا فيما رزقنا وقنا عذاب النار’.

It means, “Allah bless us in what You provided for us and protect us from the punishment of the fire.” Let’s say it together. There is a shorter dua’ that you can also say. It is, ‘بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ’. I know you know what that means already! Let’s say it now all together. Okay, let’s eat!



B. What are Halal Foods?

Here, try some of this chicken stir-fry that my mom just brought out. It's really good. Oh, don't worry – all of the food is halal. A Muslim only eats food that is **Halal** **حلال** **Allowed**. Almost all of the food in the world is halal for us to eat. All fruits, vegetables, grains, poultry (like chicken), most meats and all seafood is halal. That's good because I love fish. As for land animals and birds are concerned, most of them are halal if we raise them and prepare them in the right way.

Animals should be raised humanely and fed natural and healthy feed. How do

you prepare them? That's easy. When the butcher slaughters a cow, chicken or goat, he must first say 'Bismillah.' Then he will cut the neck of the animal very quickly and with a sharp blade so that it doesn't feel any pain. Islam calls for kindness to animals, even the ones we need to eat for food so that no animal should suffer. Also there's another thing that makes our meat better; we make sure all the blood drains out of the animal right away. This food is then also known as **Thabeeha ذبيحة** **Meat Prepared and Slaughtered in the Islamic Way**.

Haram حرام means **Forbidden**. In Islam, there are some foods that are absolutely haram for us to eat or drink no matter what. The main animal that is haram for us to eat is any meat of the pig. We also don't eat dogs, lions or other animals that are predators or hunters. We eat the meat of plant-eating animals not the meat of meat-eating animals.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ didn't even eat much meat at all. Most of the foods he ate were very simple. He ate dates, milk, bread, honey and other small things. Even when he was the ruler of all of Arabia and could have



had anything he wanted, he still ate only a little and slept on an old mat made of hard fibers called reeds.

I read that once he was sleeping when his friend, 'Umar رضي الله عنه, came into his house. The Prophet ﷺ rolled over on his mat and 'Umar رضي الله عنه saw the red marks on his back from sleeping on the rough reed bed. 'Umar رضي الله عنه felt very sad that the man he loved so much was sleeping in such an uncomfortable place.

Just then the Prophet ﷺ woke up and 'Umar رضي الله عنه cried out, "Messenger of Allah ﷺ, why don't you order us to make a big bed for you or to spread a comfortable blanket over your mat?"

The Prophet ﷺ looked at 'Umar رضي الله عنه and said, "What do I have to do with this world? I'm like a traveler who stops to rest under a tree and then I move on."

That was a good way of saying that we're not in this world to look for comfort all the time because we're all going to die and leave this life eventually. We try to follow the Prophet's example in my house, too. We also never throw food away. The Prophet also taught us to live a simple life.

Now that we've finished eating, we should say two small dua' to thank Allah ﷻ for the food He gave us. First we say, *Al hamdulillah* if anyone asks us how we liked the food. Then we say,

الحمد لله الذي أطعمنا وسقانا وجعلنا من المسلمين

This means, "Praise to Allah who fed us, gave us drink and made us among the Muslims."

C. Our Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Oh no, you don't have to help us clean up after lunch. You're our guest and we love to serve you. Don't you remember

what the Blessed Prophet ﷺ said? He declared, *You have no emaan until you love for your brother what you love for yourself.* (Bukhari, Muslim)

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه خادم رسول الله ﷺ قال: «لا يؤمن أحدكم حتى يحب لأخيه ما يحب لنفسه» رواه البخاري ومسلم

So let us take care of you. If you really want to do us a favor, please, just ask Allah ﷻ to reward us by saying, **Jazak Allah Khairan جزاك الله خيرا May Allah reward you for the good.**

I know it's getting late. I think I hear the Mu'athin giving the athan from the masjid. Let's listen and repeat the words to ourselves. Okay, do you have your wudu'? Great. Let's go!

My parents encourage me to go to the masjid everyday for salah, at least two or three times. My dad tries to pray all the five prayers in the masjid. He said he Blessed Prophet ﷺ promised that praying in a group is 25 times more rewarding than praying alone. Imagine that! You get that many extra rewards for your angel to record. I wonder if his fingers ever get tired!

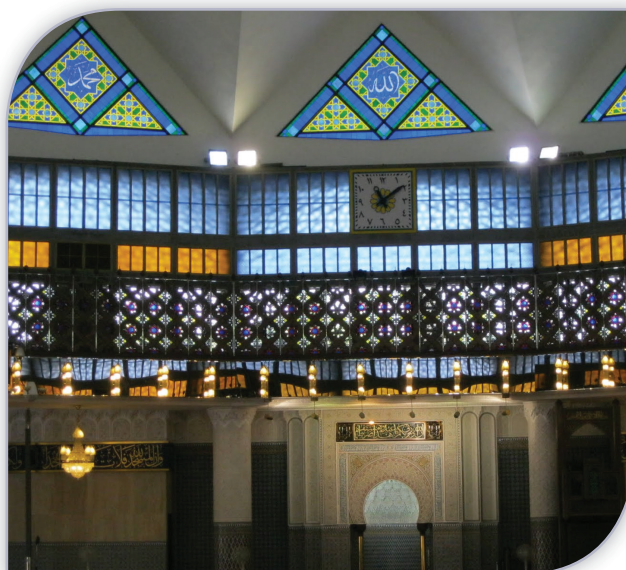
Do you remember what dua' to say when we enter the masjid? We also should enter with our right foot to symbolize that we like goodness. Remember the angel on the right! Okay, I see the people lining up for prayers inside. Let's hurry.

Al hamdulillah, that was a nice prayer on a bright sunny day. It's great to be a Muslim because we really are reminded that life is beautiful. No matter what troubles come our way, Islam teaches us to put things in perspective. You know, to understand that no matter what happens to us, Allah ﷻ is greater than all those problems and that our main duty should be to live free from worry. We tell our

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worries to Allah ﷻ and He removes them if we're sincere believers.

While we're leaving the masjid, there is a beautiful dua' that the Prophet taught us to say to remind us of that fact. While stepping out with our left foot into the unpredictable world, we say,

اللهم اني أسألك من فضلك بسم الله.

That means, "Allah, I'm looking for Your blessings, in the name of Allah." And aren't

we always in need of them!

Well, it was wonderful meeting you and I'm glad you stopped by. Islam teaches us that every Muslim is a brother and sister to every other Muslim. Our whole Ummah is a Muslim Community, meant to be like a big family. I'm glad I got to know you as a part of my family, too. Come and see me again! As-salaamu alaykum!

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1. Why do we say a du'a before eating, in your opinion?
2. Why do you think we eat meat prepared in a halal way? What is special about it?
3. List two things that are Haram to eat.
4. According to the Prophet, how is a Muslim to act towards his or her mother?
5. What can the prophet's lifestyle teach us about our lives and the place of material possessions?
6. How are we supposed to behave when we interact with non-Muslims in the course of our normal day?
7. What does it mean for us, as a community, that all Muslims are equal?

Unit
04

Review Exercise



VOCABULARY REVIEW

On a separate piece of paper, write the meaning of each word below. Remember to write in complete sentences.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. 'Eid ul Adha | 5. Halal | 9. Baytullah |
| 2. Thabeeha | 6. Ta'leem | 10. Miskeen |
| 3. Ramadan | 7. Taqwa | 11. Athan |
| 4. Hajj | 8. Haram | 12. Musalla |

 **REMEMBERING WHAT YOU READ**

On a separate piece of paper, answer the questions. Remember to write in complete sentences.

1. What are three things we do on Hajj?
2. How should Muslims treat other Muslims?
3. What is Iftar and what is Suhoor?
4. Describe how the running back and forth between the two hills at Hajj began.
5. Describe three things about salah from this unit.
6. What are Sunnah Prayers?
7. Describe three manners that Muslims follow before, during or after eating.
8. What are two things angels do?
9. Choose one of the three children you met from this unit and describe three valuable things you learned from him or her.



THINKING TO LEARN

Read the following statement and explain if it is true or false. Write in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper and give examples to support your answer.

Ramadan is only about avoiding food.

UNIT 5

Prophets of the Past



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**WHAT TO LEARN**

Why do you think Allah ﷻ sent so many prophets to the world?

**VOCABULARY**

Hawwa

Ahl Al Kitaab

Jannah

**THINK ABOUT IT**

A Muslim believes in all of the Prophets of Allah ﷻ.

A. There Were Many Prophets

As you learned before, Allah ﷻ sent a prophet or messenger to every nation on earth. Allah ﷻ said, Every people had a Warner (Prophet) among them. Surat Al Faatir (The Originator) 35:24

﴿وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ﴾ سورة فاطر 35:24

Do you remember the words for prophet and messenger? The words are *Nabi* and *Rasul*. Do you also remember the name of the first man on earth?

Adam ﷺ, the first man, was also the first prophet. He didn't receive any books or written revelations to pass on to his children, though, because he lived at a time when writing was not yet invented.

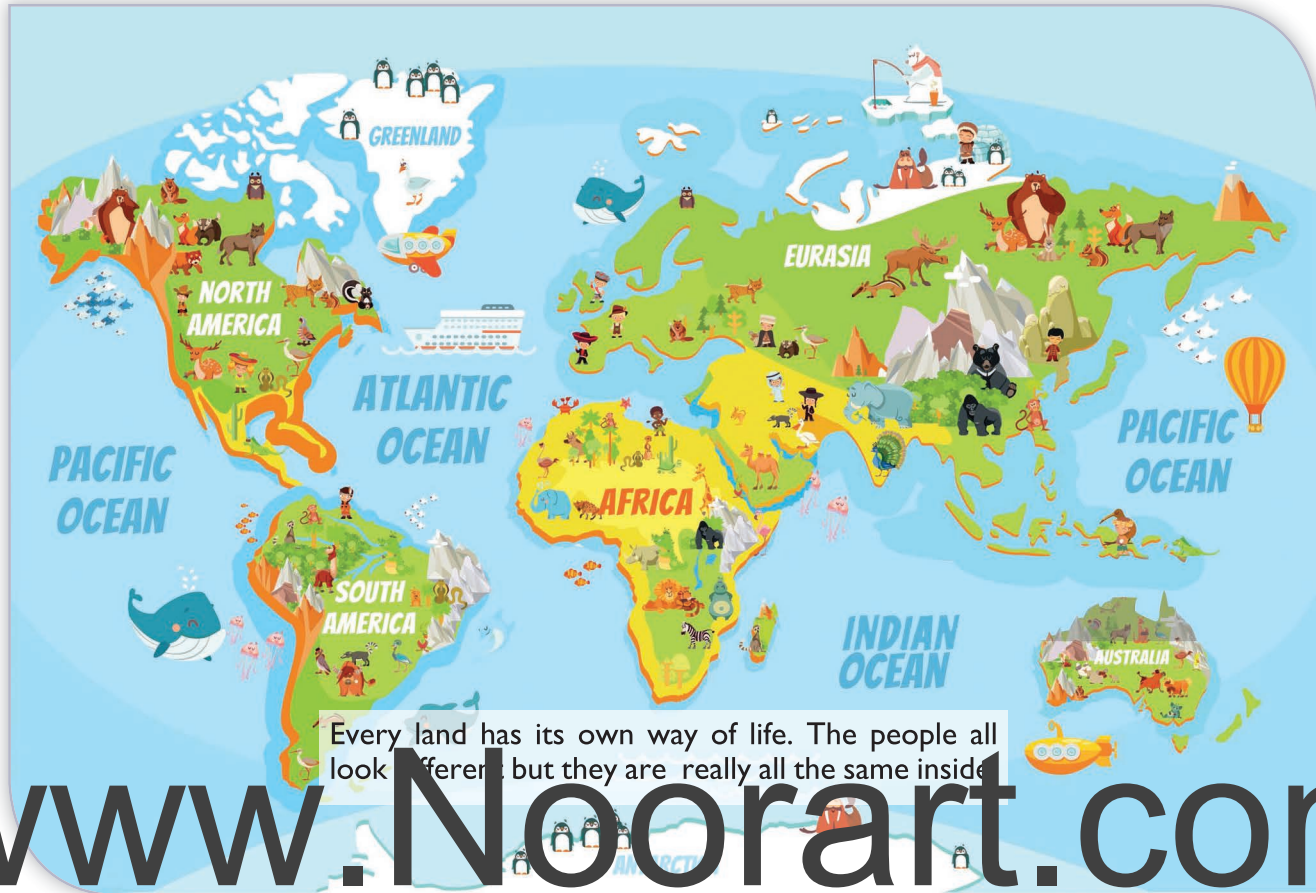
Adam ﷺ آدم and his wife, **Hawwa** حوا Eve, lived in **Jannah** جنة Heaven, a beautiful garden. Shaytan came and misled them into disobeying Allah ﷻ. The only rule that Allah ﷻ had given them was not to eat from a certain tree.



The tree wasn't magical. Allah ﷻ only gave them this simple command to obey. Shaytan, however, told them that if they ate from the tree, they would live forever. When Adam ﷺ and Hawwa ate from the tree they realized that it was a mistake, and they felt ashamed.

As a consequence of breaking that rule, Allah ﷻ asked them to leave Jannah. He sent them to the earth to live. Allah ﷻ didn't remain angry with them for a long time. After a while, He taught Adam ﷺ and Hawwa how to ask for His forgiveness. They were very happy to be forgiven!

Allah ﷻ told Adam ﷺ and Hawwa



that He would send prophets and messengers to their descendants. He said that whoever obeyed His guidance would be saved. Whoever obeyed Shaytan and followed him would lose in the end. After Adam ﷺ and Hawwa, Allah ﷻ spread their descendants all over the world.

Allah ﷻ said, You people! We made you from a single man and woman and then made you into races and groups so you can get to know each other. The best among you is the one with the most Taqwa. Surat Al Hujurat (The Rooms) 49:13

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾ سورة الحجرات 49:13

After many centuries, people eventually began to look different as well. Some people's skins became darker, while others' became lighter. Some groups of people grew taller, while others stayed exactly the same. Despite their differences, though, they had an important commonality: they were all created with a soul that naturally searches for its Creator.

Allah ﷻ sent a prophet to all peoples. There were prophets in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Australia! In fact, the Blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, peace be upon him, said that there were over one hundred thousand prophets sent to this world! That's a lot of guidance from Allah ﷻ!

Allah ﷻ said, We sent every messenger before you with this revelation sent by Us to him, that is:



Allah ﷻ said to all the messengers, “All you messengers! Do all the best things and do what is right because I know everything you are doing. This brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood and I am your Lord, so be aware of Me.” Surat Al Mu'minin (The Believers) 23: 51-52

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُوا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ﴾ وَإِنْ هَذِهِ أُمَّةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاتَّقُونِ ﴿سورة المؤمنين 23: 51-52﴾

there is no god but Me, so serve Me.
Surat Al Anbiya' (The Prophets) 21:25

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾ سورة الأنبياء 21: 25

We have told you the story of some of the messengers and others We have not told you and to Moses Allah spoke direct. Surat An Nisa' (Women) 4:164

﴿وَرُسُلًا قَدْ قَصَصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَرُسُلًا لَمْ قَصِّصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ وَكَذَلِكَ نُوهِى كُتُبًا﴾ سورة النساء 164

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If Adam ﷺ was the first prophet and Muhammad ﷺ, may he be blessed, was the last, who were the prophets in between? Allah's ﷻ book, the Holy Qur'an, tells us the stories and names of only a few. Only twenty-five prophets are mentioned by name. Why is this so?

Can you imagine how thick and heavy the Qur'an would be if it included the names and stories of every prophet? It would be huge!

The purpose of the Qur'an is not to give us a history lesson or to entertain us. It is a book to help people learn to live Allah's ﷻ beautiful way of life.

The prophets and their stories mentioned in the Qur'an are for us to learn from. They are examples of how to avoid sin and strive towards goodness. Their stories are lessons for us!

There were many prophets with major tasks and many with minor ones. In other words, some prophets and messengers had bigger jobs and more important missions than others. But we hold them all as equals because they all brought Allah's ﷻ true guidance to the world.

To those who believe in Allah and His Messengers and who don't think one messenger is better than another, We will soon give them their rewards because Allah is The Forgiving, The Kind. Surat An Nisa' (The Women) 4:152

﴿وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَلَمْ يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ أُولَئِكَ سَوْفَ يُؤْتِيهِمْ أَجْرَهُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا﴾ سورة النساء 4: 152

In this book, you will learn the stories of these Prophets: **Yunus** ﷺ, **Musa** ﷺ, **'Isa** ﷺ, **Salih** ﷺ, **Muhammad** ﷺ, **Ayyoub** ﷺ and **Ibrahim** ﷺ. You have already read something about Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ, may he be blessed, in the lesson about the building of the Ka'bah.

Other prophets that you will also learn more about in a higher grade are Sulayman ﷺ, Yahya ﷺ, Hud ﷺ, Zakariyya ﷺ, Nuh ﷺ and Dawud ﷺ.

Every prophet mentioned in the Qur'an has an interesting story. The stories of the prophets teach us valuable lessons such as patience, courage and how to remain steadfast.

Do you remember who wants to cause corruption for all the people on this earth? Yes, it is the Shaytan. Shaytan tries to mislead and every one of us to keep us from following Allah's teachings. He does the exact opposite of the prophets who come to guide us.

C. The Jews and Christians

Some of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'an are also known to the Jews and Christians. Allah ﷻ included those stories in the revelations of the prophets/messengers of their times. Muslims often use the Arabic names for the prophets, while Christians often use the English name. For example. Christians say Jesus while Muslims call him with his Arabic name, 'Isa ﷺ. We say Musa ﷺ, while the Jews call him Moses.

One special prophet was sent to the Jews to give them one last chance to obey God. This was 'Isa ﷺ son of Maryam ﷺ and he lived some 2,000 years ago in Palestine. While some of his people heeded his

message and believed in Allah ﷻ sincerely, many others did not.

Many years after 'Isa ﷺ was raised up to heaven by Allah ﷻ, a man named Paul announced that he was inspired to gather the teachings of 'Isa ﷺ and spread them to more people. However he was not careful to only say what 'Isa ﷺ had himself said or taught. Instead he added his own ideas about who 'Isa ﷺ was and what he taught. He said 'Isa ﷺ was not just a man and a very special prophet, but Allah's ﷻ son.

In the past, people who disobeyed Allah ﷻ, introduced new ideas in their religion. They said food, gold and even people must be offered to their gods as a gift or sacrifice in order to make their gods happy with them or forgive them when they did wrong.

Paul added this incorrect belief into the teaching of 'Isa ﷺ. Paul said that 'Isa ﷺ was the son of Allah ﷻ (may Allah ﷻ forgive us!) and that he must come to live on earth for a time as a man. In order to save people and grant them Allah's ﷻ forgiveness when they did wrong, 'Isa ﷺ would need to be offered as a sacrifice - meaning that he would have to die for the sake of his people. Everyone then who believed in 'Isa ﷺ as Allah's ﷻ son would have their sins forgiven for all time and go immediately to heaven when they died.

Name of Prophets Common to Christians, Jews and Muslims

Christians/Jews	Muslims
Abraham	Ibrahim
David	Dawud
Moses	Musa
Jesus Christ	'Isa
Muhammad	Muhammad

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

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