

Chapter 2

Am I a Good Friend

Lesson 1

Backbiting



Key focus:

What exactly is backbiting?



Vocabulary:

Backbite (v): to talk about something behind a Muslim's back that he would not like to be mentioned about him.

Istighfaar (n): an Arabic phrase and thikr. It means asking Allah ﷻ to forgive you.

Slandering (v): spreading lies about someone.



Get Ready, Get Set...

What do you think the girl is telling the girl on the left? How do you think the boy may feel? Discuss with your class.





GO...

Think First!



Asalaamu
'alaykum
Rahah.

Did you hear
about Sarah?

Walaikum
salaam Dana.

No I didn't. Is
she okay?

She got sent to the
principal's office. They said
she was caught cheating.

Yeah. She's so dumb! Why
would she even do that?

Really? Oh
wow! I can't
believe it.

Well, don't call her dumb, Dana. That's not nice... And maybe we shouldn't even talk about it. I don't think she would like people talking about her.



Why? What's the big deal? I'm just telling the truth!



I remember an ayah, in the Qur'an. Allah says: "And spy not; neither backbite one another."



It's okay... we all make mistakes. We just need to ask Allah for forgiveness.



I should make **istighfaar**. Astaghfirulla! Allah forgive me! Thanks for the reminder Ranah!

Backbiting is an action that many of us end up doing. Yet, it is a big sin and bad deed that Allah ﷻ does not like. The Prophet (ﷺ) said in a hadith:

“Do you know what gheebah (backbiting) is?” They (the Companions) said, “Allah and His Messenger know best.” He said, “Saying something about your brother that he dislikes.” Someone else asked, “What if what I say about my brother is true?” The Prophet (ﷺ) responded, “If what you say is true, then you have backbitten about him, and if it is not true, then you have slandered him.”

So even if what you are saying about someone is true (like how Dana was talking about Layla), if it is something he or she would not want others to know about, then you should not talk about it.

And worse than backbiting is **slandering**, or making bad lies about people. So use your tongue for good speech and stay away from backbiting.

Amazing Ayaat!

“And do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of their dead brother? You would despise that!” Surat Al Hujurat 49:12

﴿...وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَيُّبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ

لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ...﴾ سورة الحجرات 49:12



Show What You Know!

1. How would you feel if somebody talked about you behind your back?
2. What would you do if you were sitting with friends and somebody started to backbite?



Lesson 2

But I'm Just Joking!



Key focus:

How can you tell if you are making fun of someone?



Vocabulary:

Weakness (n): something you are not good at.



Get Ready, Get Set...

Are there any nicknames that you have that people call you? What are they? Do you have any that you don't like? Why?





Just Kidding!



It was a bright sunny Friday and after school, Ranah and Rafee went to the park with their mom. At the park, they both played soccer with some neighborhood friends.

Daniyal was also at the park, and even though he wasn't a fast runner, he loved playing soccer. **"Wait for me!"** he said, as he came running towards them.

Ranah started kicking the ball to her brother, **"Look guys, here comes slow-poke!"**

Everyone started to laugh, except Daniyal. His shoulders are slumped and he's walking back, we can tell he's sad.

Ranah ran after him, realizing she may have said something upsetting. But instead of apologizing, she asked, **"What are you so upset about Daniyal? I was just kidding!"**



Usually, people feel good when they make others laugh. But there are good ways and bad ways to make people laugh. Telling a riddle is usually a good way. But making fun of someone is not.

When you point out people's **weaknesses**—things they aren't so good at—to make other people laugh-- then you are making fun of them. For example, you might comment that someone is not dressed nicely, or is not good at a sport. You might give someone a nickname, like "slow-poke," which also points out the person's weakness. Allah ﷻ has commanded us not to do it. Allah ﷻ tells us in the Qur'an:

Amazing Ayaat!

"nor defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. How bad is it, to insult one's brother after having Faith." Surat Al Hujurat 49:11

...وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الْأَسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ

بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ ﴿١١﴾ سورة الحجرات 11:49



Sometimes, you might not realize you are making fun of someone. But if the other person feels upset by the nickname or your comment about them, then you can assume you have gone too far. You should stop what you are doing and apologize.

A good apology has three parts. You should:

1. Say you are sorry.
2. Say, "It was my fault."
3. Ask what you can do to make things right.

Now Consider This:

- What if you are the one who is being made fun of? What can you do?

You can let those who are making the comments know how you feel. If they apologize, you can forgive them and start over again with your friendship.

Allah ﷻ tells us about the kind of people He loves:

Amazing Ayaat!

"Those who control their anger and are forgiving towards people; Allah loves the good.."

Surat Al Hujurat 3:134

﴿وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾

سورة آل عمران 134:3

If the joking continues, get an adult involved so that they can help make sure everyone is being kind and respectful.



Show What You Know!

Finish the story, "At The Park." Make sure you answer these questions:

1. How should Daniyal let Ranah know his feelings were hurt?
2. How should Ranah respond to Daniyal?



Lesson 3

Do You Want Some?



Key focus:

What does it mean to be generous?



Vocabulary:

Generous (adj): freely giving to others; giving more than you have to.

Charity (n): giving something you own to someone who needs it.

Sadaqah (n): charity.



Get Ready, Get Set...

Write three sentences about how you think this child feels. What do you think you could do to help?





Big Appetite, Big Heart

Rafee always told his mom to pack him lots of snacks! Cheese, crackers, apples, grapes – you name it, Rafee probably had it in his lunch box. He had a big appetite, so he looked forward to snack time everyday at school.

This past week, Rafee noticed that his classmate Yahya never ate during snack time. Yahya would watch everyone around him, but not take out any food. He also had very little lunch. Rafee asked his teacher about why Yahya didn't have much food; he was too shy to ask Yahya directly.

Rafee's teacher's eyes widened **"Thanks for letting me know. I'll let our counselor know. But for today, if you'd like to share, that would be kind and a good deed."**



Rafee held out a granola bar to Yahya **"Do you want some"** Yahya nodded, **"Sure."** They smiled as they ate. The next day, Rafee noticed Yahya was given a small paper bag of lunch at lunchtime filled with delicious snacks!



Generous people give to others and don't expect anything back in return. What's amazing is that when you are generous, you feel good about yourself. It is great to know you helped someone, even if it is in a small way.

It's a good habit of a Muslim to give to others and not expect anything back from them. Giving from what you have to others in need is a wonderful deed in Islam; in English this is called charity, and in Arabic it is called **sadaqah**.

When you give sadaqah, Allah ﷻ forgives your sins.

The Blessed Prophet (ﷺ) said: "**Charity wipes away sin, just as water extinguishes fire...**" (At-Tirmidhi)

Sadaqah doesn't have to be something physical that you give away. The Prophet (ﷺ) taught us many other ways of giving sadaqah. You don't have to be rich or own many things to give sadaqah. Meeting your Muslim brother or sister with a smiling face is sadaqah. In another hadith, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) also said: "**Has not Allah made things for you to give in sadaqah (charity)? Truly every tasbeehah [saying: 'subhan-Allah'] is a sadaqah, and every takbeerah [saying: 'Allahu akbar'] is a sadaqah and every tahmeedah [saying: 'al-hamdu lillah'] is a sadaqah, and every tahleelah [saying: 'laa ilaha illAllah'] is a sadaqah. And commanding the good is a sadaqah, and forbidding an evil is a sadaqah...**" (Muslim)



Show What You Know!

With your class, think of ways that you all can be generous, starting today! What do you have, or what can you do, to start being generous today? Stretch your minds and be creative. Make a list like the one below and add it to your classroom wall:

How Can I Be Generous Today?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

- **Remember:** Generosity doesn't always mean giving a physical thing. Giving someone a smile or a kind word is also generous!