

Chapter 2

The Best Manners

Lesson 1

Allah Knows Everything!



Key Focus:

How does Allah's **Y** name Al 'Alim motivate us to be excellent?



Vocabulary:

Qadar (n): Allah's **Y** plan for everything.

Strive (v): to try very hard.

Al 'Alim (n): The All-Knowing; one of Allah's **Y** 99 names.



Get Ready, Get Set...

What are some things that people do when they are alone that they would not do in front of other people?





GO...

One of Allah's ^Y many names is **Al 'Alim**, the All Knowing. Allah ^Y knows about everything that happens, even before it happens. He hears and sees what we do every day. In the Qur'an it says:

And with Him are the keys of the unseen; none knows them except Him. And He knows what is on the land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls but that He knows it. And no grain is there within the darknesses of the earth and no moist or dry thing but that it is written in a clear record. Surat Al An'aam 6:59

﴿وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا يَابِسٍ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ﴾ سورة الأنعام 59:6

Everything has already been planned by Allah ^Y and written in the Record. He has decided everything that will happen. This is **qadar**, a pillar of our faith. He knows how many breaths you will take in your lifetime and how many times your heart will beat. Allah ^Y also knows how hard we can work to become excellent.

He knows about the things we think about, even if we don't say them out loud. We will not be punished for our bad thoughts. But if these bad thoughts turn into bad actions, then there will be consequences. If our heads are full of thoughts that are hurtful, it is easy for them to make us do bad things. Did you know that if we think of doing a good action but don't actually do it, we will still be rewarded? This is why its best to try to keep our thoughts positive and focused on doing good deeds.

It is important for us to be constantly aware that Allah ^Y is Al 'Alim. If we remember that Allah ^Y is watching us, then we will **strive** harder to do what is pleasing to Him with excellence.

Amazing Ayaat!

“Does He not know, He that created? and He is the One that understands the finest mysteries and is the All Knowing.”

Surat Al Mulk 67:14

﴿أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ﴾ سورة الملك 67:14

After an exciting soccer match, Zaki and Muhsin were chatting in the locker room.

“Could you believe how badly the other team was playing? Adam couldn’t even kick straight!” Zaki gloated.

Muhsin frowned. “That’s not a nice thing to say. We all had fun playing together.”



Embarrassed by his words, Zaki hurried to pack his bag so that they could get to Muhsin's house and have some dinner.

He shoved his books into the bag messily, crumpling his homework sheets.

"That homework is due tomorrow, Zaki," Muhsin scolded.

"I know! I'll get it done tonight," Zaki mumbled.

"It took me ages to do well," warned Muhsin.

When they arrived at Muhsin's house, Muhsin was in a hurry.

"Come on!" he said.

"We've gotta pray Maghrib before the time finishes."



Muhsin threw off his muddy shoes on the hallway carpet instead of placing them neatly on the doormat. But while the boys were praying Muhsin got distracted by the delicious smells wafting from the kitchen.



Zaki was deep in concentration during the prayer, asking Allah to forgive him for the unkind words he had said about Adam's football skills.

Instead of clearing up the dinner table, Muhsin and Zaki read a library book about cars.

Oops! A splodge of sauce got on the book.

Zaki looked up and saw the clock on the wall saying 7:30pm.





"Oh it's getting late! I've gotta do my homework," he exclaimed. "Can I use your computer?" Muhsin felt smug. "I've already done mine," he jeered.

Zaki ignored Muhsin and sat down at the computer. Suddenly he spotted Muhsin's homework on the desk. He thought:

Muhsin is always showing off! I'll copy his homework. If I change a few words, Mrs Yildiz will never know.



Show what you know!

Talk with a partner:

1. What do you think will happen next in the story?
2. Do you think Zaki will get away with what he did? Why or why not?
3. How do you feel when you do something wrong, even if no one knows?
4. Have you ever thought about doing something that's against the rules at home?
5. What did you choose to do in the end?
6. Now that you know Allah ^Y is Al 'Alim (The All-Knowing), how might that change what you do next time?

Lesson 2

I Am Truthful



Key Focus:

Why is it important to be truthful?



Vocabulary:

As-Sadeq (n): The Truthful; a nickname people gave Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) because he always spoke the truth.

Tribe (n): A group of families who are related to each other.

Sincere (adj): honest, not pretending.

Quraysh (n): the tribe that the Prophet (ﷺ) was born into; the most powerful tribe in Makkah.



Get Ready, Get Set...

The next morning was bright and sunny. Zaki's mood matched the weather as he handed in his homework. At the end of the day Mrs Yildiz cheerfully announced, "Pop Quiz! I'll be testing you on the skills you learned from your homework yesterday."



Zaki's stomach was in knots. He had copied Muhsin's homework, so he hadn't learned the answers himself.

Would he get found out?

Mrs Yildiz gave the first question:
"Name 5 things we should compete in."



The other boys raised their hands to answer, but Zaki's mind was buzzing in confusion. He just couldn't remember the answer.

"Zaki ... what's the answer?" asked Mrs Yildiz. Zaki's mouth went dry in fear.

"Uh. I don't know," he admitted.

Mrs Yildiz asked another question to which Zaki again didn't know. Mrs. Yildiz scanned Zaki's homework and she raised her eyebrows when she saw that he made no mistakes.

"Are you sure you don't remember? Your homework has zero mistakes."

"Um I can't remember. I've got a really bad headache," he stammered.

Mrs Yildiz gave Zaki a long look. She noticed that Zaki's face looked guilty and that he was avoiding eye contact.



"If you are feeling ill, go down to the nurse's room and ask her to call your parents to pick you up," she said.

Zaki's face flushed with embarrassment. He had to tell the truth now or he would get sent home and he didn't want to miss the soccer match right after school.

"I guess I don't really have a headache. I got some help with my homework. That's why I don't know the answers to the test," he muttered.

"You mean you copied it?" asked Mrs Yildiz.

"Yeah." Out of the corner of his eye, Zaki could feel Muhsin giving him a long look.

Mrs. Yildiz's voice got extra quiet and serious. "See me after class, please."

Zaki's heart sank. He began to make silent dua' to Allah^y to forgive him for not doing his best.



GO...

Allah^y loves Muslims who always speak the truth and never lie. Allah^y says in the Qur'an:

"O believers, fear Allah and be truthful!" Surat At-Tawbah 9:119

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿١١٩﴾ سورة التوبة 119:9

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was known as **As-Sadeq**, or The Truthful, amongst the people in his **tribe**, the **Quraysh**. When Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was commanded by Allah^y to tell his family about the message of Islam, **he gathered them together and asked: "O my people, if I told you there was an army coming to destroy you, would you believe me?"** They replied: "Yes we would believe you. We have never heard you lie." After reminding them that he was truthful, the Prophet (ﷺ) told them about Islam. Those from his family who had **sincere** hearts immediately accepted Islam.

Islam is the truth, and it is our duty to tell others about Islam. But people will only believe us if we are truthful, just like the Prophet (ﷺ). Are you known as truthful in your family? Do your friends know you as truthful?



Amazing Ayaat!

“Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will be in the company of those whom Allah has blessed: the Prophets, the truthful ones, the martyrs, and the righteous. And how excellent a company are such people!.” Surat An-Nisa' 4:69

﴿وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا﴾ سورة النساء: 69



Show What You Know!

In a small group, discuss these situations:

1. Has anyone ever lied to you? How did you know they were lying? How did it make you feel about that person?
2. Think of a time when you felt like lying but still told the truth.
3. If you were Zaki, would you tell Muhsin the truth?

Share your experiences with a partner.



Lesson 3

Promises, Promises!



Key Focus:

Why is it important to keep our promises?



Vocabulary:

Punctual (adj): on time, not late.

Responsibility (n): something that is your job or duty.



Get Ready, Get Set...

Discuss with a partner:

Have you ever made a promise to someone that was hard to keep? Why was it hard to keep? What could have helped you keep the promise?





GO...

Yumna sat alone twiddling her hair, next to the snakes and ladders game that her sister had promised to play with her. She had waited so long the sun was disappearing into the horizon.

“I’ve got more important things to do than play babyish games with you! Now that I am ten; I have responsibilities!”

Lubna scolded her. **“Responsibilities? What do you have to do?”** Yumna wondered.

“I have to wash the dishes after dinner and put the laundry away,” her sister answered.

“That doesn’t sound like any fun at all,” replied Yumna.

Strangely, she felt disappointed that she had not been trusted with a responsibility, even though it was more work. Yumna sighed, feeling left out and small.



Yumna wandered off to look for her mom.

“Mom, what can I do to help out? I want a responsibility. I’m not a baby,” she asked her mom.



“Well, honey, the plants need watering. Do you think you could do that?”

“Sure thing, Mom, that’s easy peasy.”

“When you’ve done that, you can let the cat in and feed it.”

Yumna went to find the watering can, but on the way she spotted the reading book that she had lost.

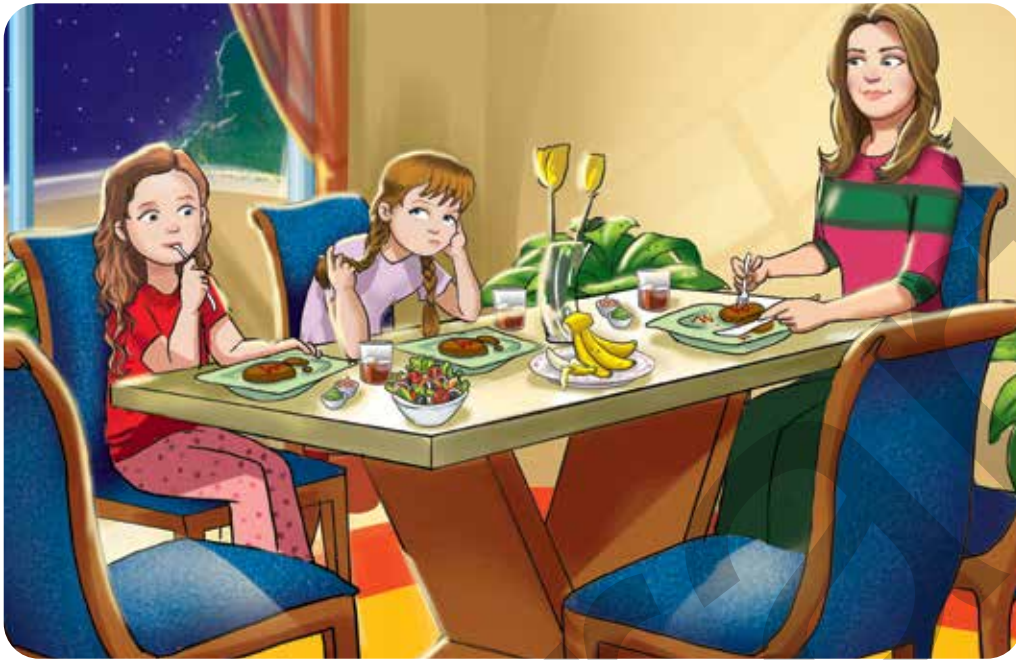
She sat down to finish reading it.

Then she decided that her dolls needed a cup of tea, and she set out a tea party for them.

It was not long before her mom called her and her sister for their evening meal. As they were eating, they heard a strange scratching sound at the door.



"What's that noise?" her mom asked.



"I bet you forgot to let the cat in and feed it!" Lubna taunted.

"The cat!" Yumna's cheeks flushed as she jumped up and opened the door.

She put food in its bowl and sat back down.

"Did you do the other task I trusted you with?" asked her mom.

Yumna thought, trying to remember what it had been.

"The plants!" she said.

"Honey, the cat needs food to live. And the plants need water. You must keep your promises!"

"Yeah, how would you like it if Mom forgot to feed us?"
sneered Lubna.

Instead of answering, Yumna's eyes welled with tears and she looked down at her dinner plate. Suddenly, she didn't feel hungry anymore.

Now Consider This:

- Did Yumna fulfil her responsibilities?
- What was the problem?

Although she didn't mean to, Yumna broke her promises. She did not prepare properly to ensure she completed her tasks successfully.

Keeping promises is a very important part of being trustworthy. Other parts of being trustworthy are: being honest, fair in dealings and doing what you say you will.

Fulfilling our promises is part of our worship. It is also called amanah in Arabic. Allah ^y will reward us for it:

"Those who are faithfully true to their and to their promises and keep their prayers, these indeed are the one who will take over, who shall get Paradise and live there forever." Surat Al Mu'minun 23:8-11

﴿وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمْنَتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ ۝۸ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَوَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ ۝۹
أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ ۝۱۰ الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ۝۱۱﴾ سورة المؤمنون 11-8:23

We rely on being able to trust each member of our family, community and society. We depend on each other to perform certain roles.

Allah ^y tells us:

"Verily, God commands you to render back your trusts to whom they are due." Surat An-Nisa' 4:58

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا...﴾ سورة النساء 58:4

Doing things with excellence, or ihsan, means we should be responsible: doing what we say we will, keeping promises, being **punctual**, being fair and honest and being trustworthy.



Show What You Know!

Discuss with a partner and write your answers:

1. What is one important thing you learned in this lesson?
2. Has someone ever broken a promise to you? How did it make you feel?
3. What can you do to keep your promises to others?
4. If you were Yumna, how would you remember your tasks next time?