

THE HOLY QUR'AN

القرآن الكريم

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand the origin of the Qur'ān is from Allah (SWT)
- Know the basic structure of the Qur'ān and be aware it is in Arabic
- Memorise the names of some ṣurahs
- Know the etiquettes and rules of handling the Qur'ān
- Understand that the Qur'ān is the word of Allah
- Know the rewards of looking at, reading and memorising the words of the Qur'ān
- Understand the importance of putting the Qur'ān into practice
- Learn two important lessons from the Qur'ān

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Lesson 1: The Qur'ān: a Gift from Allah (SWT)



ALLAH'S GIFT

Allah (SWT) loves us very much. For this reason He gave us a very special gift. This gift teaches us how to do what is right and stay away from what is wrong. Can you guess what this may be?

If you answered the **Holy Qur'an**, you are right!

The Qur'an looks like this:



The writing inside is Arabic like this:



Angel Jibrā'īl brought down the words Allah (SWT) wanted people to know and told them to Prophet Muḥammad (saw). The Prophet (saw) said these exact words from God to the people and people memorised them and wrote them down in a Book.

Allah (SWT) has promised to look after the Qur'an and keep it safe until the day of Judgement. This means that the Holy Qur'an has never changed and never will.

A copy of the Qur'an from a long time ago



A copy of the Qur'an from now



Although these copies of the Qur'an are from different times, the words inside are exactly the same

THE PARTS WITHIN THE QUR'AN

The Holy Qur'an has different sections. This makes it easier for us to know which part of the Qur'an we are reading or which part we want to read again.

SURAH: a surah is like a chapter of the Qur'an. A surah can be many pages long or just a few lines.

We have 114 Surah in the Qur'an.

ĀYAH: an āyah is one small 'verse' of the Qur'an. An āyah may also be long or short. Each surah is made up of many āyāt.

We have 6205 āyāt in the Qur'an.

Class Exercise 1:

Find out how many āyāt there are in the above Surah.

Class Exercise 2:

Memorising Names of Surahs

Try to memorise the names of the last 5 Surahs of the Qur'an

- Surah Al Naṣr
- Surah Al Masad
- Surah Al Ikhḷās
- Surah Al Falaq
- Surah Al Nās

Lesson 2: Reading the Holy Qur'an

It is very important to remember when we read the Qur'an that it is a gift from Allah (SWT) and therefore we should treat it with much respect. When we want to read it we should make sure that;

- We are clean and Ṭāhir, therefore we should make *Wuḍū'* before we read
- We should show respect to the Qur'an by kissing it and placing it on our forehead
- Open it and turn the pages carefully. Make sure not to tear or write on the pages of the Qur'an
- Do not put the Qur'an near your feet or on the floor

- Always make sure to put the Qur'an on top of other books not below them
- Make sure you concentrate when you read (so not reading in front of the TV)
- We should not leave it open when no one is reciting it, and should never leave a copy of the Qur'an on the floor.

Class exercise

Using two ordinary exercise books, pair yourself into groups of two. Your teacher will ask you to come to the front of the class. One person should show how to handle the Qur'an in the right way, and another person should show what we should not do when holding the Qur'an.

WHY SHOULD I READ THE QUR'AN?

When we read from the Holy Qur'an:

- Allah (SWT) gives us rewards in this world and the Hereafter
- It brings us closer to Allah (SWT)
- It teaches us new things
- It protects us from Satan
- The angels in heaven see our houses the way that we see stars in the night sky.
- Reading the Holy Qur'an in our houses protects us and our families from bad things that might happen to us

The Effect of the Qur'an

Why do we read Qur'an, even if we can't understand a single Arabic word? This is a beautiful story to help us understand the answer to this question.

An old American Muslim lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading his Qur'an. His grandson wanted to be just like him and tried to imitate him in every way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Grandpa! I try to read the Qur'an just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Qur'an do"?

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and replied, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring me back a basket of water".

The boy did as he was told, but all the water leaked out before he got back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You'll have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket, and he went to get a bucket instead.

The grandfather said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You're just not trying hard enough", and he went out the door to watch the boy try in.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got back to the house. The boy again dipped the basket into river and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Grandpa, it's useless"!

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket".

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time realized that the basket was different. It had been transformed from a dirty old coal basket and was now clean, inside and out.

The grandfather said: "Son, that's what happens when you read the Qur'an. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, you will be changed, inside and out when you read it over time. That is the work of Allah in our lives"...

Class Activity

Find-a-Word. Find the following words in the table below. Once you find the letters, colour the boxes in green.

- Ayah
- Surah
- Qur'an
- Jibrail
- Arabic

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

I follow the Quran.



Lesson 3: The Qur'an From Allah (SWT)

Class Activity

Colour in the following pictures with your favourite colours!



THE WORDS OF ALLAH (SWT)

Whenever we read or even listen to the Holy Qur'an we will receive many rewards. This is because the Qur'an is a special message directly from Allah (SWT).

When you buy a special toy, have you ever seen a small book or paper inside the box that teaches us how the toy works?

This paper comes from the person that made the toy. They know the best about the toy because they made it.

Our creator is Allah (SWT), therefore He has also given us a book that teaches us how we need to behave and how we should not behave to make sure we are using our bodies and minds carefully.

For example, Allah (SWT) knows that eating something that comes from a pig is very bad for us, therefore He told us in the Qur'an that we should not eat things that come from a pig.

When we are reading the Qur'an, it is important to remember that these words are the actual words of Allah (SWT). Therefore we should be respectful and pay attention because we need to know the special instructions Allah (SWT) has left us with to do the right thing.

Activity

Circle the toys you think would need a book to tell us how to use them.



READ AND LISTEN

Allah (SWT) loves us very much. Therefore He has made it very easy for us to receive rewards from Him. Every time we read Qur'an Allah (SWT) is giving us rewards.

We can read Qur'an from memory or we can read it in Arabic from the Qur'an pages.

However Allah (SWT) is so kind that he also gives us rewards if we are listening to the Qur'an or even just looking at it!

Therefore when we are at the Mosque or somewhere and the Qur'an is being recited, to receive as many rewards as possible we should try our best to remain silent and listen.

Activity

Colour in the pictures of Ahmad and Sarah below reading Qur'an in the morning and listening to Qur'an in the afternoon.



LEARNING FROM THE QUR'AN

Besides reading the Qur'an, and listening to it, we should always learn from the Qur'an. After all, the Qur'an was sent to us to teach us how to live a good life. One of the main messages in the Qur'an is that we should be good to our parents, respect them and show them love at all times. The Qur'an says:

“Do not worship anyone but Allah and be good to your parents” (2:83)

One day, a person came to the Prophet (saw) and asked him: “who is the person that I should treat with the most respect?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”.

The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”. The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”. The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your father”. The Prophet (saw) also said: “God is pleased when the

parents are pleased, and God is not pleased when the parents are not pleased". This shows just how important it is to be good to our parents. If we are not good to our parents, then we will be kept very far away from Paradise and will not be allowed to enter it.¹

Class Activity

Let's all sing the following nashīd together and try to memorise it:

"1 Who should I give my love to?
My respect and my honour to
Who should I pay good mind to?
After Allah
And Rasulullah

Comes your mother
Who next? Your mother
Who next? Your mother
And then your father

Lesson 4: The First Revelation

In this lesson, we will learn about the first revelation to Prophet Muḥammad (saw). This is the story of the first time that the Angel Gabriel came to the Prophet and gave him words from the Qur'an.

The Prophet had always been a very good man. When he was young he was always polite, thought about what he said, was never rude, never lied and always wanted to help those in need.

Soon all the people around him loved him very much and knew he was a great boy. As he grew older people started calling him 'the Truthful person' and 'the Trustworthy person'.

At that time people used to pray to idols rather than to Allah (SWT). Idols are statues that people make and then pray to them. Prophet Muḥammad (s) always knew that there was only one God and that it was Allah (SWT). He knew that it did not make sense to pray to an idol made of wood, which was not able to do anything to take care of itself, let alone to help others.

He would very often climb up a mountain and sit in a little cave where he would just look at the world and think about Allah (SWT) and all of His amazing creations.

One day something special happened. He was 40 years old and sitting in the little cave thinking about Allah (SWT). All of a sudden he heard a voice talking to him. Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was amazed. This voice belonged to angel Gabriel. The angel Gabriel was the special angel that would bring messages from Allah (SWT) to the Prophet (saw).

Angel Gabriel was saying the words of the Qur'an to Prophet Muḥammad (saw). We call this revelation. He was telling prophet Muḥammad (saw) to read. The first ayah was:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Iqra' Bismi Rabikkal allathi Khalaq

"Read in the name of your Lord Who created."

Class Activity

Try to memorise this ayah during class today. Your teacher will help you with this.

REVELATION OF ĀYAT

Every 'verse' in the Qur'an is called an āyah. Each āyah was revealed for a reason. Sometimes the āyah has a special message. An āyah might:

- Advise or order us to do certain good things
- Tell us not to do certain bad things
- Tell us a story from the life of a Prophet
- Tell us about Allah (SWT)

Some āyat were also revealed to help the prophet when people were teasing him or treating him rudely.

Most of you probably already know Surat al-Kawthar.

"O Muḥammad, We have granted you al-Kawthar. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice to Him alone. Indeed, it is your enemy who is the one who is cut-off."

These āyāt were revealed because people started to tease Prophet Muḥammad (saw) because he had no sons. They thought that after he died people would forget about him because no one would continue teaching what he did.

But they didn't realize that Allah (SWT) had a great plan. Prophet Muḥammad (saw) had one daughter named Fātimah. Fātimah (as) had four children and her children were the grandchildren of Prophet Muḥammad (saw).

The sons of Fātimah (as) became the Imams after the prophet and they continued to teach Islam in the right way and that is why until today we all know about Prophet Muḥammad (saw).

Allah (SWT) tells us about this story in Surat al-Kawthar.

Class Activity

Colour in the name of the Surah below.

Surat al-
Kawthar

¹ Mishkatul Anwar, chapter on goodness to parents