



IMAMAT

الإمامة

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced briefly to the idea of leadership
- Be introduced to the concept of Imam, and that it is the position of the successor of the Prophet (saw)
- Learn that we believe in 12 sinless Imams
- Learn the names of the Ahlul Bayt
- Learn to recite Ṣalawāt and learn its meaning
- Know about the incident of Ghadīr in brief
- Learn the names and titles of the 12 Imams
- Discuss the importance of love for the Ahlul Bayt

Lesson 1: Getting to know our Imams (as)

INTRODUCTION

If our class wants to play a game with the next class, we need to choose not only the best players but also select a team leader. What will the leader have to do? The leader will take care of his team, lay down the rules and also show or guide his players how to defend themselves. The leader has to be a strong and wise player. All the players will do as the leader says.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

At school, who is the leader? Who sets up the timetable for the whole school? Who organizes classes, their teachers, and programs for the year? This is the leader of the school. Who decides the rules for good behaviour at school? Yes, it's the principal. He is the leader of a school.

Here is another example: have you seen ants moving around in the backyard? Have you noticed they move in a line and all follow the ant at the front of the line? The ant at the front is the one who knows where the food is, and so all the other ants follow.

So you see, it is important to have a good leader to guide a community or society. Without a leader, things break down and no one knows their task or job.



All bees carry out their role in their society with complete diligence and as a result achieve things that baffle even human beings!

THE LEADERS IN ISLAM

When Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was alive, he was of course the leader of the Muslims. However, when he passed away, someone needed to take over that position so that the Muslims would stay on the right track. This is why Allah (SWT) told Prophet Muḥammad (saw) to appoint an **Imam**: someone to lead the Muslims after the Prophet (saw) passes away. Who did the Prophet (saw) appoint? That's correct. Imam 'Ali (as) was the first Imam.

So Allah (SWT) chose Imam 'Ali (as) as the leader for the Muslims after the Prophet (saw). Allah (SWT) also chose the Imams to come after him. There are twelve Imams in total. The 12th Imam is Imam al-Mahdi (atfs) and he is still alive today. However, he is in hiding and we cannot see him.

So there are 12 Imams in total, and in later lessons we will learn their names gradually.

How many Imams do we have?

- That's correct, 12

Who is our first Imam?

- That's correct, Imam 'Ali (as)

GETTING TO KNOW OUR IMAMS

In today's lesson, we are going to learn the names of the first three Imams (as). These Imams are:

1. 1st Imam Imam 'Ali (as)
2. 2nd Imam Imam Ḥasan (as)
3. 3rd Imam Imam Ḥusayn (as)

Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusayn (as) were the sons of Imam 'Ali (as).

Class Activity

Spend five minutes going over the names of the Imams with your teacher. Make sure you know the names of the first three Imams in the correct order by the end of

this lesson. When you get home, tell your parents what you have learnt!

After you have learnt the names, colour in each name in a different colour.

IMAM 'ALI

IMAM ḤASAN

IMAM ḤUSAYN

Review Questions

Q1. What is the name of our first Imam?

- Imam 'Ali (as)
- Imam Ḥusayn (as)
- Imam Ḥasan (as)

Q2. Who chose Imam 'Ali (as) as the leader of the Muslims?

- Allah (SWT)
- The people
- No one

Lesson 2: The Ahlul Bayt

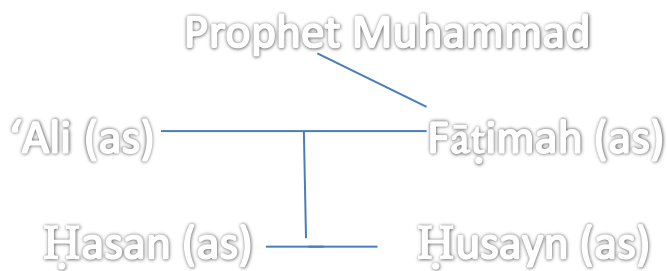
In this lesson, we will learn about a very special group of people called the Ahlul Bayt. The Ahlul Bayt have a very special status with Allah (SWT) which we will also learn about today. There are five members of the Ahlul Bayt (as). We already learnt about the names of three of them last week. The five are:

- Prophet Muḥammad (saw)
- Imam 'Ali (as)
- Sayyeda Fāṭimah (as)
- Imam Ḥasan (as)
- Imam Ḥusayn (as)



Class Activity

Colour in the following family tree of the Ahlul Bayt (as).



Fāṭimah (as) was the daughter of the Prophet. She married Imam 'Ali (as). Together, they had two children, Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusayn (as). These two children were of course the grandsons of the Prophet (saw).

HADITHUL KISĀ'

Let us listen to a wonderful story about the Ahlul Bayt. It is the story of Ḥadithul Kisā'.

The Prophet (saw) once went to the house of his daughter Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) and asked her to give him a Kisā', which is like a blanket or a large cloak. She gave him a Kisā' and he wrapped himself in it.

Soon after, there was a knock on the door. It was her son Imam Ḥasan (as). He said: '*Assalamu Alaykum*' to his mother and she replied to him. He then said that he could smell the scent of his grandfather Prophet Muḥammad (as) in the house. She said that he was beneath his Kisā'. Imam Ḥasan (as) went to his grandfather, greeted him and then asked him if he could join him beneath the Kisā'.

The Prophet (saw) agreed.

Next, Imam Ḥusayn (as) knocked on the door and greeted his mother. He also said that he could smell the scent of his grandfather in the house. Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) said that his grandfather was beneath the Kisā' with Imam Ḥasan (as). Imam Ḥusayn (as) went to his grandfather, greeted him and asked if he could join them beneath the Kisā'. The Prophet (saw) agreed and Imam Ḥusayn joined his grandfather and brother.

Imam 'Ali (as) then knocked on the door and greeted Sayyedah Fāṭima (as). Imam 'Ali (as) said that he could feel that his cousin, Prophet Muḥammad (as) was in the house. Sayyedah Fāṭima (as) said that their two sons and

the Prophet (saw) were beneath the Kisā'. Imam 'Ali (as) asked them if he could join them.

The Prophet (saw) agreed and Imam Ali (as) then joined them beneath the Kisā'.

Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) came up to them and asked whether she could join them as well. The Prophet (saw) agreed and she too did so.

When the special Angel Gabriel saw the Kisā', he asked Allah who was under it. Allah (SWT) replied that they were the household of the Prophet: they were Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as), her father, her husband and her two sons beneath the Kisā'.

"Can I go and join them?" asked Gabriel. Allah (SWT) granted him permission to descend to earth to join them. However, He ordered him to take a message with him:

Gabriel came to the house of Imam 'Ali and Sayyedah Fāṭimah and asked the Prophet's permission to join them. The Prophet said, "Yes, you may".



Gabriel joined the Prophet (saw), Imam 'Ali (as), Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as), Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusayn (as) under the Kisā'. Now he passed on his message from Allah (SWT). Allah had used a special title to refer to these five holy people. He had called them: **the Ahlul Bayt**- the people of the Household of the Prophet. He had told Gabriel that they were the most perfect and best of all His creatures. Allah (SWT) had then asked Gabriel to announce that Allah (SWT) had made these five holy people absolutely pure, and free from any sins or mistakes. This made the Prophet (saw) and his family very happy. ⁱ

Class Activity

Now our class is going to act out the story above. Your teacher will give each of you a role to play, and then we can all act out this story of the Ahlul Bayt (as).

RECITING ṢALAWĀT

Every time we hear the name of any of the Ahlul Bayt, it is recommended that we recite Ṣalawāt, by saying:

Memorisation Task

اللهم صلي على محمد و آل محمد

O Allah! Send your blessings upon Prophet Muḥammad and his Ahlul Bayt

Review Questions

Q1. How many people were under the Kisā'?

- 5
- 4
- 3

Lesson 3: Learning more about our Imams

In previous lessons, we learnt the names of the first three Imams. We also got to know the Ahlul Bayt (as). In this lesson, we want to know the names of three more Imams (as).

THE TWELVE IMAMS

1st Imam	Imam 'Ali (as)
2 nd Imam	Imam Ḥasan (as)
3 rd Imam	Imam Ḥusayn (as)
4 th Imam	Imam 'Ali Zainul 'Abidīn
5 th Imam	Imam Muḥammad al Bāqir
6 th Imam	Imam Ja'far al Ṣādiq

Class Activity

Go over the names of the first six Imams with your teacher. Once you know all the names in the right order, colour in the pictures below. Use a different colour for each Imam (as).

Imam 'Ali (as)

Imam Ḥasan (as)

Imam Ḥusayn (as)

Imam 'Ali Zainul 'Abidīn

Imam Muḥammad al Bāqir

Imam Ja'far al Ṣādiq

Class Activity

Your teacher will ask you to come to the front of the class and pick a number out of the hat. When you see the number, tell your teacher the name of the Imam corresponding to that number. For example, if your teacher picks out the number '1', you should answer: 'Imam 'Ali (as).

Class Activity

Write the correct number of the Imam next to the name of the Imam (as). The first has been done for you.

Imam 'Ali (as)	1
Imam 'Ali Zainul 'Abidīn	
Imam Ja'far al Ṣādiq	
Imam Ḥusayn (as)	
Imam Muḥammad al Bāqir	
Imam Ḥasan (as)	

ⁱ Hadithul Kisaa', Mafatihul Jinaan, section on visitations in Medina