

The UNITY of GOD

التوحيد

Objectives >>>

Students should:

Lesson 1

- Understand that Allah is our Creator
- Understand that God is not visible to the eye

Lesson 2

- Understand that Allah is Our Cherisher
- Allah is the Creator and Cherisher of the Universe, and He is One, without Partner

Lesson 3

- Learn some of the main attributes of Allah (SWT)

Lesson 4

- Discuss and appreciate the signs of Allah in nature

Lesson 5

- Understand the importance of gratefulness to Allah (SWT)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Lesson 1: Allah is our Creator

We will spend most of this year learning about the five pillars of religion. In Arabic, we call these Uṣūlul Dīn. These are the five beliefs that are the base for all of our beliefs as Muslims. These five beliefs are:

- There is one Unique God- in Arabic this is called *al-Tawhīd*

التوحيد •

- God is Just- *Al-'Adl*

العدل •

- God sent us Prophets to guide us- *Nubuwwah*

النبوة •

- God sent us Imams to guide us, the Imams continue the message of the prophets- *Imamah*

الإمامة •

- The Hereafter: after we die, we will be brought back to life and face the consequences of our actions – *al-Ma'ād*

المعاد •

The first and most important of these five beliefs is that we believe there is One God, who is Unique- meaning there is nothing like Him. In the next five lessons, we will learn more about the belief in the Unity of God.

INTRODUCTORY CLASS ACTIVITY

Split into pairs and go outside with your class teacher. Each pair should come up with a list of five things they can see (e.g. sun, moon, stars etc...) Then sit down with your teacher and discuss what you have seen.

Who created the skies so far above our heads?

Who created the blue clouds...the green trees...the chirping birds...who created us humans?

Art and Craft Activity

Split into pairs and colour an object that Allah (SWT) has created. Then cut and paste these pictures to make a class poster. Label it **ALLAH IS THE CREATOR OF EVERYTHING**. You can complete this activity next week.

GOD IS NOT VISIBLE TO THE EYE

Have you ever thought to yourself: 'I know Allah is there because He created all these things, but I can't see him or hear Him'?

Well, there are many things that exist but that we can't see with our eyes.

For example, do you love your mother and father?

Can you see this love? Can you tell me how big it is or how small it is? Can you tell me where it is or what its shape is?

We can't describe love in this way, but we know that it exists.

So we have learnt that not everything that exists can be seen by our eyes. Allah, too, exists, but cannot be seen by our eyes. What we can see, though, are all the signs that show us that He is there, like the signs you mentioned on your small excursion outside. So Allah shows Himself to us through the creatures He created. By seeing them, we know that Allah must exist.

ALL CREATED THINGS HAVE A CAUSE

Imagine you are walking on the beach one day. You suddenly step on something hard. You pick it up and see that it is a beautiful watch. It has a silver band, attached to a beautiful watch-face. It has an hour arm, a minute arm and a second arm, all working together. You turn the watch over and you see that the bottom cover has fallen out. You can see the battery in the watch, and the equipment that keeps the watch ticking.



You start to wonder where this watch came from? Did it just suddenly appear one day as it is? Did it make itself? These two options don't make any sense. So you begin to think that somebody must have made this watch. You think it must be an expert watch-maker, who knows how to put the small pieces of the watch together in the right way, and make sure the arms of the watch are ticking over correctly.

We know within ourselves that everything must have a cause. Now, when we look at the world around us, we ask ourselves: 'what is the cause for this world', and 'who made it'. Just like that watch could not have just come out of nowhere, and could not have made itself, this world also could not have just come out of nowhere and could not have made itself. Therefore, it must have a Creator who created it. This Creator is Allah.

THE PROPHET AND THE MAN FROM THE DESERT

One day, the Prophet (saw) met a man who lived all his life in the desert. This man began talking to the Prophet about Allah and saying that he believed strongly in Allah. The Prophet asked him why he believed in Allah. The man said: 'When I see the footprints of a camel in the sand, I know that a camel made these footprints, and when I see the footprints of a horse in the sand, I know that a horse made these footprints'. Such a simple man, who had never studied or read anything, knew that everything must have a cause and that all the creatures in this world were like footprints or fingerprints that show us that there must be a Creator.

Drawing Activity

Draw an animal that you think might have made these footprints.



BELIEVING WITH OUR ACTIONS

Once we believe in Allah (SWT) it is not enough to just say that we believe with our words only. Our actions should reflect the belief that we have in our hearts, by obeying Allah (SWT) and His orders and doing good actions.

Memorisation Activity

Between now and next lesson, try your best to memorise the following ayah from the Qur'an, in English and Arabic.

اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ

“Allah is the Creator of everything” (Al Zumar 39:62)

Review Questions:

Q1. We can't see Allah (SWT), but we know He exists because

- His Signs and creations are everywhere for us to see
- He tells us in the Qur'an that He exists
- The Prophets tell us that He exists

Q2. Explain to your teacher why you believe in Allah.

Lesson 2: Allah is our Cherisher

In the last lesson, we learnt that Allah created everything. In this lesson, we will talk about how Allah not only created everything, but also looks after everything once He has created it.

ALLAH LOOKS AFTER EVERYTHING

Imagine there are two houses, standing side by side. The houses were built by two different builders. The first builder spent a couple of years building the house, but once the house was built and completed, he moved away and hired someone to look after the house for him. The second builder built the house next door, but after finishing the house, he brought his family to live in the house. From the very day he built it, he started looking after everything in the house. He would clean it every day, and fix anything that broke or stopped working. He also made sure that he knew what his family needed day to day, and would provide them with what they needed.

Of course, this is just an example, but Allah (SWT) is like the second builder in that example. Allah (SWT) did not only create the world, but He nurtures it. This means that He is aware of the needs of everyone and everything in this world, and He provides them with what they need. It also means He looks after everything that happens in this world: the rain, the movement of the sun and the moon, the growth of the plants and so on.

Allah (SWT) is Merciful and Generous, and makes sure that the needs of all His creatures are looked after.

AL-RABB (THE CHERISHER)

We have learnt that Allah is our Creator and our Cherisher. The Arabic word for the Cherisher, who looks after all the needs of the world is *rabb*.

Memorisation Activity

Between now and next lesson, try your best to memorise the following ayah from the Qur'an, in English and Arabic.

...فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“...blessed be Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds”
(Ghafir: 64)

ALLAH HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO LIVE

Since Allah (SWT) has all the knowledge of our world works, and since He was the one who created us and looks after all our needs, He has set certain rules for us to follow. These rules are there to keep us happy and healthy and help us become the best people that we can be.

Brainstorming Activity

Make a 'Rules for having a Good Life Poster'. These rules should not be your own. List as many rules you can think of that Allah (SWT) has given us to lead a healthy life.

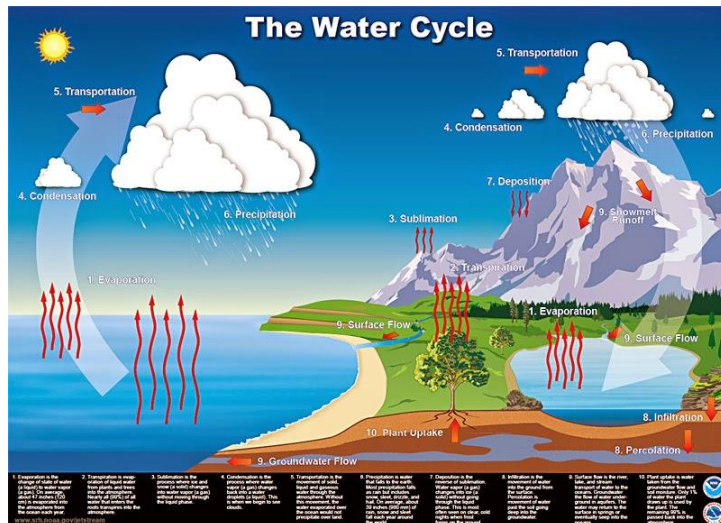
Following the rules set by Allah is called **Worship** or **'Ibādah**. We follow His rules so that we can live the best life possible, and also to thank Him for all the blessings He has given us.

ONE CREATOR AND CHERISHER

So far, we have learnt that Allah (SWT) created the world and looks after it. Some people might ask: 'why can't there be more than one Creator?' or 'why can't there more than one cherisher?'

The answer to this is that Allah (SWT) is Unique and there is nothing like Him. He is infinite- meanings He has no beginning and no end. As God is infinite, it is not possible for there to be any other 'god' like Him.

We also see that there is one order in the world that we live in, and everything is connected and works together perfectly. For example, we can see from the 'water cycle' that the sea, the clouds, the mountains, the lakes and rivers, the trees and the wind all work together to produce rain and water for life to continue on Earth.



The fact that everything is connected, and works together in such a perfect system, is a sign that there is one Creator who created this world alone, and He is the one looking after all it's different parts and managing them.

Review Questions

Q1: Allah:

- Is the Creator
- Is the Creator and Cherisher who looks after everything
- Is the Cherisher

Q2: Worship means to:

- Thank Allah
- Follow the rules God has set for us in our life
- Only praying and fasting

Q3. Explain to your teacher why there can only be One God

Lesson 3: The Names of Allah

In our last lesson, we learnt about Allah (SWT) and that He is our Creator who created everything and our Cherisher, who looks after everything. In this lesson, we will learn some of the names of Allah and what they mean. Allah (SWT) introduces Himself to us through some of His Names. Each of these Names tells us something different about Allah.

AL-RAḤMĀN-THE BENEFICENT

This name tells that Allah (SWT) is kind towards all of His creatures. He provides all of them with what they need to live comfortably and survive. He is especially kind to people. No matter how bad a person may be, Allah (SWT),

because He is Beneficent, continues to provide Him with food, drink, air and all the other things he needs to live.

One day, a man came to Prophet Musa and said to him: 'tell your God that I don't believe in Him and I don't want anything from Him ever again'. The next time Prophet Musa spoke to Allah, he was too shy to mention to this, but Allah (SWT) asked him what that man had said. When Prophet Musa explained, Allah (SWT) said: 'he may stop being my slave, but I will never stop being His Cherisher who looks after him'.

AL-RAḤĪM- THE MERCIFUL

This name tells us that Allah shows Mercy to all creatures and people, but especially for people who believe in Him and worship Him. You remember that we talked about worship in our last lesson? Well, when we worship God, we get a special Mercy from Him. For example, if we do one good deed for the sake of Allah, He (SWT) will not only give us the reward for one good deed, but for ten good deeds.

BEGINNING IN THE NAME OF ALLAH

Now that we know the meanings of the names 'Raḥmān' and 'Raḥīm', let us learn how important they are. These two names are so important that Allah (SWT) uses them at the beginning of every *ṣurah* of the Qur'ān. Also, He has ordered us to use these names before we perform any action, especially eating and at the beginning of our day. Saying these beautiful words helps us to remember Allah (SWT) and not forget that we should always be worshipping Him.

Memorisation Activity

This is what we should say before we start any activity. We should especially say it before we start eating and at the beginning of our day. Try to memorise it by next week.

Bismillāhil Raḥmānil Raḥīm

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE LADY WHO ALWAYS SAID 'BISMILLĀH'

Let's listen to the following story. Whenever you think it's time to say 'Bismillāh', join me and say it.

There was a lady who always said: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ before doing anything. She knew Allah (SWT) would then

be with her. One day, she removed her ring from the finger and put it in the cupboard as usual.

She said: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ before putting it away. She was sure her ring would remain safe. Her husband took the ring and threw it away in the river. He wanted to prove to her that only saying: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ would not keep it safe. He thought that at dinner time he would ask her where her ring was, because he knew it would not be there.

That morning, the lady went to the market to buy some fish. When she was cleaning the fish at home, she saw her ring inside the stomach of the fish!

She wondered how it got there. She calmly went to the cupboard and saying: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ put the ring back in there.

When her husband returned from work, they sat down to eat. He asked her where her ring was. She went to the cupboard and saying Allah's name opened the cupboard and brought the ring back. He was amazed! He told her what he had done and apologized for it. He also started believing earnestly in Allah (SWT).

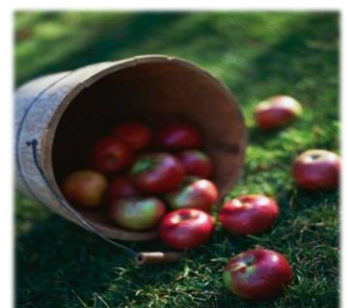
ALLAH IS ALL-HEARING, AND ALL-SEEING

Another two of the names of Allah are:

- al-Samī': the One who hears everything
- al-Baṣīr: the One who sees everything

Wherever we are, whatever time of day it is, and no matter who we're with, Allah (SWT) is always there watching us and hearing us. Therefore, we have to be careful what we do, and make sure we follow the rules Allah set for us.

One day, Ms. Fatima's class at school were learning about Allah (SWT). The teacher walked in with a bucket full of pink juicy apples. She gave her pupils



an apple each and said: "Enjoy eating your apple where no one can see you."

The children were pleased. Some of them went into the reading corner; some went behind the bookshelf; Ali and Hamad crawled under their desks. Naz went out and sat behind a big tree trunk. Poor Kumail was still standing by his desk in the classroom looking at his apple.

"Are you alright, Kumail?" asked Ms. Fatima. "Aren't you going to find a place to eat your apple?"

Before Kumail could say anything, other children started walking back into the room. They laughed at him.

"You still haven't found a place to eat?" Bader shouted.

Ms. Fatima asked again: "What's the matter?"

"I thought of all the spots; but I cannot think of any place where Allah (SWT) does not see me!" replied Kumail.

"You are right! Very right!" exclaimed the teacher.

Allah (SWT) is everywhere. We cannot hide from Him. He can see us from everywhere. That is why we say Allah (SWT) is All-Seeing. He can see us all the time: He is watching us even when we are asleep in our closed bedroom. We should, therefore always be careful to say and do the right things; Allah sees and knows what we do; good or bad.

Practical Activities

Choose one of the names of Allah (SWT) from a container your teacher has prepared earlier. The name should also have the meaning. Creatively write this name on a paper plate and decorate it. Once completed attach a string to the plate and hang it in your classroom or at home.

Review the Nasheed: Attributes of Allah

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta_tZrreE0

Review Questions

Q1-Which of Allah's Names are mentioned at the beginning of every Surah in the Qur'an?

- Al-Raḥmān and Al-Raḥīm
- Al-Samī' and Al-Baṣīr

Q2-When is the most important time to say 'bismillahil rahmanil rahim'?

- Before starting our day
- Before eating
- Before anything that we do

Lesson 4: The Signs of Allah

As we talked about in our first lesson, Allah (SWT) shows Himself to us through signs. All of the creatures of Allah are His signs. They each show that He is Kind, Merciful, Knowledgeable and Powerful.

In today's lesson, we are going to watch a video which will teach us more about the signs of Allah (SWT). This video is about the amazing solar system. It shows us that we are a small part of a beautiful, huge and amazing universe, created by Allah (SWT). The sun, as great as it is, is only a small part of a vast universe. It also shows us how the planets in the solar system are so different to each other, even though they are made of the same basic material. It also shows us the amazing beauty in this universe. All these are signs that there is a Wise and Beautiful Creator for our amazing universe.

Video

This video can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/svwwv5oAf4I>

Review Questions/ Video Activity Sheet

- Is the sun a planet or a star?
- How many planets are there in the solar system?
- What colour is the planet Earth?
- What does this amazing universe tell us about its Creator?

Memorisation Activity

Memorise these two names of Allah:

Al-Khāliq

الخالق

This means the Creator, who created everything.

Al-muṣawwir

المصور

This means the Fashioner of Forms, who made everything in the most perfect shape.

Lesson 5: Thanking Allah

Allah (SWT) created the world in which we live, with all its beauty and wonder. He also looks after us and all our needs. He has made the world in a way that makes us humans as comfortable as possible.

Look at all the different types of animals in the world that humans benefit from. The milk we drink comes from cows, the eggs come from chickens, and we eat the meat of so many different animals. Look at all the different types of fruit and vegetables that we can choose to eat from. Bananas, strawberries, nectarines, tomatoes, cucumbers...each of these had a different flavour and texture that God created for us to enjoy.

When it comes to the things we use on a daily basis, we can see that we use horses and camels for transport and fun and we use the fur and skin of certain animals for clothing. We use the wood from the big trees in the forests to build homes and schools.

Look at how God has made the sea usable for humans. We use the sea for transport: big ships carry our heavy loads from one part of the world to another without sinking. The water from the sea evaporates and makes clouds which send down rain that keeps the animals and plants alive.

Look at how the Earth moves around the Sun, giving us the different seasons we enjoy. Look at how the Earth rotates around its own axis, giving us day and night, so we can work and rest.

God has made everything in this world so that the lives of human beings are as comfortable as possible.

GRATEFULNESS TO ALLAH

As we enjoy all these blessings in our life, we should not forget who provided them to us, free and easy to use. God does not charge us for the air we breathe, or for the fish we catch from the sea, or the rain that comes down from the sky.

The only thing Allah (SWT) wants from us is to be grateful to Him and to worship Him. He does not need our worship, but He knows that if we worship Him and are

grateful to Him, this is what will help us live the best possible life.

So how can we be grateful to Allah?

One way is to say words of thanks to Allah, such as *Alḥamdulillah*. This is an expression that we should all remember, and to use whenever we remember one of the blessings that Allah (SWT) has given us.

More important than this is to remember and be aware in our hearts that the blessings we have are really from Allah and no one else, and to feel grateful to Him in our hearts.

The most important way to thank Allah is to be thankful in our actions. This means using the blessings God gave us in the way He has asked us to use them. For example, God has given us the ability to speak and a tongue. We should use these blessings to read the Qur'an and to say nice words to people. If we use the blessings of Allah in the wrong way, such as by swearing at people or insulting them, then we are being ungrateful to Allah.

If we are grateful to Allah (SWT), then He has promised us that He will give us more and more blessings and increase our success.

Memorisation Activity

لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ

“...If you give thanks, I will give you more (of My Blessings) ...” (Ibrahim: 7)

THANKING PEOPLE

When something good happens to us, or we receive a blessing, we should remember not only to thank Allah, but to also thank the people that helped us. Often, God helps us through people, and we should remember to thank God first, and the person who helped us second. For example, you might be on a trip with your parents, and on the way back, your car breaks down on the highway. You are stuck on the side of the road and your parents need help fixing the car. The cars keep driving by and no one stops to help. It starts to get dark, and you are getting tired and afraid. You start praying to Allah (SWT) to help you out of this situation. A few minutes later, a car stops and a nice man helps your dad to fix the car.

You remember to thank Allah and say ‘Alḥamdulillah’ for sending this nice man to help. Then you also thank this man for taking the time to stop and help your dad.

Class Activity

Sit around in a circle. Each student should mention 1 blessing that he/she is sincerely thankful for, and if he/she didn’t have that, their life would be difficult. (No repetitions). After each student shares their blessing, say Alḥamdulillah.

Class Activity

Can you think of some different ways of thanking Allah for the blessings He has given us? Draw 2 ways that we can thank Allah (swt). Be creative in your thoughts. We will look to see if anyone has drawn something no one else has.

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