

IMAMAT

الإمامة

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced briefly to the idea of leadership
- Be introduced to the concept of Imamat, 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

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Lesson 1: Getting to know our Imams (as)

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.

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.

Do you know that ants and bees live in societies? Who tells them what jobs to do? Of course it's the Queen bee. She is their leader and all the other bees obey her.

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!

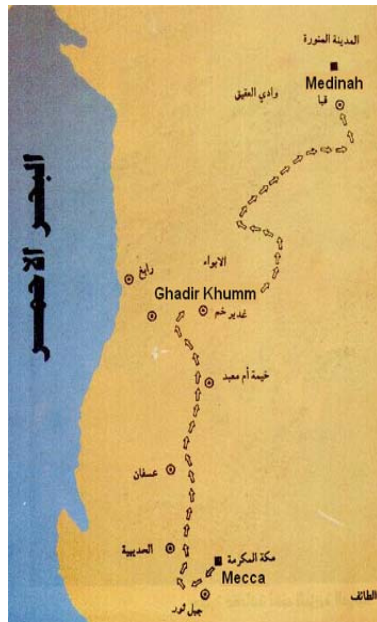
THE LEADERS IN ISLAM

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.

Let's listen to the story of how Imam 'Ali (as) was appointed by the Prophet (saw).

A VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

It was a hot sunny day. Lots and lots of people were coming back from Mecca after doing Ḥajj with the Holy Prophet (saw). They stopped their caravan near a spring of water called Khumm. In Arabic language, a spring is called Ghadīr and so this place was called **Ghdīr Khumm**. Angel Gabriel informed the Prophet (saw) that Allah (SWT) had sent him a special message.



يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ

“O Messenger, deliver what has been revealed to you from your lord...” (5:67)

The Prophet (saw) asked Bilāl, the special reciter of the Adhān to recite the Adhān. When people heard the call for prayer, they all came to the Prophet. Even those who had gone forward came back. After Ḍuhr prayer, the Prophet (saw) stood up on a pulpit made of camel saddles. He informed the people that he was soon to pass away soon. He then said that he was leaving behind two important things which the Muslims should always follow: **The Qur’ān and the Ahlul Bayt**.

He then held Imam Ali’s (as) hand high up and told the people that on the command of Allah (SWT) Imam ‘Ali (as) would be the leader of Muslims after him. He said:

“Whoever I am his master, ‘Ali is his master”.

He repeated this three times. After the Prophet said this, Imam ‘Ali (as) sat down in a tent. All the chiefs and important people came and shook hands with him and congratulated him and said: “*Congratulations, O Ali, you have become my master and the master of all the believers.*”

Our Prophet told the people that when they returned home they should let everyone know about what happened at Ghadīr. This incident happened in the life time of the Prophet and Muslims celebrate this day as **Eid Ghadīr** every year.

Class Activity

Your teacher will give you the required material and give each of you a role. Your task is to act out the incident of Ghadīr Khumm as best as you can.

OUR IMAMS

As we learnt from the story above, Imam ‘Ali (as) was the first leader of the Muslim after the Prophet (saw). Imam ‘Ali (as) was the first Imam. There are 12 Imams in total, and in later lessons we will learn all their names.

How many Imams do we have?

- That’s correct, 12

Who is our first Imam?

- That’s correct, Imam Ali (as)

Class Activity

Now let’s celebrate learning about the event of Ghadīr by singing this nashīd:

EID GHADĪR

Come and join our celebrations,

It’s a special day,

My master ‘Ali, My master Ali,

Was appointed Imam by the Prophet today.

Review Questions

Q1. What is the name of our first Imam?

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

Q2. Who told the Muslims that Imam 'Ali (as) is their leader?

- The Prophet (saw)
- Imam 'Ali (as)
- 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. The members of the Ahlul Bayt are:

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



HADITHUL KISĀ'

Let me narrate to you 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

RECITING SALAWĀT

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

CLASS ACTIVITY

Teaching aids: labels with names of Ahlul Kisaa’ (5), Titles: Ahlul Kisaa’, People of the Household; words Ma’sumeen, and salawāt.

Your teacher will give you the above labels. Split into groups of 3 students, and work together to make a poster. Place the labels on the poster and link them together in the correct way using arrows or other shapes.

THE STATUS OF THE AHLUL BAYT

Why does Allah (SWT) have so much love for the Ahlul Bayt (as)? Why does he give them such a special status?

It is because they lived their lives totally for the sake of Allah (SWT). All of their actions were done to gain Allah’s pleasure.

Do you remember the incident when Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusayn (as) were young, they once fasted with their parents to thank Allah (SWT)? As they were

about to break open their fast, a beggar knocked on the door. He asked for food. The Ahlul Bayt chose to give their small amount of food to the beggar and remain hungry themselves that night. The next day they fasted again, and as they were going to break their fast, an orphan knocked at the door. Everybody gave away their food to the orphan. The third day the Ahlul Bayt fasted again, and just as they were about to break their fast for the third day in a row, another needy person was at their door. The whole family gave their food to the needy person. They remained hungry each evening. How very kind and patient of them! In the Holy Qur’an, Allah (SWT) says that the only reason they did this was to gain Allah’s pleasure. They did not want any thanks and did not want any reward; all they wanted was Allah’s love and pleasure.

This is why the Ahlul Bayt have such a great status and this is why they are our role models. We should learn as much about them as we can and follow their example in every way. By doing this, we are showing them our love, and the best thing that can help enter paradise is having love for the Ahlul Bayt.

Imam al-Ṣādiq (as): “the best way of serving Allah (SWT) is love for us, the Ahlul Bayt”ⁱⁱ.

Let us look at an example of love for the Ahlul Bayt. When Imam Ḥusayn (as) was very young, there was one boy who would constantly walk with the Imam and take care of him. He would always try to protect the young Imam and stop any harm from coming to him. The Prophet (saw) noticed this and would hug this boy and show special love for him. This boy’s name was ‘Abdullāh ibn Yaqtūr. He stayed with the Imam (as) his entire life and continued to help the Imam. Eventually, he became the Imam’s messenger. One day, the Imam (as) sent him to Kufah to take a message. ‘Abdullāh was caught by the evil leader of the time. He was told to either curse the Imam (as) or be killed. ‘Abdullāh refused to curse the Imam (as) and instead praised him. The leader then killed ‘Abdullāh - a man who spent his whole life looking after the Ahlul Bayt and loving them.

Review Questions

Q1. How many people were under the Kisā'?

- 5
- 4
- 3

Q2. Why does God give such a high status to the Ahlul Bayt?

- They were good people
- They did everything for the sake of God and His Pleasure
- They were generous

Lesson 3: Our Twelve Imams

As we learnt in previous lessons, we believe in twelve Imams or leaders who were chosen by God. In previous years, we have learnt the names of the first six Imams. In this lesson, we will revise the names of the first six Imams, and learn the names of the remaining six. By the end of the lesson, we should know the names of all twelve Imams in order.

THE TWELVE IMAMS

1 st 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
7 th Imam	Imam Musa al Kāḍim
8 th Imam	Imam 'Ali al Riḍa
9 th Imam	Imam Muḥammad al Jawād
10 th Imam	Imam 'Ali al Hādī
11 th Imam	Imam Ḥasan al 'Askari
12 th Imam	Imam Muḥammad al Mahdi

Class Activity

Your teacher will pick a number out from a hat and then ask one of the students to name the Imam corresponding to that number. For example, if your teacher picks out the number 1, you would answer 'Imam 'Ali' (as).

Your teacher will continue with this activity until all students know the names of the Imams in order.

WHAT DID THE IMAMS TEACH US?

One of the most important things that the Imams (as) taught us was that we should be sincere. Being sincere means to do things for the sake of Allah and no one else. Let's look at an example of sincerity from the lives of the Ahlul Bayt:

Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) was a generous woman who always gave to the poor and needy for the sake of Allah (SWT). On the night before her marriage though, she had a special test. A girl's wedding dress is probably one of her most cherished belongings. However, in the case of the noble Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) she gave it away so easily for the sake of Allah (SWT).

Her father bought Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) a new dress for her marriage ceremony. Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) had owned an old patched-up dress before she was given this one.

On the night of her wedding, a poor young girl came to her house and asked for some clothes because she was so poor that she did not have any. Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) decided to give her the old patched-up dress. However, just as the girl was leaving, Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) remember that Allah (SWT) said in the Qura'n: 'you will not be good people until you give away the things you love'. So she called the young girl back, took the old dress back from her and gave her the brand new wedding dress. The next day, she went to her wedding in her usual old plain dress.

This shows how much sincerity she had. She was willing to give away anything in this world for the sake of Allah, and this is the best sign of sincerity.

Sincerity also has another meaning. It means to say what you really feel and to only say what you feel. This means that we should not lie just to impress someone or get

what we want from them. We should only say what we really feel and once we say something, we should make sure our actions match our words.

Let's listen to this interesting story about three men and a bear:

A long time ago, there were no cars or trains. Two friends were travelling on foot. They happened to meet another traveller going the same way. This traveller was a little slow but the other two enjoyed his jokes and stories. Not only that, this oldish traveller shared his yummy bread and cheese with them. "We love you. You are our friend now", they said. They promised to take care of each other on the journey.

Soon they had to travel through a forest. The forest grew thicker and darker. Suddenly, a big bear was seen from the distance. The two younger travellers ran fast and each one climbed up the nearest tree. The third traveller, who was older and slower, could not make it up a tree, and was stranded with this large bear. The bear was approaching closer. His friends had left him alone without helping him. He was petrified. Then he remembered what his granddad had once said: 'a bear never eats a dead man.' Thump! This traveller fell to the ground quickly. He tried hard not to breathe. He lay down motionless. The bear drew nearer. The two men who had climbed the tree were frightened. Their friend would be dead soon. 'Thank God we are safe', they must have thought.

The bear walked close to the traveller on the ground. He moved around the man; smelt his face, then his ears. The poor man was so frightened that he couldn't breathe or scream. Then a miracle happened. The bear spoke something in the man's ears, then moved and walked away. It went back into the trees far behind and disappeared. The man sat up. He thanked Allah (SWT). His two companions slid down the tree and ran to him

"What did the bear tell you in your ears?" one asked

"Yes tell me. What did the bear say to you?" the other asked also.

The traveller thought for a moment. Then he said: "those who desert you in times of danger are not your real friends." The two friends realized that they had not helped their fellow traveller; they had not been sincere. They had called him a friend but they did not really help

him when he had needed them the most. They had acted like **hypocrites**.

What is the moral of this story?

Do not be like these two men who said they loved this man when they did not.

Once we say something like 'I am your friend' to someone, then our actions should match our words. We should not be like these two men who said they were this man's friend but left him alone when he needed them the most.

Class Activity

So that we never forget the moral of this story, let's act it out. Who would like to play the bear? Who would like to play the older traveller? And who wants to be the two men who ran away?

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

ⁱⁱ Bihar-ul-Anwar, vol. 27, p. 91

<http://www.Ezsoftech.com/stories/fatema.asp> for moral virtues and simplicity of Fatema Zahra(sa)