

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص)

Lesson 1: The Childhood of the Prophet

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand that the last Prophet was the Holy prophet Muḥammad (saws)
- Know the story of Abraha and know that this was the same year the Holy Prophet was born
- Know the names of the Prophet's parents and foster mother
- Understand very briefly the kinds of practices at the time before Islam
- Understand that the Prophet was kind and generous to all and treated all people as humans with equal rights even before he became a Prophet
- Understand that Islam does not accept that a person be treated differently because of his skin colour, his parents etc...

As human beings sometimes we do things that are not correct. Sometimes we do it on purpose and other times it may be an accident. Either way, if we continue to do the wrong thing we will soon start to think that what we are doing is okay. Also our younger brothers and sisters will think it is ok and after a while people may think that something which is Ḥarām is okay.

For example, we all know that stealing is wrong. However if someone stole something from a shop every day and their little brother was watching, what do you think the little brother will do when he grows up? He will steal also and will not think it is something bad.

Allah (SWT) created us and knows what we need to always do the right thing, when He sees that people are doing the wrong thing, He sends a Prophet from among the people to warn them and teach them what is good and what is bad.

Every now and then Allah (SWT) sent a Prophet. The first one was Prophet Adam and the last Prophet that was ever sent to mankind was Prophet Muḥammad (saw).

Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Qur'an:

"He (Muhammad)... is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the prophets..." Holy Qur'an (33:40)



BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET (SAW)

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was born in Mecca in a year that was very special. It is known as the 'year of the elephant'. The reason it is called 'the year of the elephant' is because something really amazing happened that year. There was a leader in a nearby country whose name was Abraha. This king had built a big and beautiful Church and now wanted people to go and pray there rather than going to the Holy Ka'bah in Mecca.



He wanted to destroy the Ka'bah by sending an army of men and elephants to trample it.



This king and his army did not realise that this was a place that God had given special honour to, and that God would protect this place.



As soon as Abraha's men came close to Mecca, Allah (SWT) send a flock of birds that attacked the army with stones and destroyed both the army and the elephants.

The Holy Ka'bah was kept safe from any harm.

Facts about Prophet Muḥammad

Name: Muḥammad

Father: 'Abdullāh

Mother: Āminah

Foster Mother: Ḥalimah

THE LIFE OF THE HOLY PROPHET

The Holy Prophet's father's name was 'Abdullāh. His mother's name was Āminah. Just before the Prophet was born his father, 'Abdullāh passed away. This means that the prophet never met his father.

When he was born in Mecca in the year of the elephant his mother sent him with a foster mum to an area outside the city for him to be raised. This was normal at that time, as the children would be taken to a place that was safer with a healthier environment. The name of this lovely woman was Ḥalimah.

Ḥalimah took very good care of the Prophet. His mother, who loved him dearly, would see him every now and then. When he was 5 years old he was brought back to his mother and lived with her.

However when the prophet was only 6 years old his mother had gone on a trip to Medina and on her way home became very sick and passed away. Now Prophet Muḥammad (saw) had no mother or father, he was a complete orphan. He then went to live with his grandfather 'Abdul Muṭṭalib, who loved the prophet very much and took care of him. Two years later though, the Prophet's grandfather also passed away.

At this point the Prophet's uncle Abu Ṭālib looked after him. Abu Ṭālib was the father of Imam 'Ali (as). He also really loved the holy Prophet.

Abu Ṭālib taught Prophet Muḥammad (saw) many things about work and life as well. The Prophet grew up to be a very polite and friendly man. He always told the truth and would not do anything wrong.

Even before he became a prophet everybody loved him and could trust him so he became known as 'The Truthful and Trustworthy'.

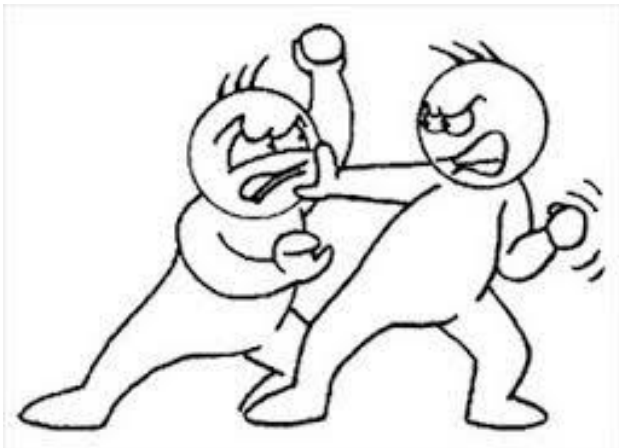
Before the time of Islam, when the prophet was young, people used to pray to idols. Idols are statues that people make from stone or different materials and then believe that they are God.

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) never believed in an idol or prayed to them. He only ever believed in Allah (SWT).

THE TIME BEFORE ISLAM

Many years ago before the time of Islam, people's lives in Mecca and the surrounding places were very hard, particularly if they were poor or did not have big families.

This was because people belonged to a tribe, which was like a big family and these tribes would fight with other tribes over very silly reasons and these wars would go on for many years.



They were very mean to each other and did not care about hurting people's feelings. They would not greet people when they met them and would enter people's houses without asking permission.

As the prophet slowly began to teach people, they started to learn to do good things and change their old horrible actions. They became kinder and more loving towards their families and children.

One day, the Prophet (saw) was kissing and hugging his grandchildren. A man who was watching this was talking tough and boasting that he never kissed or hugged his children. When the Prophet heard this, he got upset and said: 'if you do not show mercy, no one will be merciful to you'. The Prophet (saw) taught this man that just like we want people to be kind to us, we should also be kind to them.

He also taught him to show love and care for his children.



HOW THE PROPHET TAUGHT PEOPLE

One day, a man came to the Prophet (saw) and asked for some advice. The Prophet gave him one simple piece of advice: "don't get angry!" The man had travelled a long way to talk to the Prophet, and wanted to hear more, so again he asked but the Prophet's reply again was "don't get angry!" The man asked for advice a third time and again the Prophet said: "don't get angry!"

The man then said his goodbyes and left the Prophet and went back to his hometown. When he arrived there, he saw that his tribe was getting ready to fight another tribe. An argument had started between the two tribes and they were both ready to go to war. Seeing all his friends angry and ready to fight, he also got angry and got himself ready for war straight away. However, as he was ready to begin fighting, he remembered the Prophet's words: "don't get angry...don't get angry...don't get angry!" He realized the strength of the Prophet's advice. He stopped himself, thought about things and realized that there was really no point in fighting a war over something that was not worth it.

He went out to his friends and told them he would not fight, and that they should not fight either. At first, they were shocked and called him a coward, but eventually

he convinced them, and he stopped a war from happening and saved the lives and health of so many people.

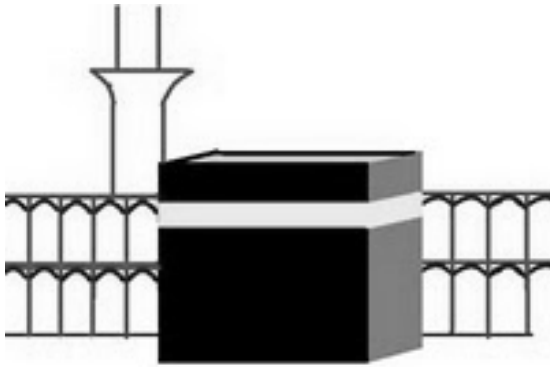
This way the Prophet slowly introduced good manners and proper rules and laws into the lives of people. He did it in a beautiful, simple and strong way.

If we were lucky enough to have him around us today, he would look out for us and guide us in a kind and caring way, and help us to improve ourselves every day.

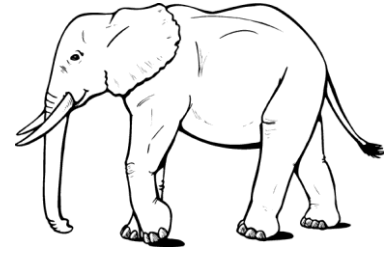
Activity

Colour the picture below.

THE YEAR OF



THE
ELEPHANT..



Lesson 2: The First Revelation

As we spoke about in our previous lesson, Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was a very kind and gentle man. He respected everybody and never treated people in a bad way. He was known as the 'truthful' because he always spoke only the truth.

We also learnt that most of the people that were living at that time were not the same as the Holy Prophet. This made his life very difficult because people would behave in ways that the prophet knew was very wrong.

To get away from all the bad behaviour, Prophet Muḥammad (saw) would climb up a mountain and sit in a cave called Cave of Ḥira. He would look around at Allah (SWT) creation and think about the world, pray to Allah (SWT) and thank Him.



He visited this special cave very often. One day when he was 40 years old, he was visiting the cave when Angel Gabriel appeared to the prophet with the first words of the Holy Qur'an which started with:

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

The prophet's heart was very happy when angel Gabriel told him that Allah chose him to be a prophet.

In Arabic the first word of the Qur'an revealed to the prophet was:

IQRA'

Colour in the word Iqra', which means recite. Repeat this word in your mind while you are colouring in the trace. Then colour in the cave of Hira.

THE PROPHET TEACHES ISLAM

Once the Prophet was asked by Allah (SWT) to start spreading the message of Islam and teaching the people about Allah's religion, he spread the message in three stages:

1

He first introduced Islam to his wife Khadija, his cousins Imam 'Ali and Ja'far, and his foster son Zayd. Imam 'Ali (as) was the first person to become a Muslim and Sayyida Khadija was the first woman.

2

The Prophet then introduced Islam to his uncles, cousins and close friends. Some of them believed him and became Muslims and others did not and instead started to tease him.

3

Three years after the first message was received from the angel Gabriel, the prophet introduced Islam to all the people of Mecca.

WHAT WAS THE PROPHET LIKE?

When the Prophet started teaching people Islam, he never forced people to become Muslims or to believe in Allah (SWT). Instead when people saw how well behaved he was, how kind he was and how truthful he was, they wanted to become Muslims so that they could be like him.

Some people didn't want to change or have a new religion so they treated the Prophet very badly. One old woman made used to throw rubbish on Prophet Muḥammad whenever he passed by her house. Muḥammad (saw) had to pass that house daily on the way to the mosque. Even when the old woman threw rubbish on him, he would pass silently without showing any anger or getting annoyed. This would happen every day.

One day when the Prophet was passing by, the woman was not there to throw the rubbish. He stopped and asked the neighbour about her. The neighbour told the Prophet that the woman was sick and in bed. The Prophet politely asked permission to visit the woman. When allowed, he entered the house, the woman thought that he had come there to take his revenge when she was unable to defend herself because of sickness. But the Prophet assured her that he had come to her, not to take any revenge, but to see her and to look after her needs, as it was the command of Allah that if anyone is sick, a Muslim should visit them and should help them with their needs.

The old woman's heart was very happy by this kindness and love of the Prophet. By seeing how kind the Prophet was, she understood that he was truly the Prophet of God and Islam was the true religion. She accepted Islam and became a Muslim.

Activity

Circle the pictures that show someone making someone else happy.



THE PROPHET'S PATIENCE

After seeing and hearing the prophet, many people became Muslims and loved the Prophet. However there were some people who were very cruel and didn't listen to the prophet or care about what he said. They also treated the prophet very meanly. Some examples of what they used to do were:

Make fun of him:



Called him a magician:



Tried to hurt him:



However no matter what people tried to do to make him angry, he always remained patient. The Prophet knew that Allah (SWT) loves people who are patient.

In fact the Prophet was so kind that he would even go home and pray for Allah to forgive these people for doing the wrong thing.

We can learn from the Prophet that if we are hurt by others, we should be patient and remember like the prophet, that Allah (SWT) will help us and give us rewards for being patient.

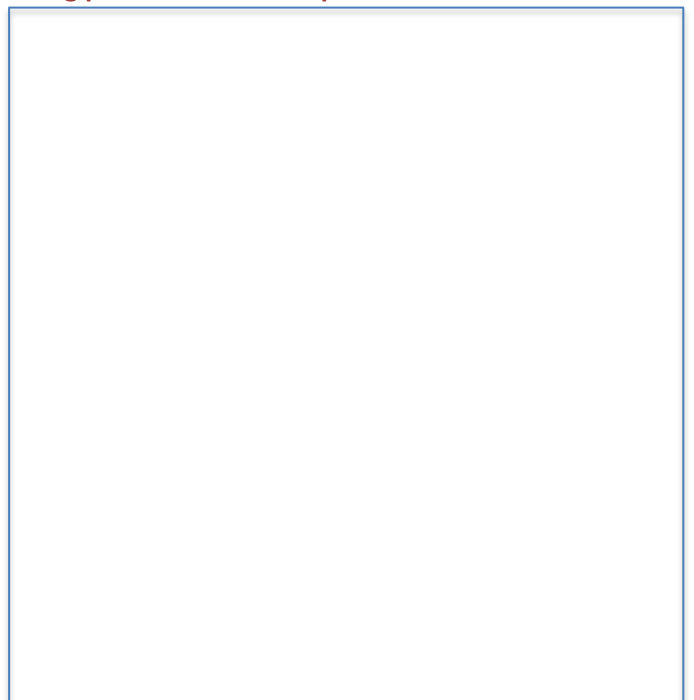
Being patient means that when something bad happens, we stay calm and keep our good manners. It means we should not get angry, or very upset, when bad things happen.

The reason that we should always try to be patient is because when we lose our patience it can lead to many bad things including:

- It can destroy our happiness and our good actions. We will always regret what we did when we were angry and we would wish to take it back.
- It frightens and drives away our friends.
- It forces the angels to record our bad actions and God will not be very happy with us.

Activity

Draw a picture of a story that reminds you that not being patient can lead to problems.



Lesson 3: The Prophet moves to Medina

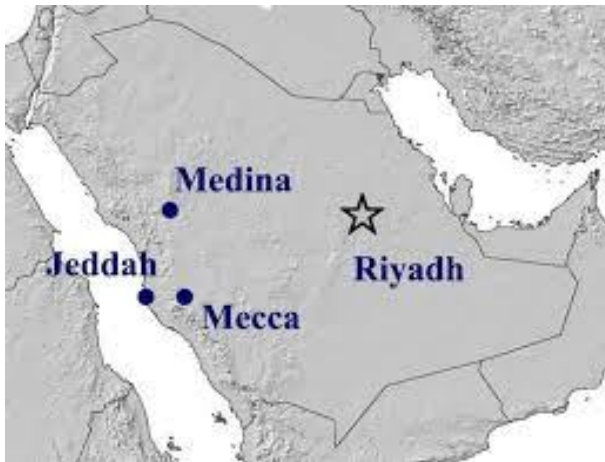
The Prophet continued to try his very best to teach people about Islam and set the very best example for them. A lot of the people in his hometown of Mecca became Muslims. However, a lot of them also rejected Islam and became enemies of the Muslims. They hurt the Muslims, kicked them out of their homes, and treated them very badly.

MIGRATION TO MEDINA

During this time though, a lot of people from another city called Medina started to become Muslims. So after a while, the Prophet decided to go to Medina, and ask the Muslims in Mecca to follow him.

Class Activity

Draw an arrow from Mecca to Medina to show where the Prophet moved.

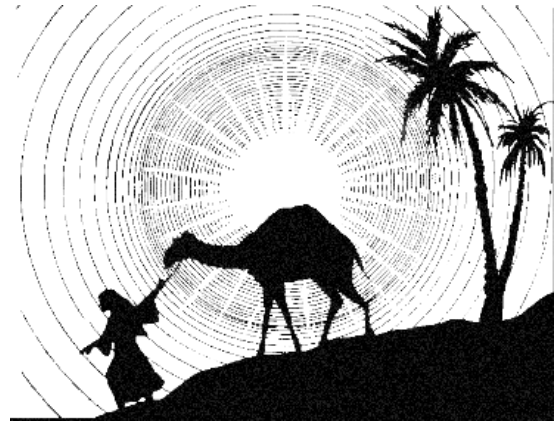


THE PROPHET'S ARRIVAL

People would often travel from Medina to Mecca to visit the Holy Ka'bah and also to meet the Prophet. When they would return to Medina they would tell everyone else the good things the Prophet was teaching and doing. This made other people start loving the Prophet even though they never met him. Many people had become Muslims and were very excited to know that the Prophet was coming to live near them.

When the Prophet arrived to Medina everyone was so excited to meet him. The Prophet got down from the camel just outside the city and sat down under a date tree. People rushed forward to greet and welcome him

to their city. After the welcome ceremony, the Prophet mounted his camel to enter the holy city. All around there were faces full of happiness.



The Prophet gave two different names to the Muslims:

- **Anṣār** (supporters)
Muslims of Medina
- **Muhajirīn** (the migrants)
Muslims that travelled from Mecca

These two groups became very close and formed a strong Muslim community. They shared all their belonging and helped each other as much as they could.

Class Activity

The children of Medina got together and in loud voices sang to welcome the Prophet (saw). Recite the following poem as a class.



"ṬALA-'AL BADRU 'ALAYNĀ
MIN THANĪYĀTIL WADA'
WAJABA-SHUKRU 'ALAINĀ
MA DA'A LILĀHI DA'I"

"The full moon is shining on us from the area of gardens. We must offer thanks (to Allah) so long as anyone prays before Allah."

"AYUHAL MAB-‘UTHU FĪNA

JE'TA BIL AMRIL MUTA

JE'TA SHAR-RAFTAL MADĪNA

MARḤABAN YA KHAIRA DA'I"

"O' the one sent to us, you have come with commands which we shall obey. You came and graced Medina; we salute and welcome you, 'O' the best caller (towards Allah). "

Teacher's Note: teachers are encouraged to bring in a CD of this Nashīd and allow the children to listen to it then recite it.

THE PROPHET'S GIFT

The Prophet (saw) was sent to teach us right from wrong, and to help us live in the best way possible. This is why he spent his entire life teaching people to do good and right things, and tried to stop them from doing evil things as much as he could.

ENJOINING GOOD AND FORBIDDING EVIL

Just like the Prophet, we Muslims also need to encourage others to do good and stop them from doing bad things.



We should start with ourselves and try not do anything wrong ourselves. Then, if we see that others are doing something wrong, we should try to tell them politely to change or stop that action.



Also, if we see they are doing something good, we should encourage them.

This is especially important if we see someone being hurt by others. For example, if a classmate at school is

getting bullied by someone, we should not join in the bullying at all. In fact, we should defend that person and try to stop others from bullying them.

Class Activity

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) left us the greatest gift we could ask for and that is Islam. Islam makes our lives better in so many ways. Think of 3 ways that Islam makes our lives better then draw a picture and write a description of what you have drawn. An example has been done for you.



Islam has taught us how to eat halal food that is good for our health.

