

KARBALA

كربلاء

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Discuss simple examples of the differences between Imam Ḥusayn and Yazīd
- Be introduced to the fact that we hold gatherings to remember Imam Ḥusayn (as) because he stood for justice and helped the oppressed
- Be able to recall a simple family tree of the Imam (as)
- Learn about the reasons for some of the things done during gatherings of mourning for the Imam (as)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

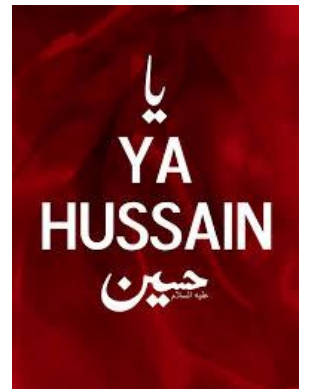
LEVEL 1

Karbalā'

Many, many years ago there was a very sad event took place. It happened in a land called Karbala, which is now a city in Iraq. Today we will learn what happened in Karbala and why it happened.



The event is called 'Ashurā'- you may have already heard about this from your parents or family. Ashurā is the 10th day of the Islamic Month called Muḥarram. On that day there was a big battle that took place in Karbala.



The leader of the good people in this battle was Imam Ḥusayn (as) who is our 3rd Imam. The leader of the bad people was Yazīd.

Yazīd was a very bad man. He used to treat people meanly and although he made himself the leader of the Muslims by force, everyone knew he wasn't a good Muslim.

He would do bad things in front of everyone and if anyone tried to say anything against him, he would get hurt them or kill them. Therefore everyone was very scared of Yazīd.

Imam Ḥusayn on the other hand was a very kind and gentle man. People really loved him and would always go to him if they had a problem.



WHY IMAM ḤUSAYN GO TO KARBALA?

When people were tired of the way they were being treated by Yazīd, they knew that the only person who was brave enough to help them was Imam Ḥusayn (as). They started to write letters to the Imam asking him for help.



When the Imam (as) saw that many people needed help he decided to leave his home with his family to go and help the Muslims.

When Yazīd found out he became really scared because he knew that if Imam Ḥusayn (as) reached the major city of Kufa, everyone would support him and Yazīd would no longer be the leader.

Therefore he made a plan! He sent a big army to stop the Imam (as) from reaching this city. The army travelled and then saw Imam Ḥusayn's (as) army at

the land of Karbala. It was here that the army forced him to stop.



Imam Ḥusayn (as) was not allowed to go forward or back home. They were left there for 7 days. After 7 days it was Ashura, the 10th day of Muḥarram and Yazīd's army started to fight Imam Ḥusayn's small army of only his family and some close friends.

Although they were only a small number, everyone one of them fought very bravely until the army of Yazid killed all of them.



Yazid didn't care that he had killed the grandson of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw). In fact he was such a bad man that he was even proud of what he done.

REMEMBERING IMAM ḤUSAYN (AS)

After Yazid's army had killed Imam Ḥusayn (as) and his army, people started to find out. Many people started crying and even people that were in Yazid's army felt very badly because they knew they done something very wrong.

To remember Imam Ḥusayn (as) and never forget the sad event that happened to him, people started getting together and telling the stories that

happened in Karbala so that no one would ever forget Imam Ḥusayn (as). This is known as a Majlis.

Today we still have majalis every year to remember Imam Ḥusayn (as) and all the sad things that happened to him.

People dress in black and cry when they hear about the sad stories. A majlis can be at home, at the mosque or at an Islamic centre. It is very important that we attend to show Imam Ḥusayn (as) that we will never forget what happened to him. Through our Majalis we have been able to keep his storied being told for over 1000 years.

Activity

Draw a situation where you can be like Imam Ḥusayn (as) and stop someone from doing something wrong in a way that would please Allah (SWT)

Lesson 2: Imam Ḥusayn & His Family

Imam Ḥusayn (as) came from the best family that Allah (SWT) created. His grandfather was the Holy Prophet, His father was Imam 'Ali and his mother was Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as). His brother was also an Imam. Can you remember his name?

At the time of Ashura however all of these members of his family has already passed away. So who was with Imam Ḥusayn (as)?

ZAYNAB AND 'ABBAS

ZAYNAB (AS)

Zaynab (as) was the sister of Imam Ḥusayn (as). She was the brave woman who took care of all the women and children of Imam Ḥusayn's (as) family after his martyrdom (death). Her shrine is in Shām. She passed on the message of the Imam after he was killed.

'ABBAS (AS)

'Abbas was the half-brother of Imam Ḥusayn (as); this means that they had the same father (Imam 'Ali) but different mothers. 'Abbas was very loyal to his Imam and brother and was always helping him and supporting him. On the day of 'Ashurā', 'Abbas did all he could to protect the Imam and his family, and ended up giving his life for the sake of his Imam and his religion.

He is buried in Karbala and he has a beautiful shrine which is visited by many people around the world.



Activity

Find the names of Imam Husayn, his brother Abbas and sister Zaynab and colour them in green.

A	E	F	Y	H	B	X	W	O
D	A	J	J	A	S	I	L	A
N	O	L	D	F	H	N	K	L
U	Q	Z	J	K	C	V	Z	I
E	D	F	I	O	L	N	A	A
S	P	O	L	H	S	U	Y	K
I	H	U	S	S	A	I	N	B
V	B	B	U	P	B	F	A	A
A	W	L	D	Z	B	S	B	R
R	A	H	G	S	A	I	L	A

HUSAYN

ZAYNAB

ABBAS

IMAM HUSAYN'S THREE SONS

Imam Husayn had three sons who were present in Karbala:

'ALI AL-AKBAR

Ali-Akbar was the oldest son of Imam Husayn (as); his mother's name was Layla. Ali al-Akbar looked exactly like the Prophet Muhammad (saw). He fought bravely in Karbala and sacrificed his life. He is buried in Karbala next to his father, Imam Husayn (as).



IMAM AL-SAJJĀD

Imam al-Sajjād (as) is our fourth Imam and also the son of Imam Husayn (as). He was also in Karbala but he could not fight with his father because he was very sick. He could not even walk out of the tent. However even though he was very sick, the enemy still treated him very meanly and took him as a prisoner.

ALI AL-ASGHAR

Ali al-Asghar was the youngest child and the baby of Imam Husayn (as). His mother's name was Rabāb. He was the youngest person who was killed in Karbala. The enemy killed Ali al-Asghar when Imam Husayn was asking them to give him some water. He is buried next to his father, Imam Husayn (as), in Karbala.

Activity

Then find the names of his three sons and colour them in blue.

A	E	F	Y	H	B	X	W	O
D	A	J	J	A	S	I	L	A
N	O	L	D	F	H	N	K	L
U	Q	Z	J	K	C	V	Z	I
E	D	F	I	O	L	N	A	A
S	P	O	L	H	S	U	Y	K
I	H	U	S	S	A	I	N	B
V	B	B	U	P	B	F	A	A
A	W	L	D	Z	B	S	B	R
R	A	H	G	S	A	I	L	A

ALI SAJJAD

ALI ASGHAR

ALI AKBAR

THE DAY OF 'ASHURĀ'

The day of 'Ashurā' is the 10th day of Muḥarram, the first month in Islam. This was a day where all the people we spoke about that were related to Imam Husayn (as), his very close friends and even Imam Husayn (as) were killed by a huge army of evil people.

We can see that these people were very mean and didn't care about what Allah (swt) thinks, because they killed an Imam and even his little baby son.

Because what happened to Imam Ḥusayn (as) was so sad, every year we get together and remember the stories that happened to the Imam and we cry when we remember them.

We also read some nice poetry for Imam Ḥusayn (as) and his family and beat our chests to show Imam Ḥusayn (as) that we support him and that we wish we were with him on the sad day of 'Āshurā'.

We remember these events every year to remind us of what Imam Husayn (as) stood for. He stood up for justice and for helping the oppressed people. He stood up for the laws of Allah (SWT).

When we remember Imam Ḥusayn it is very good to say:

“Asalamu ‘Alayka Ya Aba Abdi Allah”

When we send Imam Ḥusayn (as) our salām he always replies to us.



Class Activity

Draw or write 2 things that you could do to help in a Majlis.