



CHARITY

الصدقة

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand that giving wealth as charity is highly encouraged in Islam
- Know that some types of charity are obligatory, these are called khums and zakāt
- Know that some types of charity are recommended, these are called ṣadaqah
- Understand that the wealth we have really belongs to Allah (SWT)
- Discuss the plight of poor and needy people around the world, and how their lives are different to ours
- Explore how they can help needy people

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 1

Charity in Islam

This world is full of people who are different in many ways. One of the ways in which we are all different is the amount of money that we do or do not have. People who do not have much money are referred to as poor. The important thing to understand is that the money and things that Allah (SWT) has given to us really belong to Him, and so if we use them in the right way, we would be able to help people who are poor improve their lives.

TO ALLAH BELONGS EVERYTHING

We have learnt previously that Allah (SWT) created everything and that we all belong to Him. This is the same for our money and things. When Allah (SWT) gives us money through our work it does not mean that it is only for ourselves. Allah (SWT) sometimes gives us more than we need so that we may help others that do not have enough for their food, home, clothes etc...

There are different ways and reasons that we should give our money and things to the poor, these are:

- Khums
- Zakāt
- Ṣadaqah

KHUMS AND ZAKĀT

In Islam Allah (SWT) has ordered us to share with people the things that we do not need. He has not forced us to give away our food and money. However if we have extra then we should give a part of what is extra to people who need them more than we do.

One of the rules that Allah (SWT) set is called Khums. Khums applies when we have earned more money than we needed for the year. This means that if our mum and dad have worked all year and bought food, clothes and paid for the bills of the house and they still have money left over, they need to remove a small part of that money and give it to the poorer people.

This helps us to make sure that we do not buy things that we do not need. For example, buying three pairs of black shoes instead of one, or too many toys that we never play with. It also means that people who are more needy of that money receive it, and can use for more important things like food, medicine and clothing.

If we kept all our money even though we did not need it we would become greedy and never help people.

Another form of giving money to the poor is called Zakāt. We will learn about this in later years.

Activity:

Circle the picture that shows what someone may look like if they give Khums.



SADAQAH

There are other ways that we can also give money to the poor. While these are not obligatory, they are very recommended. This means we do not *have* to do it but if we do Allah (SWT) will be very happy with us and reward us. Anytime that we feel someone may need some help, we can give them money, clothes, toys or food. Allah (SWT) loves people who help other people, even if it is with something very small. Therefore, we should never send someone away if they need our help. This type of charity is called *ṣadaqah*.



WE DON'T ALL GO TO SCHOOL

Sometimes we wake up in the morning and we don't like what our mum has made for breakfast, then we complain about going to school and at lunch time, don't eat our lunch because we don't like what's on our sandwich. However one very important thing that we are forgetting is that not everyone is living the way we are.

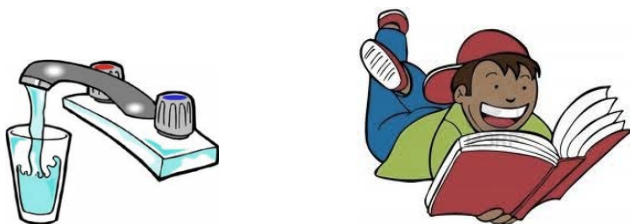
Imagine that you wake up in the morning and you do not need to go to school. This may sound exciting at first, but what if your parents then told you that you needed to go and work. You needed to carry heavy loads to far away places, you were treated very badly and you were never given a break. No lunch time or rest time.

This might sound like a story but there are many people in the world who live like this. They just need to work everyday for long hours to make a little bit of money to take care of their family. They don't know how to read or write because they never had the chance to go to school.

At lunch and dinner time, they have not much to eat so sometimes they eat a little and other times they don't eat at all. They don't have taps to drink from, rather they need to walk long distances to reach the nearest river and bring back the water. It is very important for us to remember people who are poor. Not only so that we can help them but also so that we do not forget how much Allah (SWT) has blessed us with.

Class Activity

Which of the pictures below are things we should thank Allah (SWT) for? Circle them!



GIVING AWAY FOR ALLAH (SWT)

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (s) and his Ahlul Bayt (as) also gave us great examples of how to give to the poor. One day Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusayn (as) were very sick. Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as), their mother, could not bear to see her two young sons ill. She made a promise with Allah (SWT) that if her children got better, she would fast three days. As well as her, the whole family fasted.

On the first day when they were about to break their fast, there was a knock on the door. It was a poor man who was hungry and asking for some food. All the family gave up their bread to the man and broke their fast with only water.

On the next day, an orphan knocked at the door and was also hungry. Again the entire family gave up all of their food and only drank water.

On the third day there was another knock on the door and this time it was a prisoner who was hungry. The family gave away their food once again and said we are feeding you for Allah's (SWT) sake; we don't want anything from you in return.

Because of such a great deed Allah (SWT) spoke about them in the Holy Qur'an and used them as an example for us to learn from.

Therefore we should learn from Ahlul Bayt (as) and try our best to help others and give away our things to people that need them more than ourselves. We can do this by keeping a small money box in our room and place any spare money that we have inside it. Then once every year we can empty the tin and give the money away to some poor people.

However we should also do this without wanting anything back in return the same way that Sayyedah Faṭīma (as) had done.

CLASS DISCUSSION

Discuss 3 ways that one can help to raise money for the poor.

Review Questions

Q1. Which type of charity is recommended?

- a. Khums
- b. Zakat
- c. Ṣadaqah

Q2. How many days did the Ahlul Bayt give away their food when they were fasting?

- a. 7
- b. 3
- c. 1