



ENJOINING GOOD AND FORBIDDING EVIL

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand the meaning of enjoining good and forbidding evil
- Understand the different ways of meeting these obligations
- Understand examples of enjoining good and forbidding evil from real life
- Understand some of the conditions of this obligation, including:
- Review the importance of listening to advice when it is given to us

JURISPRUDENCE

Primary LEVEL

Introduction

A good society is made up of good people. Although all people are born good; there are times when people change and start to make bad decisions. If people do become bad, or do the wrong thing, we cannot ignore them. In fact it becomes our duty to help them become better. This will help everyone else remain good and not want to be bad like the other people.

ENJOINING GOOD

When we decide to do something good we should not only think of ourselves. We should also think of asking other people to do the good action with us. This will help them also get rewards from Allah (SWT) and create a better environment with good people.

CLEAN PLAYGROUND

One day Sarah was sitting in the playground at lunchtime and talking to her friend Amina. As they were talking Sarah noticed that there was much rubbish being blown around the playground. She had an idea.

She told Amina: “Hey Amina, can you see all the rubbish on the playground? How about we clean it all up to keep our school clean?”

Amina agreed and together they cleaned up the entire playground.



This is an example of enjoining good. Sarah knew that she was going to do a good deed, therefore she asked her best friend to do it with her.

FORBIDDING EVIL

There are times when we see someone doing the wrong thing. Usually most people ignore them and let them continue what they are doing.

However Allah (SWT) like us to help people become better. We should never pretend not to care and leave people to do bad things.

If we know that we can help someone then we should speak with them and tell them that what they are doing is wrong in a very polite way.

For example if you saw someone steal something from someone else's pencil case and you asked them kindly to stop that and put it back, that means you are forbidding evil.



CLASS ACTIVITY

Discuss as a class how you would forbid evil in the following scenarios.

Scenario One

Zac was sitting outside at lunchtime when he opened his lunch box and realised that his mother has made him a cheese sandwich. He tells you that he is going to throw it in the bin, what would you do?

Scenario Two

You are playing with your friends when someone comes and asks if they may play with you. Your friends start teasing them and saying that they are not allowed and telling them to go away. What would you do?

WAYS OF ENJOINING GOOD AND FORBIDDING EVIL

So far, we have spoken about enjoining good and forbidding evil with our words. However, there are other ways that we can stop people from doing the wrong thing and help them do the right thing.

THROUGH OUR ACTIONS

Sometimes we may speak to someone many times and tell him or her to do something, however it may not work. This might be because we are not doing it ourselves. For example we can ask our brother/sister to clean up their room every day, but if our own room is not clean then they will probably not care about cleaning theirs.

However we can tell someone so much without even talking. Most of the time this works better. For example if we want our little brother or sister to pray, we do not need to always ask them, we can stand on the prayer

mat every day and soon we will see that they will also stand next to us.

Also if we don't want them to do the wrong thing then we should never do it in front of them and therefore they will not learn the wrong actions.

THROUGH OUR THOUGHTS

As well as our words and actions Allah (SWT) loves us to always do the right thing and hate the wrong thing even with our thoughts. This means that if we hear that someone did something bad and we cannot speak with them or change them then we should at least hate that action in our hearts.

For example if I hear that someone far away from me is treating a baby badly then my heart should be sad for that bad action.

Class activity

In the following table place a G for good if you think it is a good way of enjoining good and an E for evil if you think it's a good way of forbidding evil.

SCENARIO	E/G
Sam is in the canteen line and notices that some students in year 6 are bullying someone in year 4. He kindly asks them to stop and tells them that they are hurting the boy's feelings.	
Farah is helping her mother make sandwiches for the poor people, she calls her friend Layla and asks her if she would like to help.	
Adam has been waking up ever morning and saying "al-Salāmu 'Alaykum" to his parents from when he was 4 years old. He is now 7 years old and his little brother is 4. His little	

brother also now wakes up and says "al-Salāmu 'Alaykum" to his parents.	
Ali's best friend Reza has a bad habit of lying. Ali tells him one day that if he continues to lie he is going to get into big trouble and that Allah (SWT) will not be proud of him. Reza decides to stop lying.	

Review Questions

1. Why should someone forbid evil
- a. To be happy

b. Because Allah (SWT) has asked us to do it as it will create a better community

c. To be bossy
2. What are the three ways of enjoining good and forbidding evil?
- a. Actions, words, thoughts

b. Actions, words, deeds

c. Actions, thoughts, movements

Lesson 2: Enjoin Good and Forbid Evil

In our previous lesson we spoke about:

- 'Enjoining Good'- *amr bil ma'ruf*
- 'Forbidding Evil'- *nahy 'anil munkar*

In this lesson we will talk about the different rules we need to follow when we want to help someone do something good or stop doing something bad.

TALK TO YOURSELF FIRST

One of the most important things we need to think about before we tell someone else what to do or not do is to check with ourselves if we are doing the right thing.

There is no point in me telling my best friend to do something if I am not doing it myself.

Read the following story then discuss as a class why one should not tell others to do something if they are not doing it themselves.

NO CHOCOLATE CAKE

Nada had a little sister named Nancy. Nada knew that because she was older, she needed to be a good example and teach her the right things.

However every morning when they woke up Nancy wanted a piece of chocolate cake for breakfast. Time and time again Nada would tell Nancy that it was unhealthy and that she had to have her breakfast cereal first.

After a while Nancy started to listen to Nada. However one day Nancy woke up and didn't find Nada in her bed. She went down stairs and to her surprise found Nada hiding in the kitchen having chocolate cake before breakfast!!!



Nancy screamed out "YOU LIAR, I will never listen to you again" and she stormed off.

It took a very long time for Nancy to start listening to the advice of her older sister again.



CLASS DISCUSSION

As a class discuss what Nada has done wrong and why it caused a problem!

KNOW BEFORE YOU TEACH

One other very important point to remember when we are trying to tell other people what to do is to make sure that we know what we are talking about.

If we want to ask someone to stop bullying someone else we need to tell them why. Also, if we want to ask someone to help at the mosque we also need to explain why.

However if we are telling people what to do but we don't have a reason or we don't understand why, it will become difficult for them to listen to us as they will not see the point of doing what we ask them to.

Class Activity

Match the column on the left to the reason for doing or not doing something on the right.

"Can you help me clean the mosque..."		"... because your teeth will become rotten"
"You should not bully her..."		"because it will make her happy"
"Don't eat so much lollies..."		"because it is important that we keep Allah's (SWT) house clean"
"Let's clean the house for mum..."		"... Allah (SWT) loves thos who pray on time"
"It's time for prayer how about we go and pray..."		"... because you will hurt her feelings."

SPEAK POLITELY

One of the most important things to remember when we are encouraging others to do good, or forbidding them from evil, is to speak to people politely. If we are asking someone to stop doing something but we speak to them rudely or embarrass them in front of people they will not listen.

Allah (SWT) loves us to be kind to people and therefore we should speak with them when we are alone so that they are not embarrassed in front of others. We should be polite when we talk to them, and not use hurtful or abusive language.

Another important point is that when someone else may be correcting us we should not get upset. Instead we should know that because Allah (SWT) loves us so much He is sending someone to teach us how to become better human beings.

HOW DID THE PROPHET HELP?

Our greatest teacher is the Holy Prophet (saw). Therefore whenever we want to do something we should look at and think of how the prophet would have done it by reading stories about his life.

At the time of the Holy Prophet (s) there was no Kit Kat, or Cadbury chocolate, usually people would eat dates as a sweet.



One day a mother came to the prophet to ask him to speak with her son and tell him to stop eating too much dates. The Prophet (saw) asked the man to return the following day with his son.

The next day the father came along with his son to see the Prophet (saw). When the Prophet (saw) saw the little boy he spoke with him and advised him that eating too many dates was not good for him.

The mother was puzzled as to why the Prophet (saw) hadn't just told him not to eat too many dates the first day. The Prophet (saw) replied by saying that yesterday he had eaten dates himself and therefore even if he did tell him, his instructions would not be as good because he had eaten dates himself. However the next day he purposely did not eat dates so that he could advise the little boy properly.

Review Questions

1. What does Amr bil Ma'ruf mean in English?

- a. Forbidding what is evil
- b. Enjoining what is good
- c. Listening to your parents

2. Why did the Prophet (saw) ask the little boy to come back the next day?

- d. To teach him a lesson
- e. To tell him a story
- f. Because he had eaten dates himself that day

3. Who is the most important person to follow your instructions before you tell someone else?

- a. Yourself
- b. Your best friend
- c. Your brother or sister