

PRAYER TIMES

أوقات الصلاة

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Students should know the five prayers and the three times at which we pray them
- Students should recognise the importance of praying on time
- Students should have an understanding of the sequence of the prayers and their rak'āt numbers.
- Students should have an understanding of the concept of Qaḍa prayer

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 2

Lesson 1: Introduction to Prayer Times

Allah (SWT) loves us and has given us so many favours that we are not able to count them all. He has given us good health, a mind with which to think, eyes with which to see and ears with which to hear. He has also provided us with all that we need to live well.

Can you list some other blessings that Allah (SWT) has given us?

From all the beautiful things you have listed, we can see that Allah (SWT) fulfils our needs every second of the day. It is therefore important that we be grateful from the bottom of our hearts to Him for all the bounties and blessings. The best way of showing our gratitude to Him is by doing as He asks us to do. One of the very important things He asks of us is that we pray to him. In Arabic, this is called ṣalāt.

We can talk to Allah (SWT) during any time of the day and in whatever way we like. We can talk to Him about anything small, big or in between. We can ask Him to help us if we are in trouble or ever need anything. Each of us can thank Allah (SWT) in so many different ways but the best way to pray to Him is to offer the five daily prayers.

When Allah (SWT) is describing the believers, the first thing he mentions about them is their prayer:

"Blessed are the believers, who are humble in their prayers"(23:1-2)

This ayah shows that out of all our actions the first thing Allah, the Almighty, is concerned with is prayer. In other words, it is the most important thing that we must do and also the thing we get most reward for. This is also the best way to thank Him.

Imam ‘Ali (as) said: "If a praying person knew how much he was surrounded by Allah’s mercy, he would never raise his head from Sujūd”¹.

THE FIVE PRAYERS

Allah has ordered every Muslim to pray five times a day. Praying to Allah five times a day makes us remember Allah constantly and become closer to him.

It is like when you have two friends. You visit one of them only once a day or not that often, but the other friend you visit 5 times a day. Which friend would you be closer to? The more you visit a friend, the stronger your friendship would be. Daily prayers are similar. . The more we pray and remember Allah, the closer we will be to Him.

Name :	Time the prayer should be offered:
Fajr / Dawn prayer	We pray this early in the morning. Any time from dawn until sunrise.
ḍuhr / midday prayer	We pray these prayers in the afternoon, from when the sun begins to come down and until sunset.
‘aṣr / afternoon prayer	
Maghrib / dusk prayer	We offer these at night, from when the sky is dark until midnight.
‘ishā’ / night prayer	

Class Activity

When the time has come to pray,
 Put your little toys away.
 Then go wash like you're told to,
 It's time to do your wuḍū'!
 Then come calmly to Ṣalāh,
 And concentrate before Allah.
 We want to try to do things right,
 And pray our best each day and night.
 Five times a day we make Ṣalāh,
 That's when we bow down to Allah.
 We ask for guidance when we pray,
 And this we do every single day.



Review Questions

Q1. We pray Fajr prayer:

- In the afternoon
- At night
- Early morning, before sunrise

Q2. We pray ‘Ishā’ prayer:

- At night
- In the afternoon
- Early morning before sunrise

Lesson 2: Revision of Prayer Times

Do you remember what we learned about the times for prayer in our last lesson? Let us review those times.

Name :	Time the prayer should be offered:
Fajr / dawn prayer	We pray this early in the morning. Any time from dawn until sunrise.
ḍuhr / midday prayer	We pray these prayers in the afternoon, from when the sun begins to come down and until sunset.
'aṣr / afternoon prayer	
Maghrib / dusk prayer	We offer these at night, from when the sky is dark until midnight.
'Ishā' / night prayer	

NUMBER OF RAK'ĀT IN EACH PRAYER



Every prayer consists of parts; each part is called a Rak'ah.

In every Rak'ah there is

- One Ruku' which is bowing down before Allah and
- Two Sajdah which is prostration.



Fajr prayer has **two** rak'āt

ḍuhr prayer has **four** rak'āt

'aṣr prayer has **four** rak'āt

Maghrib prayer has **three** rak'āt

'isha' prayer has **four** rak'āt

An easy way to remember this is to know the telephone number of God. If you ever want to talk to Him just dial **24434!**

(Repeat this number a few times until you are sure you have memorised it!)

Class Activity

Draw three pictures of the sky to show the beginning of each prayer time and put the number of Rak'at next to each prayer.

Review Questions

Q1. 'Aṣr prayer has:

- 4 rak'āt
- 2 rak'āt
- 3 rak'āt

Q2. The number to talk to God is:

- 23424
- 24434
- 24443

ⁱ Tasnif-I-Ghurur-ul-Hikam, p. 175