



Friendships

SOCIAL ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Know that Allah (SWT) likes us to be sociable
- Understand that when we are alone, we may often do bad things and sins
- Know briefly the basic concept of tawwallī and tabarrī
- Know that there are certain rules to being sociable
- Know that friends can influence us in a good way or a bad way
- Know that it is important to choose our friends wisely
- Know that the basic characteristics of the friends we should keep
- Keeping friends can sometimes be difficult
- Understand we have some responsibilities towards our friends
- Know that the relationship with family is more important than that of friends

Healthy Friendships - Lesson 1



Have you watched a line of ants crawling away, busy carrying a grain each? Why do they crawl together, work together and live all in an ant hole? Why are they together?

Have you seen a beehive? The bees too are found bumbling and working together; they too move in crowds.



All these are social creatures. Allah (SWT) has made us similar to them in this way. He wants us to be social- not to be loners. He has put into our hearts the love for parents, siblings and friends! That is why a Muslim goes for prayers and gatherings in a mosque to meet with other believers.

WHY SHOULD WE NOT BE ALONE?

Imagine if you had to live all by yourself? All alone, with no one to talk to, share ideas or joke with? Would you feel happy? Slowly you may become sad and aloof.

Another reason we should not be alone is because we might do the wrong thing. Usually if we are around people, we are too occupied or too ashamed to think about doing bad things.

AL-TAWALLĪ & AL-TABARRĪ

Tawallī means to be friends with and love those people that Allah (SWT) loves.

Tabarrī means we should stay away from those people who are enemies of Allah (SWT).

SOCIAL RULES

At school, are we allowed to eat in between the lessons? Can we run around the classroom when we like? We have to observe school rules and attend in our uniforms. We eat our meals only at lunch time. We play outside during the break.

Similarly, in Islam, there are rules about how to behave with our friends. Get into pairs and with your buddy think about some rules related to friendship.

1) We should not be rude or violent to those we dislike:

It is possible that at school we may not like someone; or around your home area, there is someone you may not like to play with in the park. Does this mean that when we meet them, we should be rude to them?

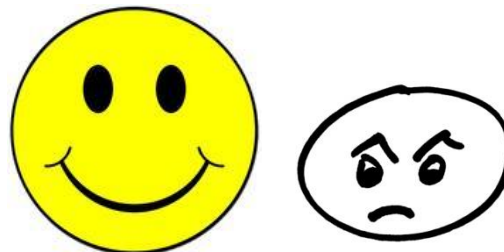
If we don't feel comfortable in someone's company, it is okay; we can remain quiet. We should not be rude or get violent on meeting them.

The best thing to do is simply to avoid their company and make friends with people we like. We should not bully or back bite those we dislike.

2) We should not do Ḥarām things with our friends

Always remember not to gossip about someone else or hurt other people. In fact, we should discuss good things and plan useful ideas when spending time with friends.

3) We should always have a cheerful face with everyone



Have a smile on your face when meeting someone. Don't look angry. Always greet everyone with a smile.

4) We should never whisper and point or make another person feel left out or alone.

Imagine you were in your class at school and the two students sitting in front of you are whispering to each other and pointing at you? How would you feel? Would you like that?

We should not do this. We should also not leave people out or exclude them from our games or our groups.

Class Activity: Review Questions

Q1. If we don't like our classmate:

- a) We HAVE TO be their friend and spend time with them
- b) We don't have to be their friend; but we should NOT be rude to them
- c) We should bully, backbite and be rude to them

Q2. Al-Tawallī means:

- a) Being friends with those who do NOT like Allah (SWT)
- b) Being friends with those who love Allah (SWT)
- c) None of the above

Healthy Friendships - lesson 2

It is very necessary to know who should we make friends with and who we should keep away from. The reason for this is that friends can influence us in a good way or a bad way. There is a saying "Birds of a feather flock together". This means that a group of friends will usually do similar things and act the same. So we should make sure our friends are good people.

CHOOSE FRIENDS WISELY!

Once, two travelers were walking through the forest. They knew that anything dangerous could happen to them in the forest. So they promised each other that they would remain united in any case of danger.

Suddenly, they saw a large bear approaching them. One of the travelers at once climbed a nearby tree. The other one did not know how to climb. His common sense told him to lie down flat on the ground breathless, pretending to be a dead man.



The bear came near the man lying on the ground. It smelt in his ears, and slowly left the place. The bears do not touch the dead creatures. Now the traveler on the tree came down and asked the one on the ground, "Mate, what did the bear tell you in your ears?" The other traveler replied:

"The bear advised me not to believe a false friend."

What does this story tell you? It shows us that a true friend is the one who always supports and stands by you in any situation.

So, who should we make friends with?

GOOD QUALITIES IN FRIENDS

We should try and make friends with those who have good manners, help others and talk politely.

Here is another story for you to think about.

It was Mother's day, and all the children at school were buying gifts for their mothers. Someone bought scarfs, someone chose stationery, another boy picked a frying pan, and so on. Sharif and Shams were from an Islamic family.

Sharif said "Whatever I give my mother is little, because the Holy Prophet has said "Paradise lies under the feet of mothers".

Shams said "Whatever we give, it wouldn't be enough for Mum".

Discussing how they can make their mother happy, they both went home. They did not wander about along the road or shout at other boys across the road. Neither did they stop to shop for lollies or cookies.

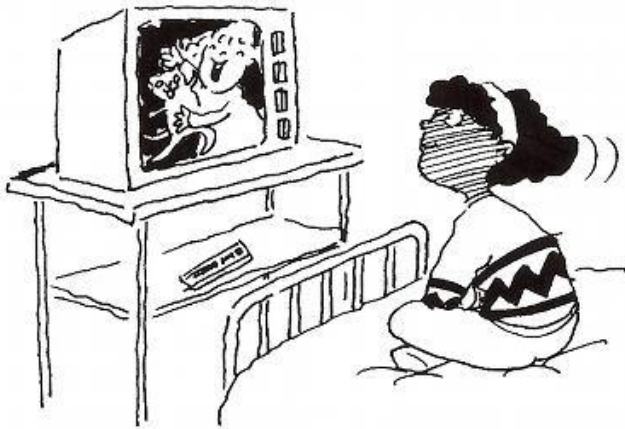
When their mother opened the door, Sharif and Shams hugged their Mum and wished her "A Happy Mothers' Day". They also announced loudly: "Mum, today Sharif will help you cook dinner. We will clear the table. Then Shams will wash and dry the dishes after the dinner."

"This is the best gift I can have from my dear boys" said Mum. "Thank you my dears."

What do we learn from these boys? This way the boys kept away from mischief and brought lots of pleasure to their Mum.

DISRESPECTFUL FRIENDS

Jamila loved to sit beside the TV during her free time, and she kept the volume very high.



One day her mother said: "Jamila, please lower the volume".

Jamila answered "What is this? All the time you scream: "Lower, lower lower!"

Her mother said "How many times should I tell you that you should keep the sound low!"

"But mother! I'm listening to religious poems!" protested Jamila.

Her mother said "It does not matter if they are religious or not, you should keep the volume low. It is possible that our neighbours may get disturbed. It is also possible that they have a sick person in the house."

Jamila got up and slammed her bedroom door.

How rude was this! Would you do that? Jamila's actions were not how a Muslim person should behave.

Firstly, we should remember never to disrespect our parents. Secondly, we should avoid friends who are disrespectful to their parents. This is because we may learn from them and start to do the same things they do, and we would not want that.

Class Activity

Split your class into 3 groups. Let each group make a chart and draw or write examples of good manners. Encourage them to make lots of drawings in it.

Review Questions

Q1. Why should we choose our friends very carefully?

- a) Because they can influence our behaviour in a bad way
- b) Because we are only allowed to have ten friends and not more
- c) None of the above

Q2. Which of these people should we be friends with?

- a) A popular person
- b) The trustworthy person
- c) The rich person



Healthy Friends - Lesson 3

Once we are friends with someone, we should try our best to keep the friendship going. Of course, if the person is a bad influence on us, then we should break the friendship. But in other cases, we should try our best to keep our friendships going.

We should not break friendships just because someone upset us or annoyed us one day. Instead, we should try to forgive them and move on.

1) We must protect them

If someone else talks badly about our friends, we should immediately ask them to stop. We should also be careful never to say bad things to them as this will hurt them.

2) Generous

We should be generous to our friends. This means we should share the nice things we have, whether it is our toys or our nice food. We should especially share if we have something that our friends don't or can't have because they are poor.

3) Stop them from doing the wrong thing

We should help our friends not to do the wrong things. For example if you heard your best friend talking rudely to his parents, you should correct him politely instead of imitating him. Or if you hear your friend talking badly about someone, you should try to look bored and try to change the subject.

Also, we should encourage each other to do good deeds. Remember, if we like to go to heaven, we need the help of good friends. So for example, you can meet up with your friends together in an Islamic Centre to clean it up. This way, it becomes fun and you all get the rewards from Allah (SWT). If your friend has very good habits like always sharing his things with others, then you should try to imitate that good action.

Once, Ahmed's friend Musa came for a sleep over at his house. The boys were watching a show on TV. Soon, it was prayer time and Ahmed got up, switched off the TV and got ready for prayers. His friend Musa did not move. Ahmed explained to him that saying prayers and thanking Allah was very important and should be done on time. They could always finish watching TV later. Musa said: "At my home, I always pray just before jumping into bed".

"You get more rewards for praying on time," Ahmad added. Reluctantly, Musa offered his prayer. He promised to pray on time in future.

FAMILY BEFORE FRIENDS

No matter how important it is to have friends and to spend time with them, it is even more important to love our family and spend more time with them. We



should never put what our friends want before what our family wants. If our parents ask us to help in the kitchen but our friends want to go out and play, we should always do what mum or dad would want. And while it is

important to spend time with friends, it is much more important to spend time with mum and dad, and with our brothers and sisters.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. In Islam, which one is the best?

- a) To have very many friends for a short time
- b) To have few friends but forever
- c) To have no friends at all

Q2. In Islam, which one is the best?

- a) To have few friends but forever
- b) To have very many friends for a short time
- c) To have no friends at all

Q3. Circle the correct choice!

A good friend should be:

(generous, rude , polite, selfish, smart, naughty)

Do not make friends with those who :

- a. Play music,
- b. Offer salah on time
- c. Gossip about their siblings
- d. Answer back their parents