



Congregational Prayers

صلاة الجماعة

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to the fact that congregational prayers is when we pray together and that there must be an imam to lead the prayer
- Be introduced to the benefits of following their parents in prayer at home and also joining the congregation at the mosque
- Be introduced to the rewards of congregational prayers

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 1

Congregational Prayers

Practical Activity

Students should arrive early to the centre or the mosque for the next four weeks in order to pray together with older students. The prayer should be led by one of the teachers while a few of the other teachers or teacher's aides should help the students understand the objectives in this lesson.

INTRODUCTION

Ṣalātul Jamā'a or congregational prayer is when we pray as a group. We learnt how to pray in previous lessons and by now all of us should know how to pray alone. However, we are also allowed to pray together as a group. In fact, this has great rewards which we will talk about later.

We can pray our daily Wājib prayers together as a group, but we have to know some of the rules of praying together. In this lesson we will learn some of the rewards and rules of praying together.

THE LEADER OF THE PRAYER

The first rule is that there must be someone to lead the prayer. This person is called the 'imam' of the group and we have to make sure that while we are praying we do not pray faster than him or slower than him. We have to try to keep just a little bit behind him. Once he goes into rukū', we should go

into rukū' right after him, and so on for Sujūd and all the other actions.

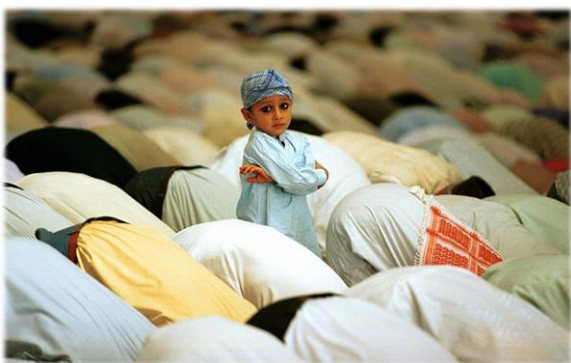
It's also important to remember that we need to stand behind the imam, and that we can't pray in front of him or beside him. If there is only one person praying behind the Imam, then they can stand to their right and a little bit behind them.



LEARNING TO PRAY TOGETHER

The best way to learn how to pray the jamā'ah prayer is to:

- Join your parents and pray with them, it is a very good habit to pray together at home and you will also learn how to pray
- Join the jamā'ah prayer at the mosque: try to make sure you are at the mosque early so you can join the prayer and pray with everyone



THE REWARDS OF PRAYING TOGETHER

Allah (SWT) wants Muslims to be very close to each other. He wants us to help each other, take care of each other, visit each other often and have good

relationships with each other. To help us do this, Allah (SWT) has encouraged us to pray together, so that at least three times a day we meet at the mosque and see and greet each other. Also, by praying together, we encourage other people to pray and give them a chance to learn how to pray as well.

For these reasons, Allah (SWT) has told us that praying together has amazing rewards that we can hardly imagine. Imam al-Reḍa (as) says:

“One prayer prayed in jamāah (together) has as much rewards as two thousand prayers prayed alone”ⁱ

Also, the Prophet (saw) says:

"The rows of my followers in the congregational prayer on the earth are like the rows of angels in the sky"ⁱⁱ

So if you want to get a lot more rewards for your prayers and you want to reach the level of the angels, then make sure you try to attend the jamā'ah prayer and pray with other Muslims, even if this is only at home with your parents, brothers or sisters.

Class Activity

Students should be split into groups of four. Each group should act out a scenario where a group of Muslims meet at the mosque and becomes friends through this meeting.

Review Questions

Q1. When praying:

- a. It is best to pray alone
- b. It is best to pray together
- c. Neither of the above

Q2. When praying, we have to:

- a. Pray faster than the Imam
- b. Pray slower than the Imam
- c. Be just a bit behind the Imam in our actions

ⁱ Bihar-ul-Anwar, vol. 88, p. 4

ⁱⁱ Bihar-ul-Anwar, vol. 88, p. 6