

Objectives >>>**Students should:**

- Understand that just as we have to pray and fast, we have rules on how to behave with others
- Understand that it includes different rules for different people like parents, teachers, classmates
- Discuss stories demonstrating Islamic social etiquette

Lesson 1: Social Rules in Islam

“Assalāmu ‘Alaikum, dear children”

We are all Muslims and when we meet, we greet each other with ‘salām’. Men and boys shake hands and ladies hug one another.

Our religion Islam has rules not just for praying and fasting, but also for how to greet each other, how to talk to each other and how to treat each other. So we should learn as much as we can about what Islam has to teach us on how we treat others. This is called ‘**Social Islam**’.

DIFFERENT RULES FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE

Every day we meet lots of people who are important to us in our lives. At home, we have our parents, siblings, and sometimes even grandparents. We must be respectful and obedient to our parents. Similarly, we must be affectionate, gentle and helpful to our grandparents. We should treat our younger brother or sister with kindness and love- play with them and look after them.

At school, we see our teachers and classmates. WE should listen to our teachers’ instructions and be polite and friendly with our peers in and outside the classrooms. They all matter to us and Islam expects us to treat them with respect even though some of them may be non - Muslims.

When we deal with our non-Muslim friends, we have to be as polite with them as we would with Muslims. Islam encourages us to be very kind and nice to our fellow non-Muslim friends. Our Imams were kind, polite and humble towards non-Muslims too.

When we visit the doctor, the dentist, the hair-dresser or anyone else, we should greet them with a smile, talk to them politely and remember to say “please”, and “thank you”.

SPEAK AND DO GOOD TO PEOPLE

According to ‘Social Islam,’ there is one rule we have to remember. That rule is that we should always speak and do good towards people. We learn this rule from the Qur’an. The Qur’an clearly tells us to be kind to people and to say good words to them.

وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

“Speak (and do) good to people” (2:83)

Now let us look at some stories that show us how the Ahlul Bayt (as) treated other people. There was a woman who lived in the time of Prophet Muhammad (saw). She was an idol worshipper and did not like Prophet Mohammad (saw) because he taught about oneness of Allah and Islam. The woman collected her garbage in a basket and always threw it down on the Prophet (saw) as he walked past her house on the way to the mosque daily. She did this day after day hoping that it would make the Prophet (saw) angry and cause him to shout back at her. Much to the woman's disappointment, he did not say anything and continued on his way day after day, praying to Allah(SWT) to guide the woman.

One day, the Holy Prophet did not find the woman on the roof of her house and no rubbish fell on him. This worried him, because he thought something must have happened to her. He inquired about her and the neighbours informed him that she was sick. Accompanied by a couple of neighbours, he knocked the lady's door.



“Who is it?” asked a feeble voice.

“I am Muhammad bin Abdullah” was the reply. “Can I come in?”

The woman trembled. She thought: ‘Now that I am sick, and too weak to fight or talk back, Muhammad has come to take revenge for what I have been doing to him.’ The Prophet assured her that since no rubbish came down from the roof, he was concerned about her. A Muslim is supposed to visit a person who is ill and enquire about them and so he had come to inquire about her health.

The Prophet asked her how he could help her and if she needed anything. She was so affected by the kind concern of the Holy Prophet, she forgot all her fears. She felt very guilty for being so mean to him in the past and she apologised for her evil behaviour. The Holy Prophet's kindness and patience inspired her to become a Muslim

This incident shows that we should always treat others with goodness, by our words and actions. We should do this even if they may have treated us badly at times.

Some years ago, at a Special Olympics in Canada, nine participants, all disabled, assembled at the starting line. It was for the 100-meters sprint.

At the gun, they all started running with an aim to run the race to the finish and win. One little boy, who had stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and then began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and walked back.....every one of them!



وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

“Speak (and do) good to people”

This will bring a smile!

وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

“Speak (and do) good to people”

This will bring us all joy

وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

“Speak (and do) good to people”

One of them bent down and patted him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood up, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People at the stadium were mesmerised at the kindness of the little children.

Class Activity

What important rules do we have to remember from our ‘Social Islam’ lesson? Your teacher will read these aloud with you so that we can all remember them.

- Always speak and do good towards people.
- Obey your parents, relatives and teachers.
- Be useful and kind to young and old.
- Respect all; be polite and wear a smile when meeting people.
- Treat others the way you want them to treat you.

Class Activity- Memorisation

We will now hold hands and make a class circle, and slowly and repeat this poem.

وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

“Speak (and do) good to people”

This will please Allah

Class Activity

We will now split into groups of 3 or 4.

Your task is to select the behaviours below and put them into the correct box. There are three boxes:

- PARENTS
- GRANDPARENTS
- FRIENDS

Behaviours:

- Do your chores promptly
- Obey them
- Be polite
- Be kind, loving and gentle
- Greet with a smile
- No arguing or answering back
- Help them, talk softly and respect them
- Discuss your school work
- Play with them, and share books with them

