



Community service

SOCIAL ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Discuss examples from the lives of the Ahlul Bayt and the prophets demonstrating how they helped others who were in need
- Understand the importance of helping other people
- Discuss different ways of helping others
- Discuss the benefits of helping others to our own lives

Community Service

In this lesson we will be learning about community service. Community service is when we help those around us. This may be with money, or at the local mosque or even at school.



When we serve our community we feel happy inside, this is because Allah (SWT) has created us to love having friends and feeling like a part of the community. However to have a successful community we all need to work together.

AHLUL BAYT ALWAYS HELPED

The Ahlul Bayt (as) have taught us that one of the most important things we should do is help people who are in need.

Prophet Muḥammad and the Ahlul Bayt never sent someone away when they asked for help. They also helped with community projects. The prophet helped build the first mosque in Medina, which was the main meeting point for the Muslims at that time.



Imam 'Ali was also very helpful to the Prophet and the community. Everyone knew that when the Prophet needed something he would call upon Imam 'Ali. Imam 'Ali would sometimes wait on the street on hot sunny days and when asked why he would respond by saying it was in case anyone passed that needed help.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

The Prophet and Ahlul Bayt are the greatest examples for us to follow. This is because they did everything they could to please Allah. Therefore if we want to please Allah as well, we need to follow their way of life and help our communities and people.

Our 7th Imam, Imam al-Kāḍim (as) has said:

“He who makes a Muslim believer happy, then, he has initially pleased Allah (SWT); secondly, the Prophet (saw) and thirdly the Ahlul Bayt (as).”

Class Activity

There are many ways that we can help our communities. Discuss as a class some of the ways we can do community service then draw 2 of your favourite examples in the boxes below;

Here are some examples of how we can help at our local Mosque or Islamic centre

- Helping to clean our Islamic Centres. Let the main organizers know that you wish to help. Let them guide you.
- Place all rubbish or bits of paper in the bins provided.
- Put away the copies of the Qur'an and other books neatly.
- Ask the organisers if you can help to water the plants and pull out the weeds in the garden
- Helping with the Programs at the mosque or Islamic centre
 - Recite a du'ā'
 - Recite a part of the Holy Qur'an
 - Prepare a talk or recite a poem
- Fundraisers for Islamic causes
 - Help at the stalls
 - Donate a little of your own pocket money
 - Tell others about it and ask them to donate

Lesson 2: Helping However We can

In the last lesson, we learnt about community service and how we can help those around us with our time, money and efforts. We were reminded of how much Ahlul Bayt used to help and how we can do the same.

IMAM 'ALI (AS) AND THE STRANGER

Tired and exhausted with the water-skin on her back, a widow was gasping and walking towards her house. On her way, an unknown man approached her. He took the water-skin from her and placed it on his back. When she reached her house, the door opened and the eager children saw their mother entering the house with a stranger. He placed the water-skin on the ground and said: "Well, it seems you don't have anyone to fetch water for you; how come you are so forlorn?"



"My husband was a soldier; Imam 'Ali sent him to fight; he was killed on the frontier. Now I am alone with these small children."

The Imam said no more. Bowing down his head he went away. But the thought of the helpless widow and orphans remained in his mind. He could hardly sleep that



night. Early in the morning he picked up a basket; put some meat, flour and dates in it; went straight to the widow's house and knocked the door. "Who are you?" she asked.

"I am the man who carried your water bag yesterday. Now I have brought some food for the children," said the Imam (as).

She opened the door. Entering the house he said: "I wish to help you. Either let me knead the flour and bake the bread or allow me to look after the children."

"Very well! I can do the job of kneading and cooking better than you. You take care of the children till I finish cooking," answered the woman.

She went to knead the flour. Immediately he grilled some meat, which he had brought and fed the



children saying to each child while putting morsel in his mouth: "My son, forgive 'Ali if he has failed in his duty towards you."

When the dough was ready, she called: "Gentleman! Light fire in the oven". The Imam

started a fire in the oven. When flames rose up, he brought his face near the fire and said, "Taste the heat of fire. It is the punishment for those who fail in their duty towards orphans and widows."

By chance, a woman from the neighbouring house came in. She called out to the widow: "This is Amīrul Mu'minīn, Imam 'Ali (as). And you are making him do chores! Shame on you!"

The widow ran to the Imam (as) and apologised. But Imam 'Ali (as) was very kind and said that he had wanted to serve her.

Activity

Colour in the pictures that tell the story of Imam 'Ali and his help.

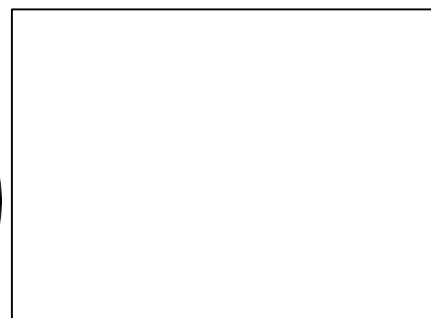
DIFFERENT WAYS OF HELPING

There are many ways that we can be helpful to our communities. However the most important thing for us to remember when helping people is that Allah loves those who do good things and help others. Therefore when we do any community service and help others Allah will take care of our needs and help us when we have problems.

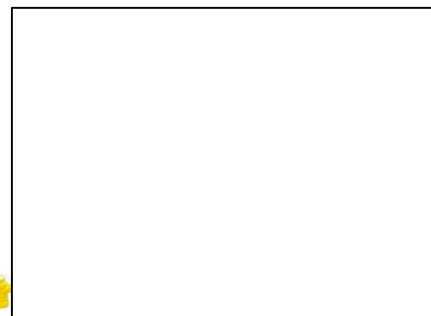
THINGS WE CAN HELP WITH

Look at the following pictures and write or draw a way you can help others using what is in the picture.

Time



Money



Ourselves

