

Weekend Learning Islamic Studies Level 8

Contents & Objectives

Chapter Title		Chapter Objectives
1.	Divine Names	The Qur'an says the most beautiful names belong to Allah (SWT) These names tell us much more than the obvious meanings. To understand the deeper meanings, we can classify these names into different categories. This lesson discusses some of these categories and helps us understand the deeper meanings of Allah (SWT)'s beautiful names.
2.	Sunan of Allah (SWT)	In order to consistently and uniformly manage the universe, Allah (SWT) has created certain laws of operation. Many of these laws are applicable to Himself. Failure to understand the significance and implications of these laws might result in misunderstanding divinity. In turn, this might give rise to irrational notions about who God is and what God is not. This might prevent one from properly understanding the true teachings of the Qur'an. This lesson discusses some of the laws of Allah (SWT) - commonly known as the Sunan of Allah (SWT).
3.	Objectives of the Qur'an	The main objective of the Qur'an is to provide guidance. In addition to this, there are many other objectives. Each one of these objectives is also one of the names for the Qur'an. This lesson discusses the objectives of the Qur'an and their relative importance in our lives.
4.	Lessons from Surah Hujurat	Islam gives tremendous importance to having a strong, harmonious, and cohesive society. However, improper and miscalculated judgments, along with prejudice and wickedness of the soul, often gives rise to social diseases that might destabilize the fabric of a good society. Surah Hujurat presents a few social circumstances that describe when people might behave in a manner that is morally and ethically wrong. The surah also provides solutions to these social diseases. This lesson discusses some of these circumstances and their solutions.
5.	True Piety: <i>A Synthesis of Belief, Practice, and Conduct</i>	The Qur'an contains a beautiful ayah in surah Baqarah that summarizes the meaning of piety, or righteousness. The ayah points out that piety is not about certain mechanical, ritual functions that believers are accustomed to—it is so much more. The Qur'an explains that piety has two major components—belief and right practice. This lesson discusses the Qur'anic interpretation of true piety.
6.	Ayatul Qursi: <i>The Throne Verse</i>	The Throne Verse is one of the greatest verses in the Qur'an. It describes God's action, knowledge, majesty, power, and dominion. Many consider this ayah the equivalent of one-third of the Qur'an because monotheism is the main theme of the ayah. This lesson discusses the meaning of the ayah in detail.
7.	The Person Muhammad (SAW)	This lesson offers an intimate look at Muhammad ﷺ as a person—focusing on some of his unique qualities. He was born into a noble family, and he was raised in a noble manner. Allah (SWT) prepared him so that when he became the Messenger, no one could find a single stain on his character. Everything that Nabi Muhammad (SAW) did was exemplary, and there is much to learn from his action and behavior.

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8.	Farewell Pilgrimage	The Farewell Pilgrimage is remembered as a significant event in the history of Islam. Rasulullah (SAW) delivered a famous sermon during the pilgrimage. This sermon summarizes the key responsibilities of Muslims. This lesson introduces students to the sermon and provides an overview of the Farewell Pilgrimage.
9.	Finality of Prophethood	The Qur'an and Hadith confirmed that Muhammad (SAW) is the final messenger, yet during the past 1,000 years, several people have claimed to be prophets. Students will learn that it is not possible for any new prophets to come. Muhammad (SAW) is the final messenger in Islam.
10.	Hadith: <i>Collection and Classification</i>	Hadith are not only the sayings of Rasulullah (SAW) - they are much more than that. Students will learn about the structure, types, purpose, and classification of hadith. They will also learn about the collectors of hadith.
11.	Hypocrites	The hypocrites mentioned in the Qur'an were actually Muslims, but their commitment to Islam remained questionable. Hypocrites are difficult to identify because their hypocrisy resides deep in their hearts. Students will learn how they can protect themselves from their own hypocrisy and the hypocrisy of others. May Allah (SWT) protect us from hypocritical conduct. May Allah (SWT) save us from the evil activities of hypocrites in our society.
12.	Banu Qaynuqa: <i>Threat Within Madinah</i>	Soon after the Battle of Badr, the Jewish tribe Banu Qaynuqa began conspiring against the Muslims. The tribe challenged the Muslims to fight. Muslim efforts to restore peace were foiled. The Muslims had no other choice but to expel the tribe from Madinah. This lesson explains these events with the proper historical perspective.
13.	Banu Nadir: <i>Treachery Within Madinah</i>	Soon after the Battle of Uhud, the Jewish tribe Banu Nadir was expelled from Madinah. Banu Nadir had violated the peace treaty with the Muslims. What caused the tension between the tribe and the Muslims? Students will learn the historical truth about one of the cruel conspiracies against the Muslims.
14.	Banu Qurayzah	Banu Qurayzah nearly destroyed the Muslim community when they conspired with the polytheist Quraish to attack the Muslims. Before they could launch the attack, a misunderstanding caused a rift between the Jewish tribe and the polytheists. The Muslims were saved from an imminent attack. Soon after the Battle of the Trench, some members of Banu Qurayzah were punished for their treachery. This chapter exposes the truth behind these events.
15.	Mission to Tabuk: <i>A Test of Steadfastness</i>	The expedition to Tabuk challenged the Muslims to a severe test. Many of them failed the test and many others emerged successful. The Muslims did not have to fight the Byzantines, but the expedition proved to be a show of force to others. When the Muslims began conquering outlying areas at a later time, the experience of Tabuk helped them. This lesson discusses the expedition and the twists and turns of these historical events.
16.	Friends and Friendship: <i>Who is a Good Friend</i>	We should exercise caution about who we befriend. Good friends can help us become better people, but many "good" friends can actually be harmful. Students will learn what qualities to look in their friends and what types of friendships they should avoid.

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17. Friendship With Non-Muslims	Most of us live in a predominantly non-Muslim environment. Many of our friends are non-Muslim. Can we have friendships with non-Muslims? The Qur'an says that we can have friendships with non-Muslims, but only under certain conditions. This lesson discusses the topic of non-Muslim friendships.
18. Dating: <i>How Islam Views the Practice</i>	Dating is an acceptable social behavior in Western countries, but dating is prohibited in Islam. This lesson discusses dating issues for Muslim youths, and provides direction on how to avoid temptation and how to follow the proper guidance.
19. Hold Fast the Rope of Allah (SWT)	This chapter discusses two ayat from surah al-'Imran - one that teaches us not to die unless we are Muslim, and one that teaches us not to split up but hold fast the rope of Allah (SWT). These messages are very pertinent today because many of us are at risk of dying as non-Muslim. Many of us are on the verge of splitting up because we have loosened our grip on the rope of Allah (SWT).
20. Elements of a Bad Life	Ideally, students should learn about the elements of a good life. However, it is also important to know the elements of a bad life because it is easy to get carried away by these elements. After all, these aspects often appear fun and attractive. Sometimes we do not understand the gravity of these bad aspects. Overindulgence in these elements can cause us to suffer in this life and in the Hereafter.
21. Duties Towards Parents	Our duties towards our parents are clearly mentioned in the Qur'an. What are the reasons for these obligations? This lesson discusses the topic and explains why duties towards our parents are the second-most important duty after our primary duty to worship Allah (SWT).
22. Hope, Hopefulness, Hopelessness	All believers are required to express hope when everything appears to fall apart. Hope provides strength and direction. On the other hand, a non-believer feels hopeless when disaster strikes. This chapter discusses the value of keeping hope and explains why people feel hopeless in life and provides solution to overcome hopelessness in life.
23. Trials in Life: <i>Everyone Will Experience Them</i>	All believers will experience trials in their lives. Even the messengers of Islam suffered trials. Experiencing difficulties make us better people. Those who do not have strong faith lose hope when they face difficulty. This lesson describes different types of trials, why Allah (SWT) makes us experience them, and what we can do when we face difficulties in our lives.
24. Permitted and Prohibited Food	This chapter provides an overview of Muslim food laws as mentioned in the Qur'an. Students will learn what types of animals are permissible to eat. However, the meat of some permissible animals cannot eaten if they were not slaughtered in the prescribed manner. Students will also learn whether saying "Bismillah" before a meal makes it acceptable to eat the meat of an improperly slaughtered animal.
25. Performance of Hajj	The performance of Hajj requires a clear understanding of the ritual. Performing the ritual provides important spiritual benefits. Students will learn each step of Hajj, beginning with the first day and ending on the last day. Minor variations in the ritual are also discussed in the lesson.

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26.	Parables in the Qur'an	The Qur'an is not only a book of guidance, but it is also a book of high-quality literature. Just as literature uses metaphors, figures of speech and other techniques to tell a story, the Qur'an also uses many of these techniques. The parable is a literary style used frequently in the Qur'an. In this chapter, students will learn some of the parables in the Qur'an.
27.	Early History of Shi'ah Muslims	In this lesson, students will be introduced to the origin and early history of Shi'ah Muslims. Students will also learn what led to the division of among Muslims and what prompted the early Shi'ah to disagree with the majority of Muslims at that time.
28.	Umayyad Dynasty	The short-lived Umayyad Dynasty helped shape the early history of Islam. The dynasty was embroiled in bloody battles during its entire rule, but it also contributed to expanding the territories of the Muslim empire. However, the Umayyad Dynasty's downfall was accelerated by several factors. Students will read an overview of the dynasty beginning with its foundation and ending with its collapse.
29.	Abbasid Dynasty	The long-lasting Abbasid Dynasty shifted its focus from mainland Arabia to Iraq. The success of the dynasty was rooted in its efficient administrative system. The dynasty also significantly expanded learning and achieved the highest level of Islamic advancement. Students will learn how the dynasty was formed and the cause of its downfall.