



Sunday School SYLLABUS

Course Name: Islamic Law and Wisdom - 1
Course Stage: Advanced
Stage Theme: Islam in the Contemporary World
Level: 7
Ages: 15-16 years
Version: 1.1

www.ghamidi.org/sunday-school

Al-Mawrid USA
Ghamidi Center for Islamic Learning

Overview:

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) asserted that seeking religious knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim man and woman. Following the assertion of our Prophet, the purpose of this course is to provide its students with the required knowledge in the form of fresh insight into Islam, its beliefs, its practices, and the wisdom behind those beliefs and practices. In this two-part course, the student will learn about Islam, its core beliefs, and its teachings to appreciate the true essence of the directives given by Allah SWT, which is purifying oneself. Every lecture or discussion will be a sincere effort to fathom how these beliefs and directives play a significant role in self-development and the purification of oneself. Students will be asked to evaluate the subject matter presented to them rationally. The first part of the course will focus on articles of faith and how they relate to our social lives, with a brief introduction to rituals. The second part will focus on the laws given by Allah SWT for Muslims to lead their lives in this world.

Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to discover the objectivity behind Islamic beliefs and understand how the articles of faith are closely related to our daily lives. The effort is to know that it is absolutely ok to rationalize the commandments of Allah SWT and the reasons for the success criteria in Allah's eyes. At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Rationally evaluate the reasoning behind the articles of faith and their requirements
- Understand how the objective of Islam, purification is at the center of every commandment given by Allah SWT
- Learn how to use the tools given by Allah SWT in the form of ethics and morality to achieve success in the Hereafter

Delivery Method:

This course will be taught through various methods suitable for this age group. This includes weekly lectures, group discussions, multiple Q&A sessions, home assignments, and independent reading of other reference material. In addition to the lecture slide, students will be encouraged to read the handouts given to them or other reference material available for reading to discuss and probe deeper questions regarding the subject matter. Appropriate discussion forum(s) will be created to enrich the course content encouraging students to discuss relevant topics in the forum to enhance their understanding. Students can also bring in their questions for discussion in these forums.

Assessment

Students will randomly be assessed on what they have learned after a few lectures through short quizzes, assignments, or projects.

Course Outline:

The following list comprises the suggested topics that will be covered in this course. These topics are primarily taken from Ustaz Javed Ahmed Ghamidi's book, *Al-Meezan (Islam: A Comprehensive Introduction)*. The discussion forum(s), reference reading material, and Q&A sessions will be added to the lesson plan or outline. These topics are not arranged by week, and some topics may take multiple sessions to cover the topic fully.

Note: *A weekly lesson plan or outline will be created based on these topics. The weekly lessons will incorporate practical aspects of the course, homework, and reference reading exercises.*

1. Introduction

- › Course Objectives
- › Why revisit Islam? Am I not a Muslim?
- › The Journey
- › Structure of the course
- › STOP! Why are you taking this course?
- › Suggestions and input
- › Questions and Answers

A. Introduction to Islam

2. Islam – The True Religion

- › The definition of religion
- › Islam and its essence
- › History of Islam
- › The sources of Islam
 - Quran – the Divine Book
 - Sunnah – practices of the Prophets
- › What is Hadith?
- › Purpose of Divine Books
- › Purpose of Prophets & Messengers
- › The content of Islam (Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah)
- › Al-Kitab – The Law?
- › Examples of Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah
- › The Objective of Islam
- › Iman: The Inner Aspect of Islam
 - Permanent Requirements of Iman
 - Righteous deeds
 - Urging one another to truthfulness and urging one another to remain steadfast
 - Contingent Requirements of Iman
 - Migration for the cause of Islam

- Supporting the cause of Islam
- Adhering to justice
- › The correct religious attitude
- › The famous hadith of Jibrael (Gabriel)
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

3. The Final message

- › The need for religion
- › Who has the answers?
- › Revealed vs. 'Other' religions
- › Mysticism and revealed religion
- › Islam, Judaism, and Christianity
- › Abrahamic religion(s)
- › "I am spiritual but not religious" group
- › The appeal of areligious life
- › Dangers of areligious life
- › Religion and Science
- › Relevance of religion in modern times
- › Why Islam is the ONLY divine religion
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

B. Faith and Beliefs

4. Beliefs in Islam

- › The role of Faith in religion
- › The concept of blind faith
- › The relationship between Faith and Actions
- › Belief in God
 - Evidence – A quick discussion
 - His Being
 - Allah SWT
 - His Attributes
 - Who created the Creator?
 - Predestination – Good and Evil fate
 - Playing a game – another example
- › Allah's Dealings and Practices
 - Importance
 - Principles
 - Tests and Trials
 - Guidance and Error
 - Beyond Capacity Directives
 - Rise and Fall of Nations
 - Divine Help
 - Remorse and Repentance

- Reward and Punishment
- › Belief in Angels
- › Belief in Prophets
- › Belief in Divine Books
- › Belief in the Hereafter
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

5. Allah SWT demands pure Monotheism

- › The oneness of God (Tawhid) is at the core of Islam
- › Evidence from nature
- › What is Shirk?
- › Examples of *Shirk*
- › Why *is Shirk* an unforgivable sin?
- › Quran on *Shirk*
- › God demands utmost sincerity
- › Quran on Sincerity
- › What leads to polytheism or shirk?
- › Astrology and Palmistry
- › Polytheists in the time of Prophet Muhammad
- › Difference between polytheism and polytheistic beliefs
- › Questions and Answers

6. Prophets & Messengers

- › The concept of Prophethood
- › Prophets unique merits
- › How does God communicate?
- › The reality of Prophethood
- › Why does God send Prophets?
- › Prophets are humans
- › Why aren't women chosen as prophets?
- › Prophethood is a grave responsibility
- › Prophets and Messengers
- › The fate of Prophet Muhammad's nation
- › Innocence of Prophets
- › Examples of Prophets and Messengers
- › Obeying the Prophet
- › How do I recognize a Prophet?
- › Signs of a Prophet
- › Prophet Muhammad, the last Prophet
- › Why did God seize the prophethood?
- › The special status of Prophet Ibrahim's progeny
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

7. Quran

- › The purpose of Divine Books
- › Last Divine Book – The Quran
- › Some facts about Quran
- › God has protected Quran
- › How God preserved Quran?
- › The language of the Quran is protected
- › Some terms
- › The subject matter of the Quran
- › How to understand Quran?
- › The style and genre of the Quran
- › The miraculous nature of the Quran – its relevance is eternal
- › Other Divine Books (Torah, Psalms, & Gospel)
- › Quran and other Divine Books
- › Quran and Science – is there a relationship?
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

8. The Day of Judgment

- › The Day of Judgement and the Hereafter
- › Significance of the Day of Judgment
- › Evidence 1 – Human Conscience
- › Evidence 2 – The concept of Justice
- › Evidence 3 – Incompleteness of man and the universe
- › Evidence 4 – God's attributes of Mercy and Providence
- › Evidence 5 – Empirical evidence
- › Judgment through Prophet Muhammad
- › How does the belief influence our lives?
- › When will be the Day of Judgment?
- › What will happen on that Day?
- › Phases and Abodes
- › Intercession of the Prophets
- › Questions and Answers

9. Signs near the Day of Judgment

- › Who can tell the signs?
- › Signs near the day of judgment
- › Major signs of the DoJ
- › Minor signs of the DoJ
- › The second coming of Jesus
- › How do they relate to me?
- › Example of a minor sign
- › Questions and Answers

10. Heaven & Hell

- › The concept of heaven & Hell
- › Description of Hell in the Quran
- › Who are the dwellers of Hell?
- › Types of punishment in Hell
- › Description of Heaven in the Quran
- › Dwellers of Heaven
- › Rewards in heaven
- › Life in Heaven
- › Is heaven solely for Muslims?
- › Deciding people's fate in this world
- › How hard it is to be successful?
- › Why is there an 'eternal' punishment of hell for some crimes?
- › Questions and Answers

C. Worships in Islam

11. Salah – Prayers

- › The significance of rituals & our relationship with Allah SWT
- › The essence of Islam and Worships
- › Importance of Salah
- › Salah is one of the pillars, not the building
- › The philosophy of Salah
- › Five daily Salah
- › Salah – Simplified
- › Friday Salah
- › Questions and Answers

12. Zakah – Obligatory Charity

- › The concept of Zakah
- › The objectives of Zakah
- › The law of Zakah – Simplified
- › Why is Zakah an act of worship?
- › Ownership and possessions – Quran's view
- › What if we don't give obligatory charity?
- › Questions and Answers

13. Fasting

- › The significance of fasting
- › Fasting in Ramadan
- › The objectives of fasting
- › Reaping the fruits of fasting
- › The law of fasting – Simplified
- › Questions and Answers

14. Hajj & Umrah – Pilgrimage

- › What is Hajj?
- › The significance of Hajj
- › The objectives of Hajj
- › The message of Hajj
- › Questions and Answers

D. Islamic Morals and Morality

15. Fundamental Principle

- › The significance of a good character
- › Prophet Muhammad is our model
- › Good character and religion
- › How are we different from other animals?
- › Our knowledge of Good and Evil is inspired – Surah 91, Verses 7-10
- › Who sets the standards for right and wrong?
- › We tend to justify our deeds – Surah 75, Verses 14-15
- › What drives us to be good?
- › The objective of being good
- › The foundation of good and evil – Surah 16, Verse 90
 - Concept of Justice
 - Goodness – the pinnacle of ethics and morality
 - Rights of close relations
 - Principles of prohibitions
- › Building character is a lifelong struggle
- › Faith and building moral character
- › Questions and Answers

16. Islam's Moral Standards

- › Introduction
- › A common word in Abrahamic religion
- › Ten commandments of the Quran (Surah 17, Verses 22-39)
 - Worshiping God alone
 - Treating parents with kindness
 - Spending in the way of God
 - Immoral behavior
 - Sanctity of human life
 - Misappropriating the wealth of orphans
 - Keeping promises
 - Honesty in business and dealings
 - Speculation and suspicion
 - Pride and vanity
- › Questions and Answers

17. Pinnacle of Morality

- › Qualities of a believer
- › Islam and Iman
- › Humble
- › Truthful and reliable
- › Patient
- › Humility
- › Charitable
- › A fasting believer
- › Modest
- › Believer remembers God often
- › Questions and Answers

18. Interacting with non-Muslims

- › Introduction
- › Misconceptions about dealing with non-Muslims
- › Relationships with people of other faith
- › Calling others to Islam
- › Joining non-Muslims on social causes
- › Attending social gatherings and non-religious festivals
- › Celebrating religious festivals with non-Muslims
- › Inviting non-Muslims to your home and on religious occasions
- › Examples from Quran and Sunnah
- › Islamophobia and our role
- › Be the ambassador of Islam
- › Questions and Answers

19. Respect for Diversity

- › Islam is the most diverse religion
- › Living in a multicultural society
- › Respecting other's opinions and ideas without compromising your beliefs and moral standards
- › Questions and Answers

20. Modesty and Relationships

- › The concept of Modesty and Chastity in Islam
- › Reminder: Don't go near adultery
- › Islam's guidance on the etiquette of gender-mixing
- › The etiquette
- › Reminder: Purity is the objective
- › Dating and premarital relationships
- › How to fight the temptations?
- › Summary

› Questions and Answers