

# New Muslims Class

## LESSON 1 Shahadatayn



DISCOVER ISLAM

**NIMC**  
new muslims class

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# Today's Agenda

- **NMC Introduction**
  - Student/Instructor Introductions
  - Curriculum Overview
  - Advice on getting started
- **Lesson One – Shahadatayn**
  - Testimony of Faith
  - Defining Worship
  - Importance of Intention (Niyya)
  - Islamic sources of Knowledge
  - Hadith of Gabriel

# Curriculum Overview

- **Class divided into three parts**
- **Logical progression – each class builds on the last**
- **Part 1 – Belief and Practice**
  - Basics of Islam
    - » *Defining worship, Intention, Five Pillars*
    - » *Six Tenets of Faith & Islamic Spirituality*
- **Part 2 – Prophets**
  - Inspiring stories of Prophets
    - » *Deriving context & lessons from their lives*
- **Part 3 – Other Topics**
  - Relevant Convert matters
    - » *Identity change, dealing with family, work, & community*
    - » *Key figures in Islam and the Afterlife, etc.*

# Logistics

- **We meet on Sundays, 12:00AM – 02:00PM**
  - Discover Islam Room
  - We will break for the mid-day prayer (Dhuhr)
  - No classes on holiday weekends
- **We use email to communicate with students**

# Schedule

| Lesson # | Class Title                    |  |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1        | Intro/Shahadatayn              |  |
| 2        | Wudu/Intro to Salat            |  |
| 3        | Salat Class                    |  |
| 4        | Zakat, Sawm and Hajj           |  |
|          |                                |  |
| 5        | Creation and Adam              |  |
| 6        | Tawheed and Ibrahim            |  |
| 7        | Isa                            |  |
| 8        | Seerah part 1                  |  |
| 9        | Seerah part 2                  |  |
|          |                                |  |
| 10       | Key Figures                    |  |
| 11       | Intro to Qur'an                |  |
| 12       | Major Sins/Tawbah              |  |
| 13       | The Hereafter                  |  |
| 14       | Dealing with Change/Conclusion |  |

## Advice for Getting Started

- Start with the basics – learn the pillars first
- Protect your prayer – it protects your Deen
- Establish clear priorities – your belief is most important
- Understand the big picture before worrying about small details
- Avoid debating with others – let your actions speak for you
- Avoid extremes – go slowly and take the middle path
- Make your religion easy – don't be overbearing on yourself
- Pace yourself for the long haul – don't take on too much
- Make an effort to learn & increase in knowledge
- Make excuse for others – focus on yourself
- Make a lot of duah – Allah hears all supplications

# Testimony of Faith (Shahada)

*There is none worthy of worship except Allah,  
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah*

- Shahada is first pillar of Islam
  - Arabic word that means “bearing witness”
  - One becomes Muslim by proclaiming the Shahada
- 
- The Shahada is saying,
    - » *“La ilaha ill Allah, Muhammad Rasul Allah”*
    - » *“There is no deity except Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger”*
  - Not just a verbal affirmation – requires action

# Testimony of Faith (Shahada)

- **Shahada is composed of two parts:**
  - *La ilaha ill Allah* – means that there is no deity (*ilah*) or god except Allah, the source of all creation. Besides Him, no created thing, be it human or angelic, material or psychological, is worthy of our devotion and worship
  - *Muhammad Rasul Allah* – means that Muhammad is the final Messenger of God. Through this expression we affirm both his Prophethood, and the Prophethood of all Divinely Inspired Messengers sent before him.



## Defining Worship

- Islam is a complete way of life – surrender should be as comprehensive as possible
- Worship Allah with all of our body's faculties
  - Mind/Intellect
    - » *Having the proper belief*
    - » *Believing what revealed in Qur'an and taught by the Prophet Muhammad<sup>SAW</sup>*
  - Body
    - » *Using the limbs to act in accordance with beliefs*
  - Heart
    - » *Having sincerity*
    - » *Seeking purification & Allah's pleasure*
- Greatest religious deed is faith in Allah

## Exercise: Which Action is Worship?

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1) Prayer.   | 5) Treating parents kindly.  | 9) Believing in Allah Most High.                  |
| 2) Household Chores: Doing the Laundry, Washing the Dishes, etc. | 6) Having a good opinion of others and giving them the benefit of the doubt. | 10) Going to work in the morning & Eating dinner. |
| 3) Feeding the hungry and clothing the poor.                     | 7) Visiting the sick and caring for the elderly.                             | 11) Fasting.                                      |
| 4) Seeking knowledge and teaching others.                        | 8) Patience in the face of adversity.  | 12) Smiling at your brother or sister.            |

## Importance of Intention (Niyya)

- The answer might be a little surprising...
- They're all acts of worship and none of them are acts of worship
- Outwardly appearing good actions may not be counted as good deeds and also the converse is true – why?
- Intention defines an action
- Criteria for acceptance
- Make sure to establish your intention!

# Intention (Niyya)

## Hadith:

*Narrated 'Umar bin Al-Khattab: I heard Allah's Apostle saying, "The (reward of) deeds, depend upon the intentions and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended. So whoever emigrated for the sake of Allah and His Apostle, then his emigration will be considered to be for Allah and His Apostle, and whoever emigrated for the sake of worldly gain or for a woman to marry, then his emigration will be considered to be for what he emigrated for." the Prophet, may peace and blessings be upon him, has said, "Works are only according to intentions and a person only attains what he intends".*

*Translation of Sahih Bukhari, Volume 8, Book 78, Number 680*

## Qur'an:

لَا يُؤَاخِذُكُمُ اللَّهُ بِاللَّغْوِ فِي أَيْمَانِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَاخِذُكُمْ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

*Allah will not call you to account for thoughtlessness in your oaths, but for the intention in your hearts; and He is Oft-forgiving, Most Forbearing.*

*Surah Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2:225*

# Worship Summary

- **Worship is reverent love expressed by devotion to Allah alone**
- **Worship is comprehensive - mind, body and heart**
- **Any action, depending on intention, can be acts of worship**
- **Actions are defined by their intention - criteria for acceptance**
- **Work might be accepted or rejected based on the purity of the intention**

# Islamic Knowledge

- Two primary sources for entire body of Islamic Knowledge
  - Qur'an
  - Hadith
- Other Knowledge derived from two sources above:
  - Schools of Thought (Mathabs)
  - Scholarly research
  - Islamic Jurisprudence (Shariah)
  - Islamic History
  - Arabic Literature
  - Math/Science/Medicine...others

## **Qur'an**

- **Book of divine guidance and direction for mankind**
- **Literal word of God**
- **God's final revelation to humanity**
- **Revealed to Prophet Muhammad over 23 years**
- **114 Surahs (Chapters)**
- **6236 Ayats (Verses/Signs)**

# Hadith

- Hadith - Any report of something the prophet either said or did
- Many hadiths exist & there are many chains of narrators
- Many grades of hadith, from the most authentic to those that have been forged, and various degrees in between
- Hadith Ranks:
  - Maqbool (accepted): This means the hadith is accepted as proof in Islamic Jurisprudence
    - » *Sahih (correct/proper form): Highest rank of authenticity*
    - » *Hassan (good/well): Next most authentic*
  - Mardood (rejected): This denotes the hadith has serious flaws in their chain or body that prevent them from being a proof in Jurisprudence and law
    - » *Da'eef (weak), Mawdoo' (fabricated)*



# Ranking Hadith

- Some conditions used for ranking Hadith:
  - 1. Continuity of the chain (Isnad) of transmitters. The chain of transmitters had to be unbroken in order for a hadith to be acceptable.
  - 2. The integrity of the transmitters. The integrity of transmitters was established in terms of their outward observance of Islam.
  - 3. Soundness of memory of the transmitters. It had to be verified through the biographical sciences of Hadith that each transmitter had a sound memory.
  - 4. Conformity of the hadith with other hadith. It was important that the hadith conform with similar hadiths on the same topic.
  - 5. The absence of defects in the hadith. A defect is defined as a hidden defect in the hadith which can only be detected after thorough investigation.

## Hadith of Jibreel (Gabriel)

*Narrated Abu Huraira: One day while the Prophet was sitting in the company of some people, (The angel) Gabriel came and asked, "What is faith?" Allah's Apostle replied, 'Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, (the) meeting with Him, His Apostles, and to believe in Resurrection.' Then he further asked, "What is Islam?" Allah's Apostle replied, "To worship Allah Alone and none else, to offer prayers perfectly to pay the compulsory charity (Zakat) and to observe fasts during the month of Ramadan." Then he further asked, "What is Ihsan (perfection)?" Allah's Apostle replied, "To worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot achieve this state of devotion then you must consider that He is looking at you." Then he further asked, "When will the Hour be established?" Allah's Apostle replied, "The answerer has no better knowledge than the questioner. But I will inform you about its portents. 1. When a slave (lady) gives birth to her master. 2. When the shepherds of black camels start boasting and competing with others in the construction of higher buildings. And the Hour is one of five things which nobody knows except Allah. The Prophet then recited: "Verily, with Allah (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour--." (31. 34) Then that man (Gabriel) left and the Prophet asked his companions to call him back, but they could not see him. Then the Prophet said, "That was Gabriel who came to teach the people their religion." Abu 'Abdullah said: He (the Prophet) considered all that as a part of faith.*

**Translation of Sahih Bukhari, Volume 1, Book 2, Number 47**

## Hadith of Jibreel (Gabriel)

- The religion of Islam is composed of three integral parts:
  - Action (outward acts of worship)
  - Correct belief (tenets of faith)
  - Spiritual excellence (the perfection of faith)
- Three parts correspond directly with the three faculties with which we worship (limbs, mind, heart)
  - **Islam** refers to how we worship outwardly, with our limbs (prayer, fasting and so on)
  - **Iman** refers to the tenets of faith, how we worship with our minds and intellects
  - **Ihsan** refers to how we worship with our hearts, struggling to perfect and purify our intentions in everything we do

# The Five Pillars (Islam)

- The word Islam can refer to the religion of Islam or the Five Pillars by themselves (same word)
- Islam refers to how we worship outwardly, with our limbs
  - **Shahada** (testimony) - bearing witness
  - **Salat** (prayer) – performing the five obligatory daily prayers
  - **Sawm** (fasting) – fasting from dawn to dusk during the lunar month of Ramadan
  - **Zakat** (alms) – paying 2.5% of your annually accumulated savings to the needy
  - **Hajj** (pilgrimage) – perform pilgrimage to Mecca once in your life time if you can afford it

# The Six Tenets of Faith (Iman)

- Iman refers to how we worship with our minds and intellects
- It is belief in:
  - Allah, Most High
  - His Angels
  - His Inspired Books
  - His Messengers
  - The Last Day
  - Destiny, its good and evil

# Belief in Allah

- **To believe in Allah Most High means:**
  - Belief in His existence
  - Belief in His oneness (no partners)
  - Belief in His uniqueness
  - Belief that He is exalted above any imperfection or impossibility
  - Belief that He has absolute power and knowledge over all things
  - Belief that He is characterized by every perfection
  - Belief that He is the supreme Creator of all things

# Belief in Angels

- **To believe in His angels means to be convinced that:**
  - Angels have bodies of light who are capable of changing form
  - Angels do not have freewill - must obey commands of Allah
  - Only Allah Most High knows how many there are
  - We should know ten individual angels in particular:
    - » **Jibril (Gabriel): Angel of Revelation**
    - » **Mikail (Michael): Angel of Provision**
    - » **Israfil: Sounds the Trumpet**
    - » **Azrail: Angel of Death**
    - » **Munkar: Angel of the Grave**
    - » **Nakir: Angel of the Grave**
    - » **Ridwan: Keeper of the Gate of Paradise**
    - » **Malik: Chief Angel of Hellfire**
    - » **Two scribes** who record all of our deeds, good and evil

# Belief in Inspired Books

- To believe in Allah's inspired Books means:
  - To be convinced that other revealed texts were Allah's words & completely true
  - In present form, other revealed books are corrupted - human words are mixed with Allah's words
  - We should know four revealed books in particular (mentioned in Qur'an):
    - » *Taurah (Torah) - Musa<sup>AS</sup>(Moses)*
    - » *Injil (Evangel) - Isa<sup>AS</sup>(Jesus)*
    - » *Zabur (Psalms) - Dawud<sup>AS</sup> (David)*
    - » *Qur'an (Koran) - Muhammad<sup>SAW</sup>*

## Key Learning:

Question: How does Islam regard other revealed books such as the Bible?

Answer: Islam does not accept other books, as they exist today, as factual sources of knowledge.



# Belief in Messengers

- **To believe in His messengers means to be convinced that:**
  - Allah Most High sent Messengers to men and jinn
  - Each Messenger had specific mission
  - All of them called people to worship one God and warned of a terrible punishment for those who rejected message
  - Prophets protected from major sins – best of character
  - Role models for human kind - we should follow their examples
  - Should know twenty-five in particular (mentioned in Qur'an)

## 25 Prophets mentioned in Qur'an

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Adam              | Musa (Moses)         |
| Idris (Enoch)     | Dawud (David)        |
| Nuh (Noah)        | Sulayman (Solomon)   |
| Hud               | Ayyub (Job)          |
| Salih             | Dhul Kifl (Ezekiel)  |
| Lut (Lot)         | Yunus (Jonah)        |
| Ibrahim (Abraham) | Ilyas (Elias)        |
| Isma'il (Ishmael) | al-Yasa' (Elisha)    |
| Ishaq (Isaac)     | Zakariyya (Zacarias) |
| Ya'qub (Jacob)    | Yahya (John)         |
| Yusuf (Joseph)    | 'Isa (Jesus)         |
| Shu'ayb           | Muhammad             |
| Harun (Aaron)     |                      |

*May Allah bless them all and grant them peace*

## Belief in the Last Day

- **To believe in the Last Day means to believe:**
  - Day of Resurrection
  - That it will come to pass, with all that it implies
  - Called Last Day because not followed by night
  - The dead will be resurrected & receive their final reckoning
  - Good and bad deeds will be weighed (even the smallest one)
  - Allah will give absolute justice
  - Some will enter paradise out of Allah's mercy
  - Some will enter the hellfire based on their own actions

# Belief in Destiny

- **To believe in destiny means to be convinced that:**
  - Allah has ordained both good and evil
  - Allah has knowledge and control of everything that happens
  - All that has been and that all that will be only exists through Allah's decree, fore ordinance and will
  - Early Muslims used to answer whoever asked about destiny by saying,
    - » *“It is knowing that what hits you was not going to miss you, and what misses you was not going to hit.”*

## Key Learning:

Question: If Allah preordained things, why does it matter what we do?

Answer: We must do our part, because we don't know our destiny. Where each soul ends up is based on the person's actions and the choices they make. Only Allah knows the future as well as the results of those actions. So we must do our best and hope for his mercy!

## Spiritual Excellence (Ihsan)

- Ihsan refers to how we worship with our hearts
- Seeking to be sincere to Allah
- Struggling to perfect and purify our intentions in everything we do
- It is to adore Allah as if you see him, for if you see Him not, He nevertheless, sees you

## Lesson Summary

- Anything can be an act of worship
- Worship is all encompassing – mind, body & heart
- Intention defines actions
- Only two sources of Islamic knowledge – Qur'an & Sunnah – scholars base their work on these sources
- Discussed hadith & their grades of authenticity
- Reviewed the Sahih Hadith of Jibril
- Learned about Islamic beliefs, practices and spirituality

## Preparation for Next Class

- Memorize Surah Fatihah
- Seven verses easily memorized
- Use the transliteration provided in the slides

# Surah Fatihah (The Opening)

## Arabic

1. بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
2. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
3. الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
4. مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
5. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
6. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
7. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ  
وَ لَا الضَّالِّينَ

## Transliteration

1. Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim
2. Alhumdulillahi Rabil Alameen
3. Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim
4. Maliki yawm-ideen
5. Iyyaka na abudu wa iyyaka nastaeen
6. Ihdina as sirata al mustaqeem
7. Sirata allatheena an-amta alayhim ghayril maghdoobi  
alayhim waladaaleen

## English Translation

1. In The Name of God, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful
2. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds.
3. Most Beneficent, Most Merciful.
4. Master of The Day of Judgment,
5. Thee do we worship, Thine Aid we seek.
6. Show us the straight way.
7. The way of those on whom Thou has bestowed Thy grace, Those whose (portion) is not Wrath. And who go not astray.





# New Muslims Class

## LESSON 1

# Appendix

# Glossary

**Du'a** Prayer of supplication. May take the form of a spontaneous address to God, or of petitionary formulas.

**Hadith** A report verifying how the Holy Prophet performed an action, dealt with an incident or reacted to a situation together with any dialogue which took place at the time.

**Ihsan** Lit. doing good 'par excellence' but bears a wider meaning denoting a spiritual state; the Holy Prophet defined it as worshipping God as though you could see Him.

**Iman** Faith or belief. It is subject to strengthening or weakening according to how we live.

**Islam** from root word "Salam", means peace through submission to Allah.

**Shirk** The conscious or unconscious ascription of ultimate authority to someone or something other than Allah.

**Shahada** The confession of faith, consisting to two formulae: Ashhadu Anlaa Ilah Illa'llah - I witness that there is no god except Allah. Wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan Rasoolu'llah - And I witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

**Salat** The canonical prayer. The means given by Allah for mankind to make contact with him. It is a worship of the whole person; heart, mind, tongue and body. It is the second of the five pillars of Islam.

**Sawm/Siyam** Fasting. God has made fasting obligatory during the month of Ramadan, but many Muslims, following the Sunna or example of the Holy Prophet fast at other times as well.

**Hajj** The annual pilgrimage to the holy places in and around Makkah. It is obligatory on every Muslim to make the trip once in a lifetime if one is financially able.

**Zakat** The obligatory annual alms given from property and wealth. This becomes due only when a person has kept wealth above a certain limit for one year. The proportion (nisaab) for cash and highly liquid assets is usually set at 2.5%

**Sahih** (Lit: right) Term given to certain Hadith (q.v.) which pass the most rigorous tests of authentication, particularly the collection of the Imams Bukhari and Muslim.

# Glossary

**Tawhid** The doctrine of the absolute unity and indivisibility of Allah.

**Sunnah** The example of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in character and behavior. As what he did was not from his own will but from his Lord he is both the exponent of the Qur'an in practical human life and the model of perfect humanity. When Muslims follow the example of the Prophet, even in one simple act they are making a link not only with the Prophet but also with Allah. It is the second source of the Shariah, after the Qur'an.

**Niyya** Conscious intention. It is the part of an action which affects the heart and is counted by Allah. Without sincere intention no act, and particularly no act of worship, has any value.

**Nabi** A Prophet. Several are listed in the Qur'an. Not always a Rasul.

**Rasul** 'Messenger', 'Apostle'. Such people of whom Muhammad was the last, that have been sent to every nation in history. Belief in them, and in their freedom from mortal sin, is an indispensable article of faith.

**Tawrat** The Torah, The Old Testament, the scripture given to Moses. It is one of the fundamentals of faith to believe in the scriptures of Allah.

**Zaboor** The Psalms - the Scripture given to David.

**Injeel** The Gospel.

**Qur'an** Lit. Recitation, lecture. The Holy Book of Islam, the uncreated word of God, the final scripture as presented to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the Angel Gabriel.

**Ibada** Principally used in the sense of 'worship' i.e. prayer, fasting etc., but includes any act that confirms man's status of 'abd, servant of Allah.

**Arkan** Pillars; the 5 pillars of Islam - Shahada: the declaration of Faith, Salat: the five obligatory daily prayers, Zakat: Alms paying, Sawm: fasting the month of Ramadan, and Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah if it is within ones means.

## FAQs

### *Who is Gabriel?*

The Angel Gabriel (may Allah be well pleased with him), is the highest ranking Angel in the heavens. His specific duty to Allah was to deliver Allah's words (revelation) to all the prophets throughout time. All the revealed books were conveyed through him to the Messengers.

### *If Muslims believe in the other revealed books, why don't they use the Bible as a source of knowledge?*

Muslims believe that the Torah and the Gospel in their true (original) form were indeed sources of divine knowledge. In their true forms, there would be no contradiction between all three books because there are no falsehoods in Allah's words. However, the problem is that human hands have altered the Torah and Gospel. So there is no way of discerning with absolute surety what is true revelation from the forgery. Therefore Islam rejects the other books in their present form to protect believers from misguidance.

## FAQs

*Does Destiny mean that my fate was already decided before I even existed?*

Destiny means that nothing can happen except by the decree of Allah. When the soul is placed in the womb, Allah orders the Angels to write down what its sex, provision, time of death and final abode will be. Sex, provision and time of death is based entirely on the wisdom of Allah and what he wishes for us. Our final abode however is determined by our own actions and whether or not Allah is pleased with us. Why is it written before we exist? Because Allah knows the future. Allah knows what choices and actions each of us will ultimately make before we ever do it. So our final abode is based on our actions, the free will that Allah has granted us.

## FAQs

### *How many revealed books are there?*

No one knows for sure, some scholars believe there are 104. However, this is conjecture and it is best to rely on facts and understand that there were many revealed books and four of them we know of specifically – The Torah, Psalms, Gospel and Qur'an.

### *How many Prophets were there?*

The knowledge is with Allah regarding how many Prophets there were. Most scholars place the number over a hundred thousand. We do know for a fact though that every people/tribe/nation was given their own prophet.

# Important Phrases

*La ilaha illa Llah, Muhammad Rasul Allah*

There is no deity except God and Muhammad is His messenger

*Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim*

In the Name of God, Most Merciful and Compassionate

*Insha'Allah*

God- Willing

*Al Hamdu lillah*

Praise be to Allah

## Further References

Qur'an & Hadith Search Engine:

<http://www.discoverislam.co.uk>

[www.islamqa.com](http://www.islamqa.com)