

New Muslims Class

LESSON 6 Prophet Ibraheem and Tawheed



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Objectives

- Give an overview of the life of the prophet Ibraheem (AS)
- Discuss the special status of Ibraheem (AS)
- Give a du'a that the prophet Ibraheem made
- Explain the concepts of 'shirk' and 'Dawa'
- Review how Ibraheem made dawah to his people, and how he dealt with his family
- Explain how the story of Ibraheem is distinguished from other religions (the Sacrifice of Ismaeel (AS) vs. Isaac (AS))
- Explain the building of the Kaba and the pilgrimage (hajj)

Islamic Monotheism

- **Shirk** - the act of associating others in the worship of God
- **Tawheed** - Islamic monotheism, the dissociation of worshiping anything or anyone with God
- **Dawa** – the act of inviting others to the worship of God alone without partners, associates, or intermediaries

Life of the Prophet Ibraheem

- He is the father of 2 prophets, Ismaeel (Ishmael) and Ishaq (Isaac). All other prophets came from his lineage.
- Muhammad descended from Ismaeel and Isa (Jesus) descendent of Ishaq.
- He came from the area of Babylonia, time of idol and star worship.
- Ibraheem's father/uncle (Azer) was a maker of idols.
- He was endowed with spiritual understanding from an early age. Allah enlightened his heart and mind gave him wisdom from childhood.

Allah the Almighty stated: indeed we bestowed aforetime on Ibraheem his (portion of) guidance, and we were well acquainted with him (as to his belief in the oneness of Allah etc). [21:51].

Shirk and Dawah

- Ibraheem saw his father making idols and could not understand why his people turned to something they had created themselves.
- He went to the temple and watched his people bow, prostrate and ask idols for help. He tries to convince people of the oneness of Allah, the almighty (1).
- His father was disturbed by Ibraheem's actions, but Ibraheem loved him and advised him nicely (2).
- Ibraheem tried to convince the people of the beauty of Allah's creation. Allah he created mankind, sent prophets to guide them, gave them food and drink for sustenance but instead they angered him by worshipping idols (3).
- Ibraheem tries teaching the people practical lesson by smashing idols (4).
- A sign of Ibraheem's Prophethood is shown when the people decided to punish him by burning him in a big fire, but when he was thrown into it Allah made the fire cool for him.

"O fire! Be you coolness and safety for Abraham" [21:69]

The Pilgrimage and Building of Kaba

- The du'a: Ibraheem had asked Allah for righteous offspring and was given Ishmael. (1)
- Hajar was given to Ibraheem as a wife from Sarah, and is the mother of Ismaeel
- Ibraheem asked his wife to prepare for long journey with their son Ismaeel until they reached the Arabian peninsula, where Allah commanded him to leave them there (2).
- After their provisions finished, Hajar ran between, up and down the mountains of Safa & Marwa looking for help. (Rites of hajj).
- The story of the angel and discovery of the well of Zam Zam.
- Ibraheem returns with order from Allah to build the Kaba, which he does with the help of his son Ismaeel.
- The above incidents become the rights of the Hajj for Muslims to follow in generations to come.

"Our lord! Accept this service from us, verily, you are the all hearer, the all knower." [Ch 2:127].

The Sacrifice

- “And when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offer you in sacrifice to Allah), so look what do you think!"
- “O my father! Do that which you are commanded InshAllah (if Allah wills), you shall find me of the patient. Then when they had both submitted themselves to the will of Allah and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering); And we called out to him: "O Ibraheem! You have fulfilled the dream (vision)!"
- “Verily! Thus do We reward those who perform good deeds, totally for Allah's sake only. Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial and we ransomed him with a great sacrifice (a ram;) And we left for him (a goodly remembrance) among generations (to come) in later times.”
- "Salamun (peace) be upon Ibraheem!" Thus indeed do we reward the Muhsineen (good doers). Verily, he was one of our believing slaves." [37:102-111].

Appendices

Ibraheem's Traits and Characteristics

- Allah describes the qualities of Ibraheem and orders the prophet to follow in his beliefs: (1)
 - *'We have inspired you (O Muhammad saying): "follow the religion of Ibraheem Hanifan (Islamic monotheism to worship none but Allah) and he was not of the Mushrikeen (polytheists, pagans, idolaters, disbelievers in the oneness of Allah and his messenger Muhammad, those who worship others along with Allah or set up rivals with or partners to Allah) "' [16:119-123]*
- Righteous: "We gave him good in this world and in the hereafter he shall be of the righteous"
- Patience: shown through the way he dealt with his people and his family, he never gave up

Ibraheem's Traits and Characteristics

- Honesty (1)
- God-fearing, complete submission to Allah (2)

Verily, Ibraheem was an Ummah (a leader having all the good righteous qualities or nation), obedient to Allah, Hanifan (to worship none but Allah), and he was not one of those who were al Mushrikeen (polytheists, idolaters, disbelievers in the oneness of Allah and those who joined partners with Allah).

- Gratitude: indicated through contemplation of the world...he was thankful for His (Allah's) graces

Homework

- *Try to apply one of these examples from the story of Ibraheem into your daily life:*
 - *Respect of parents and how to show them the best example.*
 - *What do you understand about the true concept of sacrifice*
 - *How can you improve your understanding about Tawheed & Shirk*

- *Learn one of the famous du'a of Ibraheem*
"My lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous"

Or

"Peace be on you! I will ask forgiveness of my lord for you. Verily! He is unto me, ever most gracious. And I shall turn away from you and from those whom you invoke besides Allah."

Glossary

Tawheed: Islamic monotheism, the dissociation of worshipping anything or anyone with God.

Shirk: the act of associating others in the worship of God.

Al Mushrikeen: those that associate others in their worship of God, directly or indirectly.

Hajj: the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and a pillar of Islam.

Zum Zum: the blessed well discovered by Hajar for Ismael in Mecca.

Zalimeen: wrongdoers, those that commit an injustices.

Safa/Marwa: the mountains in Mecca that are used during the rites of hajj.

Kaba: the house built for the worship of God by Ibraheem and his son Ismael.

Muhsineen: those righteous people who do good.

FAQs

- *Which son was sacrificed?*
According to the most authentic reports this was Ismaeel.
Some evidences for this are:
 - Ismaeel was the first child of Ibrahim and he was ordered to sacrifice his ‘only son’ or in some manuscripts His ‘first-born’
 - The command for sacrifice of the first and only son was a more exacting test
 - Ismaeel was the one who was settled in Mecca and not Ishaq

- *Where is the Kaba?*
The Kaba was the house of worship built by Ibraheem and his son Ismaeel in Mecca in the Arabian Peninsula.

- *What is the Hajj?*
The Hajj is one of the pillars of Islam and involves the traveling to Mecca and praying at the Kaba, drinking from the Zam Zam water and other rituals.

Reference Materials

Bibliography/suggested reading:

The Quran by Saheeh International

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