



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: **1.0**
Total Weeks: **34**

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 the required knowledge in the form of a 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, with the aim to appreciate the true essence of the directives given by Allah SWT which is purifying one's self. 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 one's self. Students will be asked to rationally evaluate the subject matter presented to them. The first part of the course will focus on articles of faith and how they relate to our social lives with a brief introduction on 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 criteria of success in the eyes of Allah. 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 in order to achieve the 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 in order 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 is comprised of 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 as part of 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 in which practical aspects of the course, homework and reference reading exercises will be incorporated in the weekly lessons.

1. Introduction

- › Course Objectives
- › Why revisiting 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 Jibra'el (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
- › 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
 - The Testimonies
 - The Events
 - Phases and Abodes
- › Questions and Answers

5. Allah SWT demands pure Monotheism

- › Oneness of God (Tawhid) is at the core of Islam
- › What is Shirk?
- › Why Allah SWT condemns polytheism or shirk?
- › Allah SWT demands utmost sincerity in believing in Him and actions done for Him
- › Examples of polytheistic religions
- › What leads to polytheism or shirk?
- › Difference between polytheism and polytheistic beliefs
- › Polytheists before the time of Prophet Muhammad
- › Questions and Answers

6. Prophets & Messengers

- › The concept of Prophethood
- › Why does Allah SWT send prophets?
- › Are Prophets human?
- › Are Prophets one of us?
- › Why aren't women chosen as prophets?
- › Responsibilities of a prophet
- › Innocence of prophets
- › Examples of few prophets and how they fulfilled their responsibilities
- › Difference between Prophet (Nabi) and Messenger (Rasul)
- › Why did Allah SWT seize the prophethood?
- › How do I know if Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is a true prophet of Allah SWT?
- › Superiority of prophets
- › Special status of prophet Ibrahim's progeny
- › Questions and Answers

7. Quran

- › Purpose of Divine Books
- › Responsibility of warning (Indh'ar)
- › Quran is the speech of Allah SWT
- › Quran is preserved until the Day of Judgment
- › The topic of Quran
- › Pattern and Style of Quran

- › Arabic language of Quran
- › The miraculous nature of Quran – its relevance is eternal
- › Quran and Science – is there a relationship?
- › Other Divine Books (Torah, Psalms, & Gospel)
- › Relationship between Quran and other Divine Books
- › 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
- › 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 Quran
- › Who are the dwellers of Hell?
- › Types of punishment in Hell
- › Description of Heaven in 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 there is 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
- › 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 Zakah is 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

- › Our ability to differentiate between Good and Evil is inspired – Surah 91, Verses 7-10
- › Who sets the standards for right and wrong?
- › Three characteristics that differentiate humans from animals – moral sense is one of them
- › Humans tend to justify their deeds – Surah 75, Verses 14-15
- › Guidance from Quran – Surah 16, Verse 90
 - Concept of Justice
 - Goodness – pinnacle of ethics and morality
 - Rights of close relations
 - Principles of prohibitions
- › Eliminating negative traits and nurturing positive traits is a lifelong struggle
- › Faith and righteous deeds
- › Questions and Answers

16. Quran on Moral Standards

- › Ten commandments of Quran on Moral standards (Surah 17, Verses 22-39)
 - Worshipping God alone
 - Treating parents with kindness
 - Spending in the way of God
 - Immoral behaviour
 - Sanctity of human life
 - Misappropriating the wealth of orphans
 - Keeping promises
 - Honesty in business and dealings
 - Speculation and suspicion
 - Pride and vanity
- › Pinnacle of Morality as described in Quran (Surah 33, Verse 35)
- › Questions and Answers

17. Interacting with the people of other religious beliefs

- › Living in a non-Muslim society
- › Misconceptions on dealing with non-Muslims
- › Interacting with people of other faith
- › Respecting other's religious beliefs
- › Joining non-Muslims for common social causes
- › Raising voice against injustice
- › Joining non-Muslims in social gatherings
- › Celebrating religious festivals with non-Muslims
- › Celebrating non-religious festivals with non-Muslims
- › Inviting non-Muslims to your home and on religious occasions
- › Examples from the life of the Prophet Muhammad SAW
- › Islam and the western media
- › We are the ambassadors of Islam
- › Questions and Answers

18. Respect for Diversity

- › Living in a multi-cultural society
- › Respecting other's opinions and ideas without compromising your beliefs and moral standards
- › Questions and Answers

19. Relationships

- › The concept of Modesty and Chastity in Islam
- › Etiquette for interacting with people of other gender provided by Quran
- › Reminder: The objective of Islam is to purify the self
- › Dating and before marriage relationships
- › What is forbidden when interacting with people of other gender?
- › What should we be careful about when interacting with people of other gender?

20. Farewell & Revision