



Sunday School SYLLABUS

Course Name: Islamic Law and Wisdom – 2
Course Stage: Advanced
Stage Theme: Islam in the Contemporary World
Level: 8
Ages: 16-17 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 God 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 God for Muslims to lead their lives in this world.

Objectives:

The main objective of the second part of this course is to discover the objectivity behind Islamic rituals and laws and understand the wisdom behind these laws and how to practice them in our daily lives with that wisdom in mind. The effort is to know that it is absolutely ok to rationalize the commandments of God and the reasons for the criteria of success in the eyes of God. At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand why worship rituals and certain laws (also known as *Shariah*) are precisely prescribed by God and not left on human beings
- Identify matters in which God has provided His guidance and matters in which He has allowed individuals or collective wisdom to decide according to the norms of the society
- Explore each and every worship ritual and law in details and understand the principles on which they are based
- Rationally evaluate the wisdom behind the laws given by the Al-Mighty
- Understand how the objective of Islam, purification is at the center of every commandment given by God
- Learn how ethics and morality are related to the rituals and laws

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 tentatively arranged in 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.*

A. Revisiting Important Concepts

1. Introduction

- › Course Objectives
- › Structure of the course
- › Why revisiting Islamic rituals and laws?
- › This journey is unavoidable
- › STOP! Why are you taking this course?
- › Suggestions and input
- › Questions and Answers

2. True Religion – Review

- › The essence of Islam
- › The sources of Islam
- › The content of Islam – Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah
- › The relationship between Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah
- › The objective of Islam – Purification
- › Relationship of Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah with Purification
- › Summary of Beliefs in Islam
- › Summary of Moral Teachings of Islam
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

3. Sunnah – The Second Authentic Source

- › What is Sunnah?
- › The scope of Sunnah
- › Principles of determining the Sunnah

- › List of Sunnan
- › Difference between Sunnah and Hadith
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

B. Al-Kitab: The Law (Islamic Shariah)

4. Al-kitab– The Law

- › The Definition of Shariah
- › What is Shariah for? Why do we need laws given by God?
- › The Scope and Limits of Shariah (Is the Law All-encompassing or only Necessary and complementary to human faculty of Jurisprudence?)
- › Law is given in both Quran and Sunnah
- › Other terms: Fiqh and Ijtihad
- › Laws Given to Previous Nations (The First Book of Law: Torah, Gospel: The Book of Faith: Al-Hikmah)
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers
 - How do we attain Tazkiyah (purity) by adopting and acting upon Shariah?

C. The Shariah of Worship Rituals

5. The Importance of the Prayers

- › History of the Prayers
- › Objective of the Prayers
- › Why should we pray?
 - Prayer is the nature of every object in the Universe
 - Means of strong adherence to Islam
 - Means of perseverance on the true path
 - The foremost of Good deeds
 - A requisite for Muslim citizenship in a Muslim state
 - An eraser of sins
 - Means of countering hardships
 - Symbol of True Dawah
 - As real life
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

6. Details of the Prayers

- › Prayer Timings and Units (Rakah)
- › Guidance from Prophet Muhammad
- › Prerequisites of Prayer
- › How did Prophet Muhammad perform Wudu?
- › How did Prophet Muhammad perform Bath?

- › What invalidates Wudu
- › Rituals of Prayer
- › Utterances of Prayer
- › Concession in the prayer
- › Guidance from Prophet Muhammad
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

7. Prayer in the Community

- › Mosques
- › The Congregational Prayer
 - The Adhan
 - The Iqamah
 - The Imam
 - The Followers
- › The Friday Prayer
- › The Eid Prayer
- › The Funeral Prayer

8. Other Laws of Prayers

- › Concession in the prayer
- › Rectifying Mistakes in the Prayer
- › Etiquette of the Prayer
- › How to improve the quality of your prayer
- › The Optional Prayer
- › Tahajjud Prayer
- › Taraweeh Prayer
- › Prayer for Istikhara
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:
 - Why are there differences in rituals of prayer among Muslims?

9. Zakah

- › History of Zakah
- › Objective of Zakah: Purification of the Self and Wealth
- › Importance of Zakah
- › The Shariah of Zakah
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

10. Fasting

- › History of Fasting
- › Objective of Fasting
- › How fasting engenders Taqwa?
- › The Shariah of Fasting

- › The issue of moonsighting
- › Optional fast
- › Missing the objective
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

11. Hajj and Umrah

- › History of Hajj and Umrah
- › Innovations and corrections
- › Objective of Hajj and Umrah
- › Days of Hajj and Umrah
- › Sites of Hajj and Umrah
- › Method of Hajj and Umrah
- › Guidance provided the Prophet
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

12. Animal Sacrifice

- › History of Animal Sacrifice
- › Objective of Animal Sacrifice
- › Shariah of Animal Sacrifice
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:
 - Why to sacrifice animals? Is sacrificing an animal against animals' rights?

D. The Social Shariah

13. Gender Interaction

- › The basic unit of family
- › Illicit relationships are prohibited
- › Quran's guidance on the norms of gender interaction (Surah Nur, 24: 27-31)
- › Some clarifications
- › Quran's guidance on gender interaction under special circumstances (Surah Ahzab)
- › Special instructions about Prophet's wives
- › How to apply these principles while living in a western society
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:

14. Nikah (Marriage)

- › What is Nikah (Marriage)?
- › Relations Prohibited for Marriage
- › Bounds and Conditions of Nikah (Marriage)
- › Rights and Obligations of the Spouses
- › Polygamy

- › Etiquette of Sexual Intimacy
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:

15. Divorce

- › Eela
- › Zihar
- › Divorce and Its Details
- › Khula (Separation process started by woman)
- › Iddah (Waiting period)
- › Mourning period for widow
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:
 - Can woman divorce her husband?

16. Other Social Guidance

- › Directives relating to Parents
- › Directives relating to Orphans
- › Slavery
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:
 - Why does Islam allow to have slaves and to have sexual relation with slave girl?
 - What was Quranic scheme to end slavery? Why did it not succeed?

E. Guidance on Politics and Government

17. Addressing Common Misconceptions on Islam and Politics

- › Misconception #1: Only 'Political Islam' can bring our glory back
- › Misconception #2: Implementation of Caliphate (Khilafah)
- › Misconception #3: Islam is against democratic system of government
- › Misconception #4: Muslims in non-Muslim countries should struggle for political unity

18. The Political Shariah

- › The Basic Principle
- › The Real Responsibility of a Muslims State
- › Religious Obligations of a Muslim State
- › Citizenship and the Rights of a Citizens
- › The System of Government
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

19. The Shariah of Jihad

- › The Permission for Jihad

- › The Directive of Jihad
 - Nature of the Obligation
 - The Driving Force
 - Ethical Limits
 - The Ultimate Goal
- › Divine Help
- › Captives of War
- › Spoils of War
- › Common misconception: Islam was spread by the sword
- › Common misconception: Armed political conflicts are allowed against oppressive and aggressive governments
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers:
 - Why is there permission for Jihad (fight) in Islam?
 - Jihad of Sahaba, its nature and scope

20. The Penal Shariah

- › Punishment for Anarchy and Disorder (Muharabah)
 - Severe capital punishment (Taqteel)
 - Crucifixion (Tasleeb)
 - Amputating Limbs from Opposite Sides
 - Exile
- › Ultimate Punishment for Murder and Injury
 - Intentional
 - Unintentional
- › Ultimate Punishment for Fornication/Adultery (Zina)
- › Ultimate Punishment for Accusations (Qadhaf)
- › Ultimate Punishment for Theft
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers

21. The Shariah of Preaching

- › Preaching Obligation of Prophets
 - Warning (Indhar)
 - Open Warning (Indhar-e-Aam)
 - Conclusive Communication of the Truth (Itmam-e-Hujjah)
 - Migration and Acquittal (Hijrah o Bara'a)
 - Reward and Punishment (Adhaab)
- › Preaching Obligation of Abraham's Progeny
- › Preaching Obligation of the Scholars
- › Preaching Obligation of the Rulers
- › Preaching Obligation of an Individual
- › Strategy of Preaching
 - Consideration of Intellectual Ability
 - Psychological Considerations
 - Style of Preaching

- Style of Reasoning
- Methods of Preaching
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers
 - › Is preaching of Islam obligatory on every individual Muslims?

F. Guidance on Economic Matters

22. The Economic Shariah

- › Sanctity of Ownership
- › National Assets
- › Usurpation of Wealth
 - Gambling
 - Interest
- › Documentation and Evidence
- › Distribution of Inheritance
- › **Quick Recap**
- › **Questions and Answers**

G. Food, Customs and Etiquette

23. The Dietary Shariah

- › Principle of Prohibitions (Haram) and Permissible (Halal)
- › Prohibitions in Animals' meat
- › Eating slaughter of Jews and Christians
- › Prohibition of Alcohol
- › Food shared by various religious groups
- › **Quick Recap**
- › **Questions and Answers:**
 - Why is pig haram by naming it? How to determine whether an animal not mentioned in Quran and Sunnah Halal or Haram?

24. Islamic Customs and Etiquette

- › Eating and Drinking Etiquette
- › Greetings
- › The ceremonial utterances after sneezing
- › Circumcision
- › Hygiene – Taking care of your body
- › Cleaning the body after urination and defecation
- › Ceremonial bath after the menstrual cycle and the puerperal discharge
- › Ceremonial bath after Sex
- › Laws of Funeral
- › Celebrating Eid - Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers
 - Why is personal hygiene a religious matter in Islam?

25. Oaths and their Atonement (Week 30)

- › Guidelines
- › Quick Recap
- › Questions and Answers