

Sírat

Book 5

Student Workbook

ISSC - Islamic Shía Study Centre

Student: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____



In the name of Allāh, The Beneficial, The Merciful

Introduction

The book in your hands is part of a twelve-book series named “Sirāt,” produced by the Jaffari Islamic Study Board (JISB) comprised of the three Islamic Shia Study Centres (ISSC): Al-Haadi Study Centre, Al-Muntadhir Study Centre and Al-QaAim Study Centre. The books are part of the Religious Education (Diniyāt) program of the Study Centres.

Each book consists of a total of twenty eight lessons, seven each on Islamic Beliefs (Aqāid), Islamic Laws (Fiqh), Islamic History (Tārikh), and Islamic Ethics (Akhlāq). The first seven textbooks are also supplemented by Workbooks consisting of activities and worksheets. In addition, the Sirāt Textbooks and Workbooks are accompanied by a Teacher’s DVD. The DVD contains media intended to serve as a teaching aid. Some of the lessons in the textbooks refer to the media contained in the DVD.

Each Sirāt Textbook has the syllabus and objectives for the respective grades outlined at the outset. Some topics are prefixed with an asterisk in the syllabus as they are highly recommended for students to demonstrate proficiency in before the end of the Madrasah year. Teachers are advised to use the objectives and recommendations to guide them in lesson planning.

The JISB is, Inshā Allāh, committed to continually refining the Sirāt Textbooks and related resources in collaboration with ‘ulema, educators, teachers and administrators. If you have any suggestions for changes or improvement, please contact us as we value your feedback, which goes through a strict approval process before it is implemented. This is to ensure that the content and quality of the Sirāt Textbooks or Workbooks are not compromised in any way. Every Sirāt Textbook or Workbook will have the “Revised and Printed” date on this Introduction page. This is to ensure that you have the latest edition in your hands. Please note that no additions, deletions or changes to any Sirāt Textbook or associated resources are permitted without written permission from the JISB.

Inshā Allāh, in addition to being beneficial to all Madāris in North America and throughout the world, it is hoped that these Textbooks will also aid parents living in remote areas who want to home-school their children in Islamic education.

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- | | | |
|---|---|---|
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Lessons 2-3

Sifāt ath-Thubutiya & Sifāt as-Salbiya

Ali has to learn the Sifāt ath-Thubutiya of Allah. His mum agrees to help him. Why don't you help Ali learn the Sifāt ath-Thubutiya by answering the following questions?

1. Ali was told to hide and eat his lollipop in a place where no one would see him. He searched all around and was just about to go behind the door when he remembered that Allah sees everything even though he has no eyes. Which quality of Allah did Ali remember? _____.
2. Ali remembers that his madrasah teacher told him that Allah is the Master of the Word and can create speech in anything. But Ali cannot remember the Arabic word for it. Can you help him out? _____.
3. Ali knows that one of the sifāt he learnt was "Hai" but he doesn't remember its meaning. Can you tell him what it means? _____.
4. It was Ali's bedtime. He switched off the lights and went to bed. He was about to fall asleep when he heard some noise and got scared. He prayed to Allah to protect him and then fell asleep. Which attribute of Allah was Ali thinking of when he asked Allah to protect him? _____.
5. Ali wanted to give a birthday present to his mum. So he bought her a gift and hid it. No one in the house knew what Ali had bought except Allah because Allah is _____.

SIFAT ATH-THUBUTIYA AND SIFAT AS-SALBIYA

F	R	I	C	H	L	G	S	W	H	X	Q	Q	A	R	D	E	U	M	Q
V	U	T	H	E	H	F	G	T	T	D	W	L	I	Z	M	U	R	I	D
T	D	C	I	T	C	I	G	C	I	G	I	D	P	H	I	V	N	M	W
V	T	N	R	K	I	I	E	A	D	M	A	L	O	O	L	U	H	A	Z
Z	G	P	N	G	E	Y	Z	B	A	Q	O	E	M	W	D	K	B	K	P
U	E	R	H	I	A	Z	A	I	W	H	U	L	Y	B	Y	A	K	A	G
T	P	S	F	H	A	M	W	J	A	L	P	T	B	L	E	T	A	N	S
B	K	B	L	T	U	V	C	F	H	J	M	U	T	A	K	A	L	I	M
C	L	I	A	D	U	Z	N	O	L	P	Q	Q	E	H	D	Q	W	G	E
Z	R	F	R	S	P	E	A	U	A	Q	F	Z	Z	E	K	B	U	Q	J
C	I	I	G	A	A	B	Z	Z	L	T	H	J	X	F	T	E	I	I	B
S	K	I	F	Q	H	D	M	O	A	I	Z	M	R	O	J	Y	S	R	G
Q	V	F	A	D	E	S	I	A	H	A	R	U	I	R	A	M	M	T	E
C	P	H	F	H	H	K	D	Q	A	J	Y	R	J	N	A	C	T	F	R
I	X	K	N	Q	O	C	A	R	M	Q	G	A	A	A	O	Z	N	O	C
E	S	B	U	V	U	V	Q	L	B	V	X	K	Z	S	N	D	I	J	K
C	X	P	F	Q	X	G	N	A	E	K	P	A	K	F	A	T	F	L	L
I	D	T	P	V	B	E	X	I	M	A	B	B	B	D	B	J	J	S	Z
C	U	X	J	G	O	X	M	O	A	Y	R	M	V	X	W	Y	S	R	G
U	J	J	L	W	N	V	O	G	J	O	X	Q	D	V	S	Z	D	U	A

In the wordsearch above, find all the Sifat ath-Thubutiya and Sifat al-Salbiya listed below. Also circle the Sifat ath-Thubutiya in the list below.

HULOOL

IHTIJAJ

HAI

MAHAL AL HAWADITH

ALIM

SHARIK

MAKAN

MARI

MUDRIK

MURAKAB

MURID

QADIR

MUTAKALIM

QADIM

SADIQ

SIFAT AZ ZAID

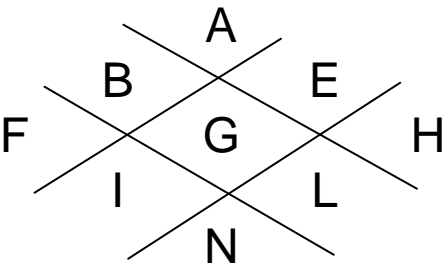
Lesson 6

Names OF

The Day of Resurrection


Using the Code Box below, decode some of the names of Yaum al-Qiyāmah given in the Qur'an.

CODE BOX

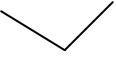


O	Y	K
S	T	U
Q	M	D


Example: What is “Day” called in Arabic?




Y




A

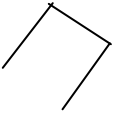



U

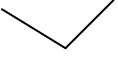


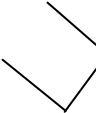
M



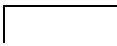


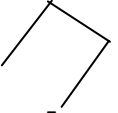


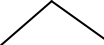




1. Yaum al-_____ means The Day of Accounting.

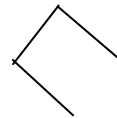
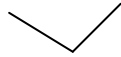




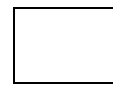
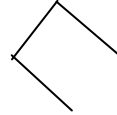
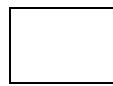




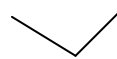
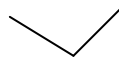
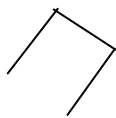
2. Yaum al-_____ means The Day of Judgement.



3. Yaum al-_____ means The Day of Separation.



4. Yaum al-_____ means The Day of Eternal Life.



5. Yaum al-_____ means The Day of Resurrection.

Lesson 2

Najāsāt

Where are the Najāsāt al-‘Ayn Found?

Arrange the following 8 Najāsāt al-‘ayn by writing them into one of the four boxes below:

Dead Body
Urine

Intoxicants
Stool

Kufr
Dog

Pig
Blood

In Humans and Animals	Found in Humans Only
Animals Only	In Drinks

Now answer the following questions:

1. If you pat a dog on a hot sunny day at the park will you hand be najis? Why?
2. Human blood is najis al-‘ayn. What does *najis al-‘ayn* mean?
3. What are the conditions for a najis thing to make something else najis?

Lesson 2

Najāsāt

L Z P V D A A D H Z W K L T A P I W O V
B O J R R T E D O G K E N I R U N C N K
J X O I L A D E Y U B P V W X V T X L B
H I F T D E O C O M W O S O E I O S A R
J A B B S P O H X W K R M W H Q X D P N
K O O P V J L F X C Z N Z G T W I D P U
Y D W V Z S B W F U Q G V Y H W C I Q B
Y E S S F A S I Z A V U K W I N A U C V
Q V B R E A B F H Y X J B C M T T W A V
P C M G E W X X N C J H J X J J I B C G
U E B P D B W E W T L T D A L N N B Z S
M B N R H T F M I S Q Q T U O X G H M Q
F V U K D K Y I M Q W C Y C I N D J B Y
E Z R Z S Z D L C L B W K G P P R P P A
D S K K A H F U O V I F H A B O I B N H
W G P J Y E Q F Z T B M Q P N J N P H A
H F P R U T G C N K X W K R O N K V I I
Z H P E O Q O L G G B N W F Y P S P O G
P U T X N Q U I P J R S P A E E O I V R
Y D Y Z N A Q A A Y T E O P E A R L G I

Find the following najāsāt al-‘ayn in the wordsearch above.

BLOOD

KAFIR

PIG

STOOL

DEAD BODY

INTOXICATING DRINKS

DOG

URINE

Lesson 3

Mutahhirát

1. Muhammad was walking home from school when he accidentally stepped on some dog poo. How can he make the soles of his shoes tāhir without washing them? _____

2. For the earth to make anything tāhir, it must be _____ and _____.
3. Baby Sabira was crawling on the carpet when she passed urine and her hands and kneecaps became najis. If she continues to crawl on the carpet, will her knees become tāhir? Explain _____

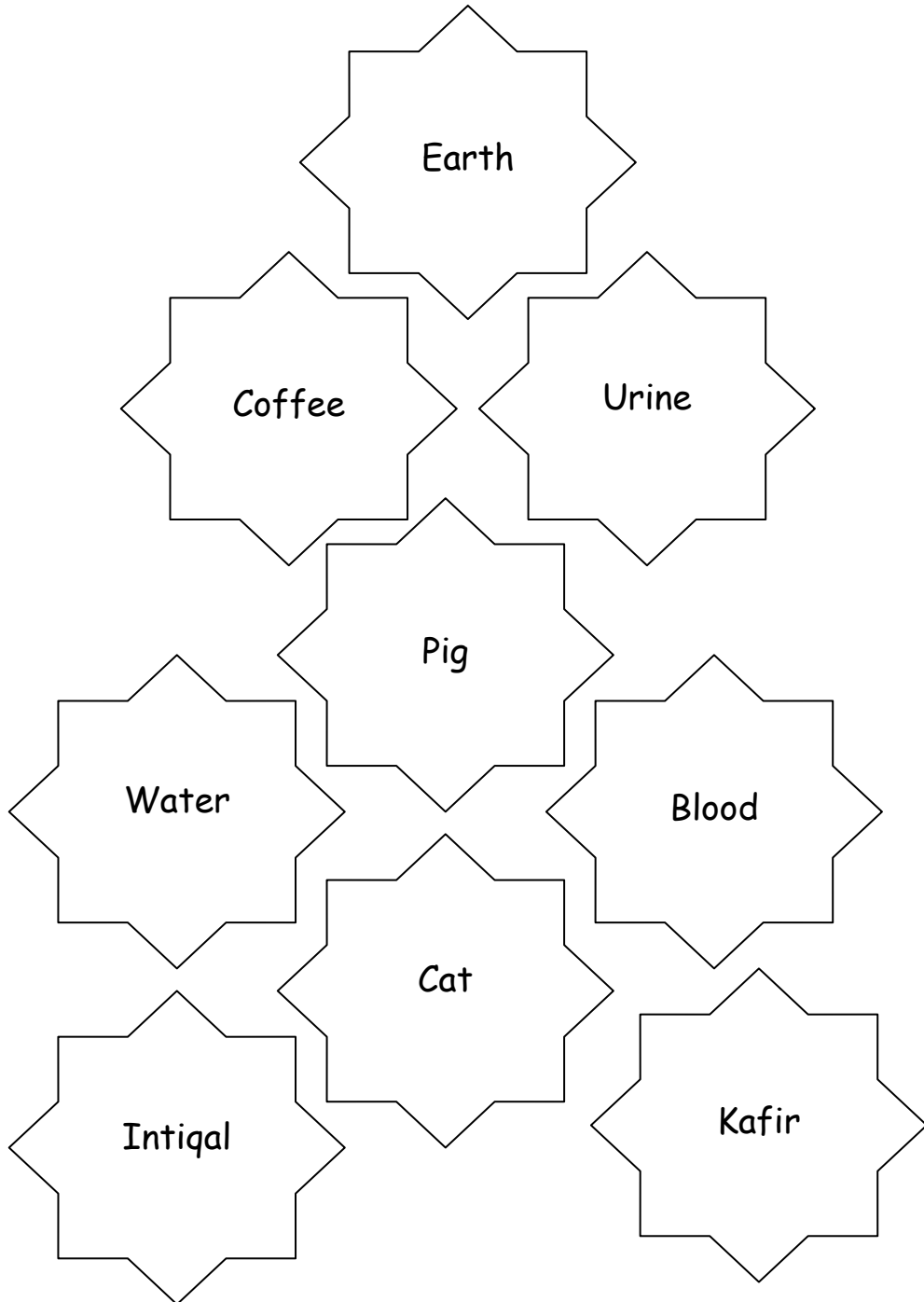
4. Amina's grandfather was walking on the streets when his cane got into a pile of dog poo. If he passed the park on the way home, and walked on some sand, will his walking stick become tāhir? Explain _____

5. Ahmad was riding his bicycle on the sidewalk when a dog came and urinated near the wheels of his bicycle. If he continues riding his bicycle on the sidewalk and grass, will the wheels become tāhir? _____

Lesson 3

Mutahhirát

Colour the mutahhirát in blue and the najāsāt in red. Colour in green anything that is neither a mutahhir nor a najāsat al-‘ayn.



Lesson 3

Mutahhirāt

A C P Y L X J I T B B D T X G B T K M W U D A J J A J A U C
 L F G X Q W M Q O E S U P H P Z S X P N U S L M D J I F G C
 Y R H A H M L O G O C Q A N M E N I R U D F A A T M D A J K
 E A R T H O P S C Y Z Y N Y A L A L A W A Z H A I E X E R N
 Q O R T H F E W B W B S D C U K E Y Q X N I I H Q R C C L B
 Q P Z O S N W X A A M N I R C J A B P W Q E T U D X M E T Z
 K F C H K D Y G T F X J G W J E P P T L Q Y S R F A E S F B
 L L K F F S O A X W X X Q Q R N E I F I R Z I Y H Q C Y N L
 A Y E G G R L M P N F C K K Y C Z H Q C X S W D W B M M K V
 D B D K Y M A Y E K E B P H N G Q T S M W K T M V D F J P V
 M T X O U N T K Z J Y C Q U X W H W M W Q J W I N B A Q S H
 B I M S B A U J I I N Q I L A B T J R R H I I G F X B Y S V
 W V L H B D M C Y T W W Z W H T J B W N Q P Q N Z P Q W E S
 M I C I M W A X F D H X R T S U U K Z R R M M Q G B B G R K
 M O Y J S J O E E K J S G M I J J Q N I W X Y D N Q B J O W
 T A I S H U J N D O E Z O Z Q N O C U F L X A G J G A N Z K
 X F E G G Q X R N I Z F P G C D T N V A G E D X O V Y R A L
 M Z J U H Y E Q X H H V Y P O F Q I U K O I U K Z Q G T R I
 I C Z G E T C N B R E W M G D O I N Q I P A P L V L J W K L
 O S B W A I K I S X L Z U B F C E T X A D B I M L C W H V X
 X U L W O I E U N S G X F T C Z J I P X L O G S D R K K A O
 H C X A I C U W O L S K M I H C E D T L A B O R W Q Z V Z T
 G J L M M B F L Y Q U Z X G R E W Z A V G Z S L E D V E D R
 J D K K R X H K C R H U V C L M Q H J I R Z B D B V V P L E
 C I F N M A R O J R V W E E W P Y K W X H P W F M Y G D Y I
 A B T O T V P N O U A V H U O S E U S Z M O M N P P V Q E G
 U C W I K B W S H O C H C W I F P O V J P K Z Z Q U M R G H
 L P F L A Y J Y C N J T J Y X Y M P B J T F Y U V P O C P K
 A C P Q X D N T W I Y S O U I R T G G I S V B G Y H O T Z B
 X R M E D R S U K S G L Y S R J A L W X E V J P T J Z B S X

Find the following najāsāt and mutahhirāt in the wordsearch above. Then underline the mutahhirāt in the list below.

ALCOHOL

DOG

INQILAB

ISTIHALA

PIG

WATER

GHAYBAT AL MUSLIM

BLOOD

EARTH

INTIQAL

KAFIR

TABIYA

ZAWAL AL AYN

DEAD BODY

FAECES

ISLAM

SUN

URINE

Lesson 4

Wudu

Draw a circle around those things for which wudu is wājib and a square around those things for which wudu is mustahab.



Before reciting Qur'an



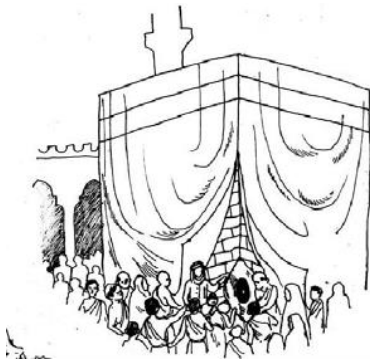
Before going to sleep



Before offering Salāh



Before going to the Masjid



Before Tawaf of Ka'bah



When you get angry

Lesson 4

Wudu

Match the following by drawing lines from the left to the right.

Tartīb

Going around
the Ka‘bah

*‘Qurbatan
ilallāh’*

Clean

Tāhir

In correct
order

Tawaf

Without
interruption

Muwālāt

To seek nearness
to Allāh

Lesson 5

Tayammum

1. Maryam and her family went camping. It was quite a dry area and they didn't think they would be able to find water for wudu. So they offered their prayers with tayammum. Later on in the day, they did find water and noticed that it was not qadā yet. What do you think they should do?

2. Cold water made Zaynab's grandmother's hands hurt and her skin would tighten up and hurt a lot. Can her grandmother perform Tayammum?

3. A group of Muslims survived a plane crash. There was still no sign of the rescue men whom they had been able to contact via the radio. There was very little water and if it were used for wudu, there wouldn't be enough to last until the rescue men got there. What do you think they should do?

4. The shirt I was wearing had a bloodstain on it. I had enough water to either make my shirt tāhir or perform wudu. At the same time, I do not have anything on which to do tayammum. I am totally confused. Would you please advise me?

5. Hasan was doing tayammum. He had just wiped his forehead, when the doorbell rang. He answered the doorbell and returned to finish his tayammum. Is his tayammum valid? Explain:

Lesson 6

Salāh

RUKN AND GHAYR RUKN

D T L J N E W E T N Z N W B F Z O W D D
J S A L A M A W C S S Z M N Q L T U H W
T J K H E V J P X W O H K Y R Z J D H O
J A S E C K S R B M A P I V P U U I A K
J R S C E G Q S U E V O H V S J S M E K
K J X H M R G H K C V J T D U K A P C L
T A D W A I Y N S N R R N S O S X U B C
K F A P X H I A F N S A A V A Q E A X Q
M H M B B Y U L V A U N F E B I M D S B
A I K G Y V A D I K T M V C F F A R M M
N H U A K D J X U F L M V B I Z Y F U O
B C H Z N X P R X H H A A R I Q I X W T
I I U N Y Y F O N D B Q N V A Q Q C A R
E L T G X O V U E G S N C G K P R L L H
T F E R R T A K B I R A T A L I H R A M
N G M K A U H L W T M D D V O H A Q T C
C L I V J T K X L W L M M A R Z T B D B
G H T U C M A U I X Z W U L R E E Y R B
D E F H B M G K I E B U Z E S B T J S O
E Q M R P F J K S L M Z E M G C R R X Z

Find the following 11 wājibāt of salāh in the wordsearch above.

Then underline the Rukn wājibāt in the list below.

MUWALAT

NIYYAH

QIRAAH

QIYAM

RUKU

SALĀM

SUJUD

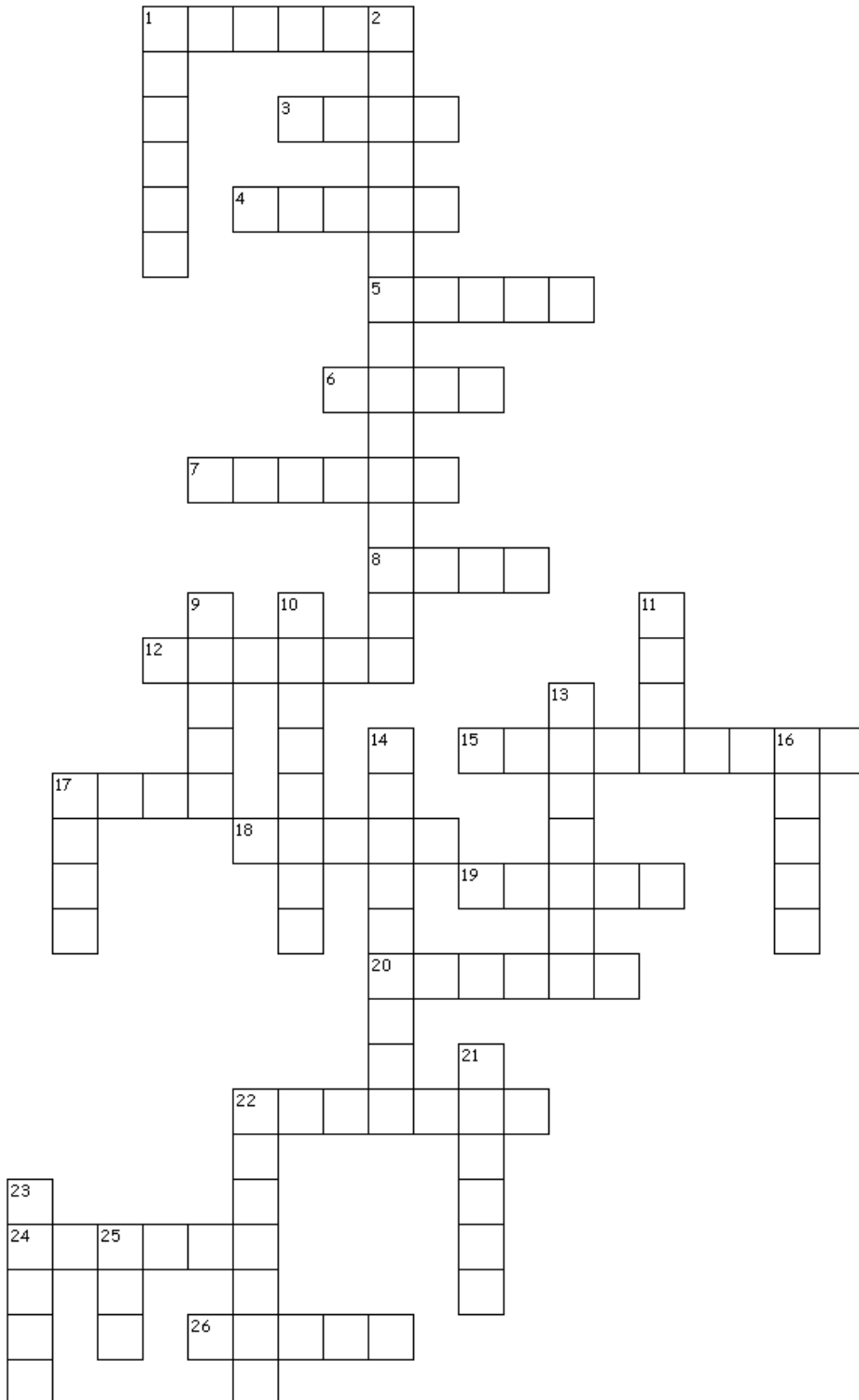
TARTIB

TASHAHHUD

TAKBIRAT AL IHRAM

DHIKR OF RUKU AND SUJUD

Salah



The clues to the crossword above are on the next page.

Across

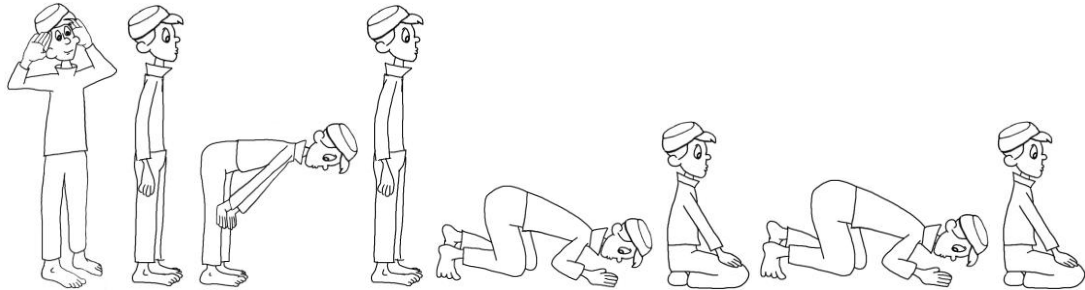
1. Recited after Qirā'ah of 2nd Rak'ah and before Ruku'.
3. To bow and recite "subhana Rabbi al-Adhimi wa bi hamdihi".
4. The one who recites the Iqāmah.
5. The call to salāh.
6. Wajib to do before salāh (using water).
7. To pray in correct sequence and order.
8. Makes salāh batil even if you forget by mistake.
12. Recited at the end after Tashahhud.
15. Only makes salāh batil if you forget intentionally.
17. The one who leads the salāh.
18. The noon salāh.
19. What is recited in Ruku' and Sujud (one word for it).
20. What we keep our forehead on during sujud.
22. To pray continuously without interruption.
24. Recited before salāh to announce that salāh is beginning.
26. Direction we face during salāh.

Down

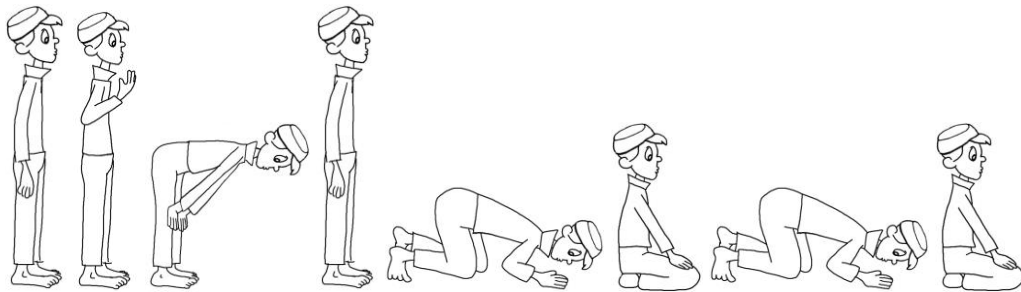
1. What is recited during qiyām.
2. The first takbir in salāh.
9. The one who prays behind the Imām.
10. Recited when sitting in the 2nd and last rak'ah.
11. The dawn salāh.
13. To recite the qirā'ah in first two rak'ahs loudly.
14. To recite the qirā'ah softly.
16. The House of Allah.
17. The night salāh.
21. To prostrate and recite "subhana Rabbi al-'Ala wa bi hamdihi".
22. The evening salāh.
23. To stand still.
25. The afternoon salāh

ACTIONS OF SALAH

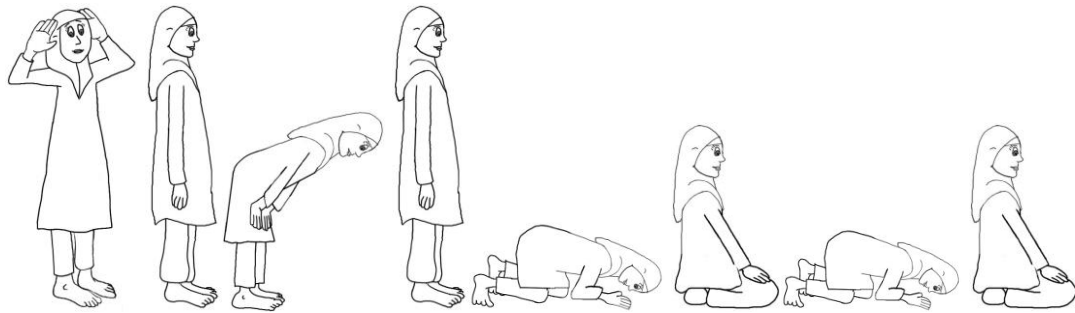
Colour Yusuf if you are a boy and Amina if you are a girl. Colour in yellow the mustahab actions, in blue the ghayr rukn and red the rukn actions.



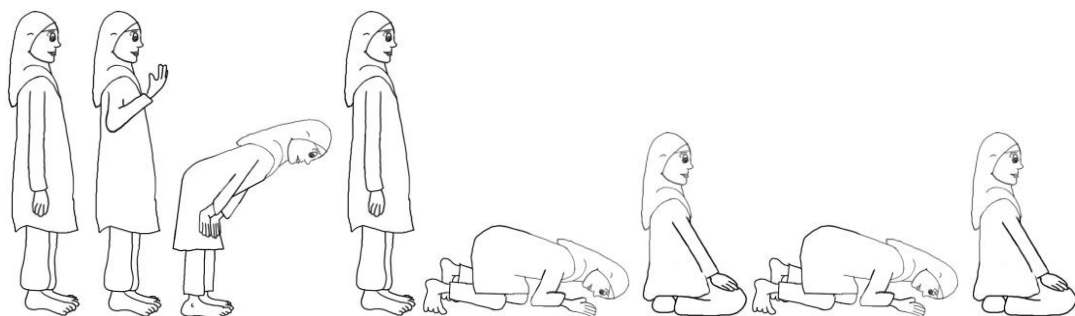
Takbirat al-ihram, Qiyām, Ruku', Qiyām, Sajdah, Julus, Sajdah, Julus



Qiyam, Qunoot, Ruku, Qiyam, Sajdah, Julus, Sajdah, Julus (finish)



Takbirat al-ihram, Qiyām, Ruku', Qiyām, Sajdah, Julus, Sajdah, Julus



Qiyam, Qunoot, Ruku, Qiyam, Sajdah, Julus, Sajdah, Julus (finish)

Lesson 7

Review of Furu ad-Dín

Items on Which Zakah is Wajib

B A M K E X K D W S J Y B T E
U Q F G F T V M G H E O Z A Y
Q I U B W I C N P L E Z X O J
P D P H H P P S R F Q A J G D
C O L W X D V A C K N W T L N
S Y G O C C B A W O Y L E S D
N X P S G H M S Z T E F W X A
J Y G N E E J R D T N A W K T
C S S I L V E R S N Y W K A E
B Z Z S S U P E E H S P B Y S
Z R D I H P Y E V J T Q G Y U
N Q Z A P U C W U R B A D M I
I D F R I Z O N C S I T X F K
Z T C S S C Y T I D C G D F S
I N J S A I L Z A J X L N O G

Zakāh is wājib on the following 10 Items. Find them in the
wordsearch above.

BARLEY

CAMEL

COW

DATES

GOAT

GOLD

RAISINS

SHEEP

SILVER

WHEAT

Lesson 7

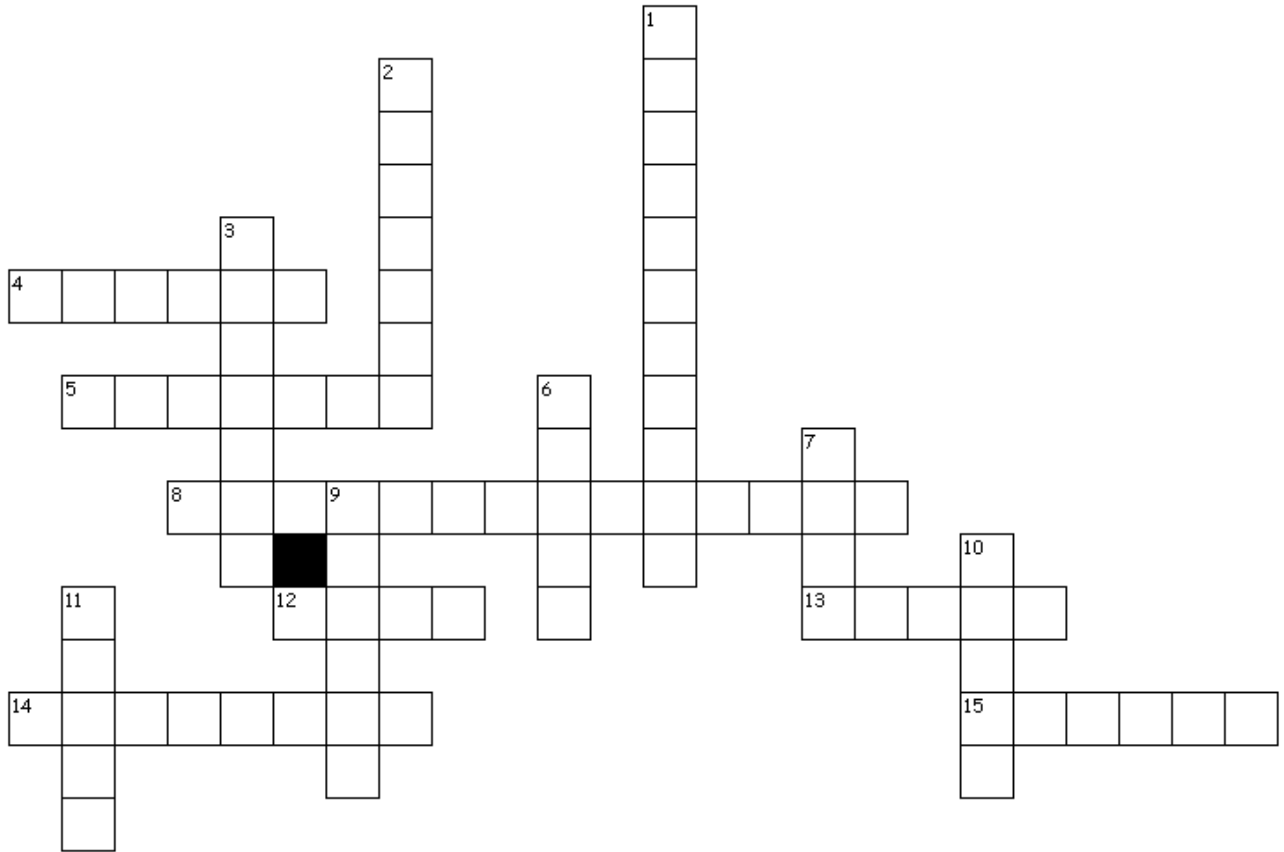
Review of Furu ad-Dín

Match the Furu ad-Din on the left with their correct meanings on the right, by drawing a line from one to the other.

Salah	Telling others to do good
Sawm	Alms and tax on some items
Hajj	Struggling for Allah
Zakāh	Telling others not to do bad
Khums	Prayers
Jihād	Love for Ma'sumeen ('a)
Amr bil Ma'ruf	Not following enemies of Ma'sumeen ('a)
Nahi 'anil Munkar	Fasting
Tawalla	Pilgrimage to Makkah
Tabarra	Islamic tax on surplus income

Lesson 7

Usul ad-Din and Furu ad-Dín



The crossword above requires you to know the 5 Usul ad-Din and 10 Furu ad-Din. The clues continue on the next page.

Across

4. There is only one God.
5. Loving the Masumeen ('a) and their followers.
8. Forbidding evil.
12. Fasting in Ramadan.
13. Fighting in the way of Allah.
14. Allah sent Messengers to guide us.
15. Allah is Just.

Down

1. Encouraging others to do good.
2. Keeping away from the enemies of the Ma'sumeen ('a).
3. Everyone will come back to life one day and then go to Jannah or Jahanam.
6. Daily Prayers.
7. Pilgrimage to Makkah.
9. Allah sent 12 Imams after the last Prophet (s).
10. Tax on livestock, gold, grains and other specific things.
11. One-fifth tax on surplus income.

Lesson 3

The First Revelation & Da'wat Dhul Ashira

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ.
خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ.

1. What is special about these verses?

2. What Surah are these verses from?

3. Where were they revealed?

4. Who were they revealed to? And who brought the revelation from Allah?

Da'wat Dhul Ashira



Da'wat Dhul Ashira

The picture in the previous page depicts Da'wat Dhul Ashira. After you colour or paint it, answer the following:

1. Who was invited to this event?

2. Which verse of the Qur'an was revealed commanding Rasulullah (s) to hold this event?

3. Who was the only one to respond to Rasulullah (s) at this event?

4. Was this event in Makkah or Madina? Before or after Hijrah?

Lesson 4

Imām ‘Ali Zayn al-Abidín (‘a)

Imam Ali Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) is the ____ Imam in Islam. He was born on _____ 38 AH in _____. His mother’s name is Sayyida _____.

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) was very ill and not able to do jihad in the Battle of _____ in 61 AH. At the time he was _____ years old.

He is also known as Sayyid _____, which means ‘the master of those who prostrate before Allah’.

After Karbala, Imam Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) was taken as a prisoner with the womenfolk of the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a). First they were taken to _____ and then to the court of Yazid in _____.

The sister of Imam Husayn (‘a), Sayyida _____ looked after Imam Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) when he was ill and saved his life from the tyrants many times.

Imām Ali Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) lived for _____ years after Karbala during which time he used to teach people and guide them to Islam. His name was Ali and his title ‘Zayn al-Abidin’ means _____.

Imām Ali Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) has a beautiful collection of du’as that is called the _____.

The Caliph _____ poisoned Imam Ali Zayn al-Abidin (‘a) on the _____ of Muharram in the year _____ AH. He was _____ years old at the time.

Lesson 6

Imām Ja'far as-Sādiq ('a)

Imām Ja'far as-Sādiq ('a) is our _____ Imam. He was born on _____ in the year 80 AH. His birthday is the same as the birthday of _____.

Imam Ja'far as-Sādiq ('a) was born in _____ and his mother's name is Sayyida _____.

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq ('a) led a very simple life. He never liked hoarding anything or taking advantage of others such as selling goods at a high profit. Around 132 AH the ruling caliphs who were from the Banu _____ were being overthrown by the Banu _____. And while the two powers were fighting, Imam as-Sadiq ('a) was able to preach Islam and the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt ('a). So he started a university in Madina where he taught over _____ students.

One of his famous students who was known as "Father of Chemistry" was _____. The founder of the Hanafi Sunni madhhab _____ (name) was also his student.

Imam as-Sadiq ('a) was poisoned by the Caliph _____ on the 25th of _____ in the year _____ AH.

When he was leaving this world, Imam as-Sadiq ('a) left some money for a cousin of his who used to hate him because of the importance in Islam of _____.

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (‘a) is buried in Madina in the cemetery known as _____ next to three other Imams who are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Lesson 2

Doing Good only for Allah

Stories to Read and Learn From

Fighting Shaytan Only for Allah's Sake

Your actions should be for the sake of Allah only. Only then will you get the result you deserve.

In the time of Prophet Musa ('a) there lived a pious man, who used to remember Allah day and night.

One day this man heard about a tree that was being worshipped by some people. This news made him so angry that he went to find the tree and chop it down.

As the man reached the tree, Shaytan appeared in front of the man disguised as an old man.

Shaytan asked the pious man what he was going to do. The pious man said that some people worshipped this tree so he was going to chop it down.

Shaytan asked the pious man that if Allah wanted the tree to be chopped, would He not have sent a Prophet to do it? The pious man did not listen.

They began to argue and shout at each other until finally they began fighting.

The pious man managed to knock Shaytan down on to the ground and sat on him.

Shaytan begged him to let him go and told him that he had thought of a solution which would help the man in this world and the next. The man listened.

Shaytan continued that he would pay the man 2 dinars everyday, of which the man could partly spend on himself and partly on the poor. In exchange the man should leave the tree uncut till Allah commanded whether it was right or wrong to cut it.

The pious man was misled by Shaytan. He thought the suggestion was a good one and agreed.

The next day when the pious man woke up he found 2 dinars under his pillow. He was delighted and spent some on himself and some on the poor. But the following day there was no money to be found. This made him very angry, so he again took his axe and went to cut the tree.

On reaching the tree he again met Shaytan disguised as an old man, who asked him what he had come to do. The pious man replied that he had come to chop down the tree. To which Shaytan answered that he had no power to do this and it was better for him to go back home.

Again they fought but this time Shaytan succeeded in overpowering the pious man and knocked him down.

The pious man was very surprised and asked Shaytan why it was that last time they fought he managed to overpower him but this time he could not.

Shaytan replied that it was because the first time they fought the man had come for the sake of Allah only, but the second time the man had come for the sake of money that he didn't get.

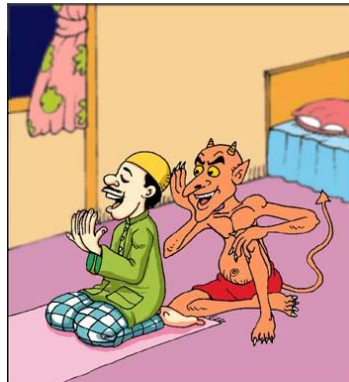
Moral: If you do something for the sake of Allah only, then Allah will give you special strength to carry it out.

Praying to Impress a Dog!

There was once a very pious man who used to wake up early in the morning before Fajr salāh to pray Salāt al-Layl (Tahajjud).

One morning he was praying his salāh in the masjid, when he heard a noise behind him. He thought to himself that someone had come into the masjid, so he started praying his salāh slower and more beautifully, to impress the person who had come in.

The man prayed his salāh so beautifully and so slowly, making sure that he said each word clearly, that it took him twice as long as normal to finish the salāh. When at last he finished, he turned around to see who it was that had come into the masjid, and he saw a dog sitting there, who had wandered in. The man had gotten up early in the morning and spent so much time and effort to pray his salāh and it was all for a dog!



To check if our niyyah is really “Qurbatan ilallāh” (only to come close to Allah), we should look at how we pray our salāh when we are at home on our own and when we pray at the masjid where others can see us. If there is a difference in the way we pray then our niyyah is not purely and sincerely for Allah only. Remember: we get absolutely no thawāb if we pray or do any good deed for anyone except Allah alone.

Lesson 3

Working Hard & Not Being Lazy

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (‘a) wanted to show people to be sincere and to do things for Allah only. When we do things for Allah only we hide it from others because we don't want them to know the good we are doing otherwise our intention will be to impress people and not Allah.

So Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (‘a) used to wear simple and even old clothes on the inside and good clean clothes on the outside. Some people would wear comfortable clothes inside but wear patched clothes outside to show people that they were not attached to the world.

Similarly these people would not work and depend on others to support and feed them and then they would claim to trust in Allah for their food and expenses. Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (‘a) wanted to teach people that a mu'min works hard and then depends on Allah to help him. And if a person dies while working hard to earn a lawful living then it is like dying whilst fighting for Islam in a battle (Jihad).

Look at the story on the next page given as a comic strip. You can colour or paint it or even create your own comic strip with a fictitious story on the importance of working hard and not being lazy.

