



AL HIDAAYAH

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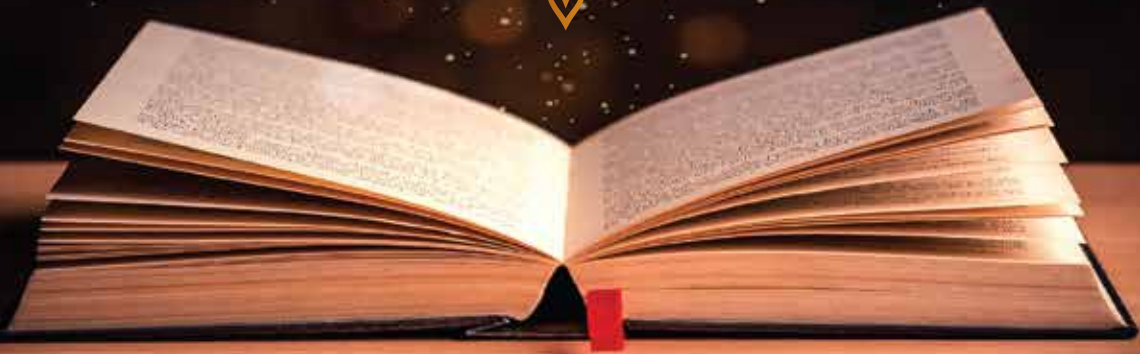
The Guidance for Humanity

Based on the Glorious Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

STUDY GUIDE

Islamic Education

by Dr Bilal Philips



From the Series: Islamic Education



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Topics

1. Islamic schools and education
2. Islamic approach towards knowledge
3. Types of Knowledge – an Islamic perspective
4. A Muslim student – responsibilities and goals
5. Requisites for a successful Muslim student
6. Mission of a Muslim Student
7. Types of teachers
8. Prerequisites for a Muslim educator
9. Important qualities that a Muslim teacher must possess
10. How to raise good believing children? – I
11. How to raise good believing children? – II

Course Objectives

1. Learn about the Islamic approach towards knowledge
2. Know about the important qualities that a Muslim educator must possess
3. Learn about the key points for raising good believing children



COURSE OUTLINE

Question & Answer Bucket

Transcripts

Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

Course Duration

Video	– 1 hours 55 min
Study Guide	– 40 min
Assessment	– 10 min
Total Duration	– 2 hours 45 min



LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION





1

Islamic Schools and Education

Since Muslims have come to realise the importance of Islamic education, there are several Islamic schools appearing in countries all around the world.

But is an Islamic school merely a building owned by Muslims, run by a Muslim principal, having Muslim teachers and Muslim students? Or are there other issues which go beyond that physical circumstance.

We do have to look at other issues which are of greater relevance and reflect on the goals of Islamic education.

Education is defined as a society's formal mechanism for the transmission of its culture to the next generation. It is not merely the conveyance of information, but something equivalent to socialization, the process by which persons are acculturated into a human community.





2

Islamic Approach towards knowledge

The Islamic approach towards knowledge was always a holistic approach with no separation between secular knowledge and religious knowledge because the basic concept of knowledge in Islam is that it fundamentally comes from God. So, knowledge acquired should be used for the purpose of pleasing God.

The materials used can alter the whole face of an Islamic institution because if the material itself is not geared towards conveying the values of an Islamic society, then the outcome of these Muslim schools too would not be much different from Muslims attending other government or non-Muslim schools.

The two (sciences along with the religious sciences) when taught together, create a whole individual who knows the importance of character, moral upbringing, and maintaining a balance between the life of this world and the Hereafter.





3

Types of Knowledge an Islamic Perspective

Basically, knowledge can be divided it into two basic categories:

A

False knowledge

Evolution as currently presented as being the explanation for our existence and how life came about, could be considered as false knowledge if it is the reason for someone to deny God's existence by manipulating information and presenting it in a way that suits their explanation.





B True knowledge

True knowledge can further be sub divided it into useful knowledge and useless knowledge.

Useless knowledge is where people are taught to seek knowledge just for the sake of knowledge, which is a common concept promoted in western educational institutions.

Whereas the Islamic goal for knowledge is that it should be gained for usage and benefit, and when there is no immediate benefit in it, it should be left for focusing on the areas of clear-cut benefit.

The true value of knowledge is in its application.





The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The best of people are those most beneficial to other people."



Ibn Mas'ood (ra) said that they used to learn 10 verses of the Qur'an at a time and did not proceed until the knowledge was gained and acted upon.

He said:

"We used to learn knowledge and its application together."





LESSON 2

MUSLIM STUDENTS





4

A Muslim student Responsibilities and Goals

Every Muslim student must understand that they carry certain responsibilities on their shoulders; a certain role that they must fulfill and goals that they must accomplish.



A

Seeking knowledge is Ibaadah

Every Muslim is required to be a student, and it is essential for them to realise that seeking knowledge in itself is a form of Ibaadah (worship) in Islam.

This is the type of students that Muslim education institutions seeks to create.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Seeking knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim."



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Whoever seeks a path seeking knowledge, Allah makes the path to Jannah (Paradise) easy for them."

Whatever has been made obligatory by God through His Messenger is a part of our worship, and whatever makes the path to Paradise easy, is a form of worship.





B Blessed by Allah

The people of Knowledge have been singled out by the Prophet (pbuh) and put on a special pedestal, one's who are blessed by God.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"This world is cursed and what is in it is cursed, except the remembrance of Allah (Dhikr) and what is conducive to that, or one who has knowledge or who acquires knowledge."





Seek knowledge for benefitting the society

A Muslim student should be clear about his goals and purpose for seeking knowledge. It should primarily be for the sake of benefiting himself/herself and benefiting others.

A Muslim educational institution should produce individuals who are beneficial to society and plays an active role in its development.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The best of people are those who are the most beneficial to others."





D Abstain from seeking praise and fame

Seeking knowledge for the purpose of gaining praise and fame amongst the people is cursed and a dangerous route for a student to seek.

The Prophet (pbuh) warned that among the first three groups of people who would be thrown into the Hellfire would be a Muslim scholar.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"[Another] will be a man who has studied (religious) knowledge, has taught it and who used to recite the Qur'an. He will be brought, and Allah will make known to him His favours and he will recognize them. Allah will say: 'what did you do about them?' He will say: 'I studied (religious) knowledge and I taught it and I recited the Qur'an for Your sake.' Allah (swt) will say: 'You have lied, you did but study (religious) knowledge that it might be said [of you]: He is learned. And you recited the Qur'an that it might be said [of you]: He is a reciter. And so it was said.' Then he will be ordered to be dragged along on his face until he is cast into Hellfire."

Seeking knowledge with the wrong intentions is destructive and deviates one from the goal he/she sought to achieve. We may achieve success from it in this life but have no share or reward in the Hereafter.

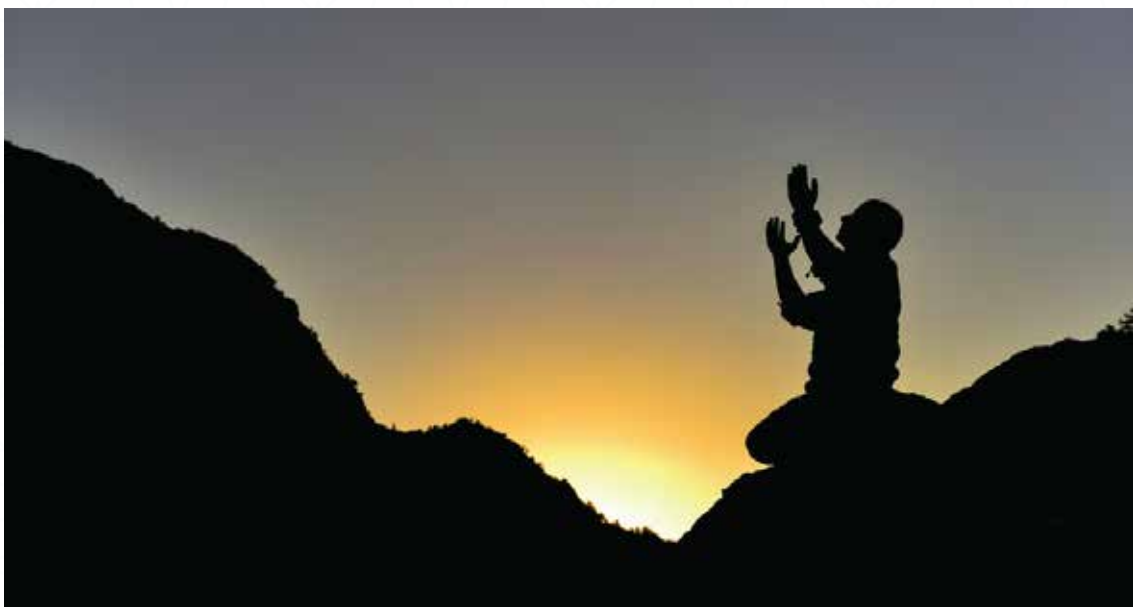


5 Requisites for a Successful Muslim Student

Amongst some of the most important requisites required for one to be a successful student are:

A Sincere Intention

To be a successful student, one must have Taqwa and sincere intention, for the pleasure of Allah (swt). Seeking knowledge without God consciousness would not be an act of worship, but rather an act of blind ritual.





B Hard work

He/she must be prepared to be hard working and give the best efforts that they can because excellence is something written into seeking knowledge from the Islamic perspective.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

“Indeed, Allah loves from each one of you, whenever you do anything, you do it to the best of your ability.”

As a student, you shouldn't be someone who waits until the last minute, and then run around making Du'as for passing your exams.





Having a curious mind

Rather than just blindly following one's teachers, a student must always have a curious mind.

You must be prepared to approach knowledge with a critical perspective and investigate the facts rather than just accepting them. Even when presented with undoubtable facts, one must still have a curious mind to be able to understand the context in which the facts were passed on to them.





D Honesty

Honesty and truthfulness are something which Islam demands, and the Prophet (pbuh) himself was known as 'Al Ameen' (the trustworthy one).



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"A person will continue to be truthful until Allah writes him among the truthful and that truthfulness will be a means for him or her to enter Paradise."

As a Muslim student, you don't cheat in your exams or your homework etc.





The Prophet (pbuh) said:
"Whoever cheats us is not one of us."

Cheating or dishonesty may be common amongst students in general because the goals of education are no longer the holistic goals of the past. They are goals linked with industry and the functioning of society in the sense that each person is being geared to fill a particular niche in the society.

An educational system focusing solely on worldly goals produces students willing to do anything to achieve goals by any means necessary.





E Respect for teachers



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

“Whoever doesn’t respect our elders, have mercy on our children, and recognize the rights of our scholars is not of us.”

The elder of the society must be respected because they looked after us when we were unable to look after ourselves. If we don’t respect them and recognise the rights of our scholars over us when we grow up, this is the breakup of the society.

They have to be held with respect because if we don’t have respect for them, we cannot gain that knowledge.





6

Mission of a Muslim Student

The missions that any Muslim student should aim to achieve can be summarized in four points.

A

Using the knowledge learnt in a way that is pleasing to Allah (swt)

Knowledge must be gained for the purpose of applying it in our life and benefitting those around you and not just for the purpose of seeking it.





B To benefit oneself in legitimate business and use it for their own livelihood

Among one of the goals is to look after oneself to get the basic necessities of life.





Aim to benefit the society

There should be some voluntary aspect to the knowledge we are gaining, that we give it back to the society in a voluntary way.

We must have a sense of generosity, sharing, care, and recognising that whatever we have is ultimately from God, and whatever people don't have, this is ultimately from God too.





D Share the knowledge gained with others

Share the knowledge gained with others, because what we learn, we pass on. A student is ultimately on the way to being a teacher, and in the whole process of their learning, he/she should be involved in passing it on.

Scholars have said that the life of knowledge is in the teaching, it keeps the knowledge alive.





LESSON 3

THE MUSLIM TEACHER





7

Types of Teacher

The role of a Muslim teacher is as critical and important as the Muslim student and Islamic education.





A Muslim teacher can be divided into two types :-

A A teacher who happens to be a Muslim

A teacher who happens to be a Muslim, could have been a Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist etc.

Having such teachers in an Islamic educational institution would set it up for failure because they don't look at their job as anything beyond a means of earning a living, teach the bare minimum requirements without putting in any extra efforts.

As long as you get your pay at the end of the month, that's what counts.

A teacher with this kind of attitude is useless to the Muslim educational institution.

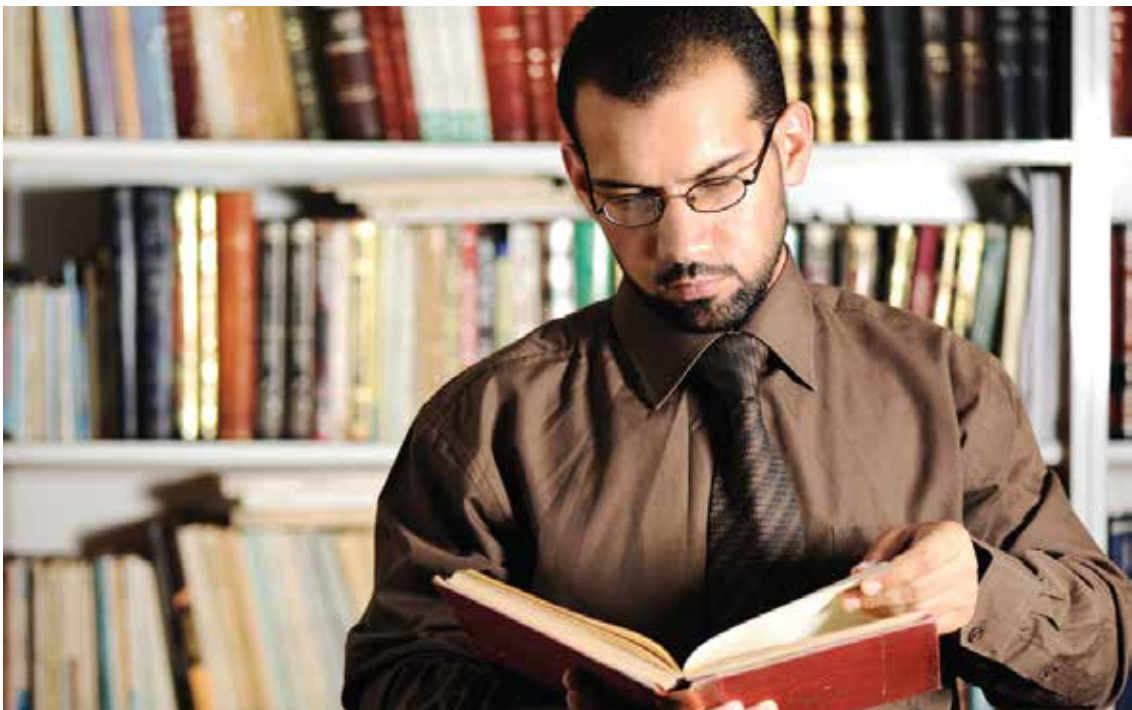




B A Muslim, who happens to be a teacher

These are Muslims who could have been doctors, engineers, astronauts, but chose to be teachers.

They are aware of their role and importance in the society, aware of the goals of Islamic education specifically and education in general.





7

Prerequisites for a Muslim educator

Among the basic prerequisites for a Muslim educator are:

A

Possess correct knowledge



"Say, are those who know equal to those who do not know?"

[Al Qur'an 39:9]



"Only the scholars, the knowledgeable, truly fear Allah among his servants."

[Al Qur'an 35:28]





First and foremost, an Islamic educator must have knowledge, because it is what distinguishes them from the others and makes them teachers. They have the knowledge which others don't.

Having knowledge also includes the ability to distinguish between correct knowledge and incorrect knowledge, useful knowledge and useless knowledge, and knowing to prioritise Fard 'Ayn (individually obligatory knowledge) over the Fard Kifaayah (community obligatory knowledge).





B

Qualified for the vocation of teaching

Oftentimes in many Muslim institutions, a person is made a teacher simply because they have a BA or BSc. A Muslim educator should be properly qualified and know about the methodology of teaching, understand psychology of their students.

A qualified teacher understands the psychology of the youths, which in turn aids in the conveyance of the knowledge to them.





Possess the correct faith

An important prerequisite that Islamic educational institutes should focus on is that the beliefs shared by their teachers must be in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and with the correct understanding of his companions.

People coming from backgrounds filled with Shirk, Bid'ah, and other deviations must be re-educated first regardless of what they're teaching. Because education is a socialisation process, the ideas and the beliefs of the teacher are conveyed to the next generation having an impact on them.

Whatever values the teacher holds, that he/she will convey.





D Righteous in words and actions

An educator should be involved in righteousness in their deeds, the way they behave, and the way they carry themselves.

Actions speak louder than words, similarly the students follow the teacher's example in their practice.

Therefore, an educator should be a good role model for the students in practice.





8

Important Qualities that a Muslim Teacher must Possess

These are qualities that a Muslim teacher must have outside of the fundamental prerequisites, which are really prerequisites for every Muslim.

Qualities such as knowledge, faith, sincerity, and righteous deeds are a requirement for every Muslim, but as a Muslim teacher it's something which does need to be stressed.

A

The teacher should recognise that they are on a sacred mission





B A teacher should follow the way of the Prophet (pbuh)

A teacher should follow the way of the Prophet (pbuh) and try to inculcate his qualities within them. They should be merciful and loving towards children, because teaching young people is really trying, and impatience is a part of human nature.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"He is not one of us who does not show respect to our elders and show mercy to our little ones."





A Muslim educator should be just in dealing with their students

Rewards and punishment should be fair, rather than punishing a student or rewarding the student due to personal bias.

Corporal punishment should be a last resort.





D The basic principle is 'If you fail to plan, you plan to fail'

Lesson plans should be a must so that the teacher prepares their lessons prior to classes properly, otherwise your lessons are not going to come off properly or put across your knowledge effectively.





E A Muslim educator should be a good example and role model for their students

A teacher may tell them to do things, but if they themselves are not doing it, or they hear from them things which contradict what is being taught in the class, then the nature of students is that they would follow the example which is shown to them by their teachers.

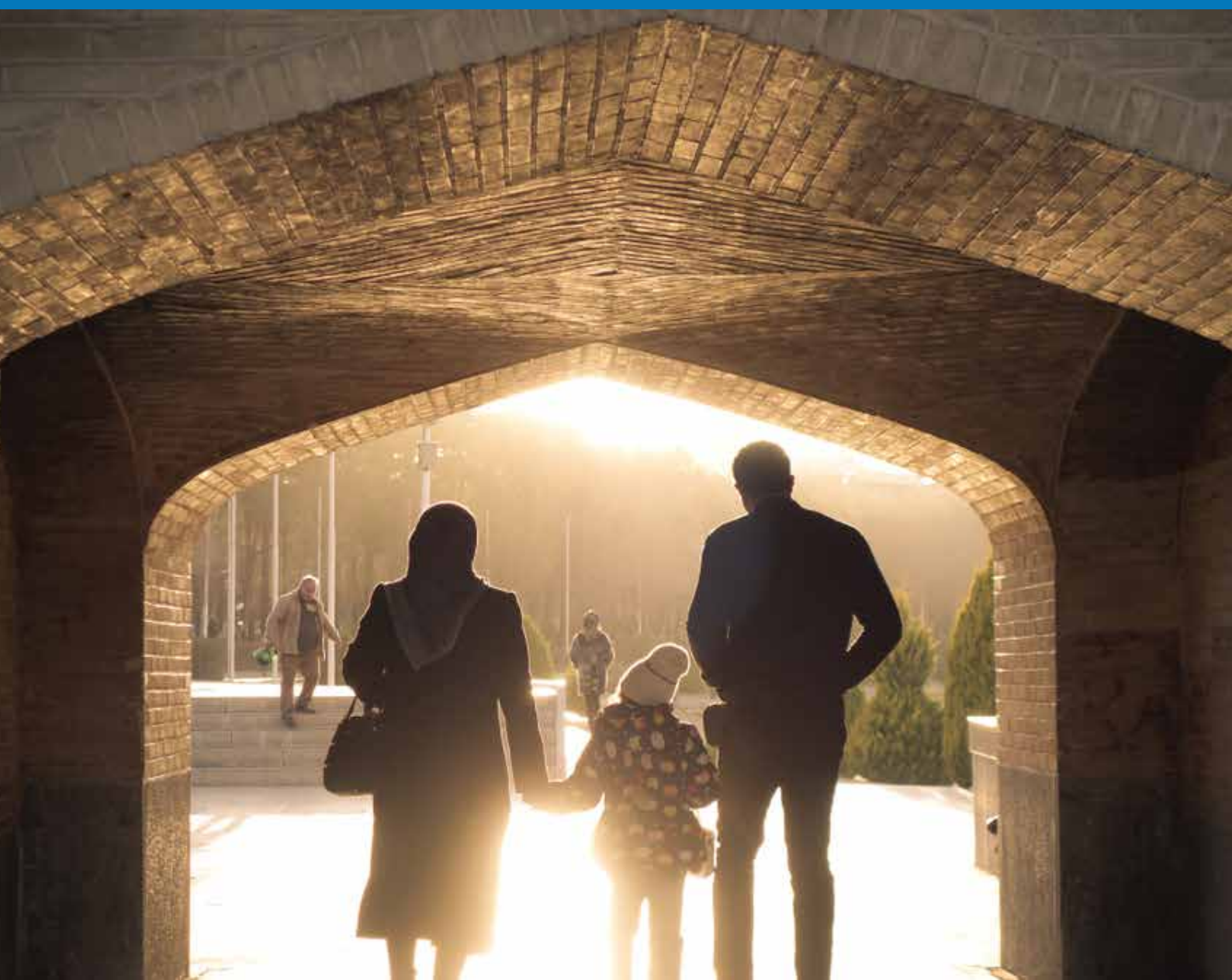




LESSON 4

How to raise Good believing Children?

Part - 1





8

How to Raise Good believing children? – I

Raising of good children begins even before the child is born, if one waits until after the child is born to figure out how they're going to raise good kids, they've actually missed out on key principles that should have been dealt with before reaching this point.

Among some of the key points which believing human beings should have in mind if they want to raise good believing children are:





A Choosing the right life partner

Choosing the wrong husband or the wrong wife affects the raising of the children.

A husband/wife who is ignorant about their religion and behaves according to customs or traditions severely harm the development of the child.

When one looks for a husband/wife, their first consideration should be about their piety rather than wealth or status.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"A woman is married for four things: for her wealth, for her lineage, for her beauty or for her piety. Select the pious, may you be blessed!"

As parents desire for righteous children, the children to have a right to have righteous parents because the righteousness of the parents has an impact on their children.





B

Make Du'a for protection

Parents should make Du'a (supplication) for a good child and protecting them from evil traps of the Shaitaan because ultimately the kind of children one would have is determined by Allah (swt).



"O our Lord grant us from our spouses and children, a coolness to our eyes."

[Al Qur'an 25:74]





Be the best example for their children

It is the nature of children to imitate their parents and their teachers. So, if parents are bad examples, then the children are going to turn out to be bad kids. You can't expect children to grow up with good moral character and good behaviour if the parents do not set the best example for them because that's going to have a big impact on the children.





D Attachment parenting

Attachment parenting is when the parents have a direct, physical, loving relationship with the child.

Scientifically it has been shown that the first five years are the most crucial in forming the future personality of the child and also affects their psychological makeup.





LESSON 5

How to raise good believing children?

Part - 2





E Islamic education

It is the right of the child to be educated Islamically about the Aqeedah (belief in God) and everything connected to it. They should be aware about the deeds and actions that would help them get closer to Allah (swt), and the deeds and actions that would bring on them His displeasure.

Further, making them aware about the Prophet (pbuh) and instill in them the love for him. Not just telling them stories for the sake of the story but give them life lessons and make it a part of their life.

Give them formal lessons in both Aqeedah and Akhlāq (manners), teach them how to pray, do Wudhu, wear Hijab and other important aspects of the Deen (religion).

Let them grow up on stories about the Sahaabah (ra) and the early Muslim scholars, involve them to learn and memorise the Qur'an, rather than the usual fantasy stories and comics available which really don't build moral character.





F

Provide a positive Islamic environment

If we want to educate the children to be good adults, we have to be good examples for them. Give them a safe, happy, and peaceful environment to help them grow up to be good, responsible, and respectable adults. Not necessarily only at home, but one must be mindful of the external environment too, choosing an Islamic school to make sure that the children get the proper education and grow up on a strong foundation.





QUESTION & ANSWER



Q1

What are the prerequisites for a Muslim educator?

Among the basic prerequisites for a Muslim educator are:

- 1 They must possess correct knowledge
- 2 They must possess the correct faith
- 3 Qualified for the vocation of teaching
- 4 Righteous in words and actions

Q2

How can a non-Muslim teacher affect the learning of his/her students?

Whatever values the teacher holds, he/she will convey to their students. To bring non-Muslims into the teaching staff of the Muslim institution is a mistake and affects the school even if they are not engaged in teaching religious knowledge.

For example, in the girls' school, though Muslims are required to wear Hijab, many non-Muslim teachers would not accept, and she would have the union supporting her, or they would talk about Christmas, New year, and other non-Muslim events. Such incidents definitely affect the quality of the education of the children without a doubt.



Q3

What is the importance of breast-feeding a newborn child, and its effects on their development?

Among the things which Islam recommends for a new-born child is breastfeeding for the first two years, as long as a woman is capable of doing it.


The fact that some women prefer not to breastfeed because it might mess up their figure etc., is unacceptable, because it is the right of the child to be breastfed.


The importance of breastfeeding is that it develops a bond of love and closeness with the mother. Feelings of love can develop in a healthy atmosphere, where the child has denied that dealing with a bottle.

Scientifically, it has been shown that the first five years are the most crucial in forming the future personality of the child, so the parents must try to have a direct, physical, and loving relationship with the child (attachment parenting). And if one starts off with bottle feeding, it is damaging to the psychological makeup of the child.

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