



**ISLAMIC LIFE &
EDUCATION**
— ONLINE ISLAMIC ACADEMY —

TRUE HEROES

Stories of the Prophets and Their Companions for Young Muslim Hearts

Islamic Life & Education
Online Islamic Academy — Lahore, Pakistan

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

This book brings together the stories of twenty-three Prophets and Messengers of Allah, and twenty of the beloved companions (Sahabah) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, told simply and warmly for young readers.

Every story has been written and checked carefully against the Qur'an, authentic Hadith, and reliable, well-established sources of Seerah and Islamic history. Where scholars have differed on a small detail, the safest and most widely accepted version has been chosen. No conversations, events, or miracles have been invented beyond what these sources describe. Each chapter gives its sources at the end, under "Qur'anic / Hadith Reference," so that parents, teachers, and older children can look deeper into any story they wish.

A note on the illustrations: in keeping with Islamic guidance about honouring the Prophets and their companions, this book does not show their faces or bodies in any picture. Instead, every illustration is symbolic — a landscape, an object, an animal, or a scene from nature that reflects the setting or feeling of the story, such as the Ark upon the water, a lantern's glow, or footprints across the sand.

Each story follows the same friendly structure: an introduction to who the person was, the story itself, its source in the Qur'an or Hadith, the lessons it teaches, a few questions to think about, and a small challenge to try. We pray this book helps children fall in love with the beautiful examples left behind by the Prophets and the Sahabah, and that it plants seeds of faith, courage, honesty, and kindness that will grow for a lifetime.

— *Islamic Life & Education*

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Part One

Stories of the Prophets and Messengers (Anbiya' wal-Rusul)

1. Prophet Adam (peace be upon him)

The Father of Mankind

Who Was He?

Prophet Adam (peace be upon him) was the very first human being that Allah created, and he was also the very first Prophet. Every single person on earth — every mother, father, grandparent, and child — is one of his children's children. That is why he is called Abu al-Bashar, the Father of Mankind.

The Story

Before Adam was created, Allah had already made the angels out of light and the jinn out of smokeless fire. One day, Allah told the angels something new was about to happen: **"Indeed, I will place a vicegerent on the earth."** (Qur'an 2:30) The angels asked, out of respect and curiosity, whether this new creation would cause trouble on the earth. Allah replied gently, **"Indeed, I know that which you do not know."** (Qur'an 2:30)

Allah shaped Adam's body from clay gathered from different parts of the earth, which is one reason people around the world look different from one another. Then Allah breathed a soul into him, and Adam opened his eyes — alive, thinking, and full of wonder.

Allah then gave Adam an amazing gift: knowledge. He taught Adam the names of things that even the angels did not know. When Allah asked the angels to name these things, they humbly said, **"Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us."** (Qur'an 2:32) Then Adam named them all, showing that knowledge is one of the greatest honours Allah gives to human beings.

Allah commanded the angels to bow down to Adam out of respect, and every angel obeyed at once. But one being refused — Iblis, who was from the jinn. Iblis said proudly, **"I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay."** (Qur'an 7:12) That single moment of pride became the very first sin in creation. Allah removed Iblis from His mercy, and Iblis vowed to try to mislead Adam's children for the rest of time. This is why Shaytan (Satan) is the enemy of every human being, and why Allah has always warned us to be careful of him.

Allah then let Adam live in Jannah (Paradise) and created Hawwa (Eve) so that Adam would not be alone. They lived happily, with no hunger and no hardship, and Allah told them they could enjoy everything in Jannah except one tree. Shaytan would not leave them alone, though. He whispered again and again that the tree would make them live forever like angels, until Adam and Hawwa forgot the warning and tasted its fruit.

The moment they did, they felt ashamed of their mistake. They did not blame each other or make excuses. Instead, they turned to Allah with the most sincere dua any human has ever

made: ***"Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers."*** (Qur'an 7:23) Allah, who loves to forgive, accepted their repentance completely.

Even though they were forgiven, Allah told Adam and Hawwa to descend to the earth, where human beings were always meant to live, worship Allah, and build a good life. Adam became the first Prophet on earth, teaching his children to believe in One God, to pray, to be kind, and to live honestly. He also taught them how to farm and build simple homes.

Among Adam's children were two sons, Habil and Qabil. When both offered a sacrifice to Allah, Habil's sincere offering was accepted, but Qabil's was not. Instead of examining his own heart, Qabil let jealousy take over, and in anger he killed his own brother — the very first murder on earth. Not knowing what to do next, Qabil watched a crow scratch the earth to bury another crow, and Allah used this to show him how to bury the dead.

Prophet Adam lived for a very long time, and throughout his life he never stopped reminding his children to worship Allah alone, to stay away from Shaytan's whispers, and to follow the guidance that Allah would keep sending through later Prophets.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Baqarah 2:30-38, Surah Al-A'raf 7:11-25, Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:27-31

What Can We Learn?

- Human beings are honoured because Allah gave them the gift of knowledge.
- Pride can ruin even the greatest of blessings — this is what happened to Iblis.
- Everyone makes mistakes, but sincere tawbah (repentance) is always accepted by Allah.
- Jealousy, if left unchecked, can grow into something very dangerous.
- Allah sends guidance because He loves and cares for His creation.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Allah taught Adam the names of things before showing him to the angels?*
2. *What is the difference between making a mistake and being proud like Iblis?*
3. *How do you think Qabil could have handled his jealousy differently?*

A Small Challenge

The next time you make a mistake, say 'Astaghfirullah' (I seek Allah's forgiveness) and try to fix it, just like Adam and Hawwa turned back to Allah right away.

Did You Know?

Because Adam was made from soil gathered from many different places on earth, scholars say this is part of why people are born with so many different skin colours, languages, and features — yet we are all one family.

2. Prophet Idris (peace be upon him)

The Wise Teacher Who Was Raised on High

Who Was He?

Prophet Idris (peace be upon him) lived many generations after Prophet Adam. He was known across his land as an extremely patient, wise, and hardworking man who loved to learn and loved to teach even more.

The Story

In the time of Prophet Idris, people needed to be reminded of Allah and shown better ways to live. Allah gave Idris deep knowledge and a very disciplined mind, and he used both to help his people in every part of their lives.

It is said that Idris was among the first people to write with a pen, carefully recording knowledge so it would not be forgotten. He also taught his people to sew clothes out of woven cloth, instead of only wearing animal skins as before, and he encouraged them to study the stars and to calculate carefully — always so that people could live better, more organised lives and remember Allah's blessings.

But knowledge was never the point by itself for Idris — worship was. He told his people again and again, ***“Worship Allah alone, speak the truth, and be grateful for everything He has given you.”*** He reminded them that clever hands and clever minds are gifts from Allah, meant to be used with humility, not pride.

Some people listened to Idris eagerly. Others were lazy or too attached to their old, careless habits and turned away. Whenever this happened, Idris did not become angry or give up on them. He kept teaching with patience, kindness, and hope, trusting that Allah would guide whoever was sincere.

Allah loved Idris very much because of his patience, his honesty, and the good he tried to spread. The Qur'an tells us that Allah gave him a very special honour above other people: ***“And We raised him to a high station.” (Qur'an 19:57)*** Scholars have explained this

to mean that Allah lifted Idris to a place of great honour, higher than most people could ever imagine reaching.

Prophet Idris is remembered today as a teacher, a truthful Prophet, and a beautiful example of what patience and steady hard work — combined with sincere worship of Allah — can achieve.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Maryam 19:56-57, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:85-86

What Can We Learn?

- Knowledge is a gift from Allah and should be used to help others, not to feel proud.
- Teaching others patiently is one of the most valuable things a person can do.
- Hard work and good character go hand in hand with true faith.
- Allah honours those who stay patient while doing good, even when others don't listen.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Prophet Idris kept teaching even when some people ignored him?*
2. *Can you think of a skill you have learned that you could patiently teach to someone younger than you?*

A Small Challenge

Teach someone in your family one useful thing this week — it could be how to write a letter neatly, tie a knot, or recite a short surah.

3. Prophet Nuh (peace be upon him)

The Patient Prophet and the Great Flood

Who Was He?

Prophet Nuh (peace be upon him) was sent by Allah to a people who had wandered far away from worshipping the One God, and he became known for something remarkable: he called his people to Allah for nearly a thousand years without ever giving up hope.

The Story

Long after Adam's time, some of Nuh's people began to honour the memory of righteous men who had died — Wadd, Suwa', Yaghuth, Ya'uq, and Nasr — by making statues of them. Over many years, people forgot these were only statues built to remember good men, and they began worshipping the statues as gods instead of Allah.

So Allah sent Nuh as a Prophet to guide them back to the truth. The Qur'an tells us Nuh **"remained among them a thousand years minus fifty years" (Qur'an 29:14)** — calling his people to Allah, night and day, quietly and loudly, in every way he could think of. He told them plainly: **"Worship Allah, you have no deity other than Him." (Qur'an 7:59)**

But most people mocked him. Whenever Nuh spoke, they covered their ears, turned their backs, and called him foolish. The wealthy leaders complained that only the poor and the humble followed him, and they demanded that he send those followers away if he wanted the rich to even consider listening. Prophet Nuh refused — every sincere believer was equal and precious in Allah's sight, no matter how rich or poor.

After many, many years of patient calling, Allah told Nuh that no one else among his people would believe. It was time for a different plan. Allah commanded Nuh to build a large ship — right there on dry land, far from any sea. His people laughed even harder now. **"Nuh, have you become a carpenter?" "Where is the water you keep talking about?"** they mocked. Nuh answered calmly, **"You laugh at us now — soon you will see who is punished and disgraced."**

When the ship was finished, Allah gave a sign: water would begin to burst up from an oven. The moment it happened, the sky opened and poured down rain, while water gushed up from the ground itself. Allah commanded Nuh to bring aboard the believers, a male and female of every kind of animal, and his own family — except those who refused to believe.

Sadly, one of Nuh's own sons refused to board the ship. Nuh called out to him with love, **"My son, come aboard with us, and do not be with the disbelievers!"** But his son, trusting a nearby mountain instead of Allah, said he would climb it to safety. A powerful wave rose up between them, and he was lost.

The flood covered the whole land. When it was finally time, Allah commanded, **"O earth, swallow your water, and O sky, withhold [your rain]."** (Qur'an 11:44) The water sank into the ground, the sky cleared, and the ship came safely to rest on Mount Judi. Nuh and the believers stepped onto dry land again, grateful and humbled, ready to begin a new chapter for humankind.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-A'raf 7:59-64, Surah Hud 11:25-49, Surah Nuh 71:1-28, Surah Al-Ankabut 29:14

What Can We Learn?

- Never give up calling people to good, even if it takes a very long time.
- Following the truth is not about how many people agree with you.
- Family ties alone do not guarantee guidance; sincere faith is what matters.
- Allah always protects and saves those who truly believe in Him.
- Mocking the truth does not make it any less true.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Prophet Nuh never gave up, even after so many centuries?*
2. *How would you feel if people made fun of you for doing something good? What would you do?*
3. *What lesson can we learn from the story of Nuh's son?*

A Small Challenge

Think of one good habit (like praying on time or being kind to a sibling) that you sometimes struggle with, and try to practise it patiently for seven days in a row, the way Prophet Nuh was patient for hundreds of years.

Amazing Fact

Prophet Nuh is considered one of the five greatest Messengers in Islam, known as Ulul-Azm — the Messengers of the strongest determination and patience.

4. Prophet Hud (peace be upon him)

The Proud People of 'Aad

Who Was He?

Prophet Hud (peace be upon him) was sent to his own tribe, a mighty and wealthy people called 'Aad, who lived in a green and fertile land and had grown very proud of their own strength.

The Story

The people of 'Aad were famous for their size, their strength, and the tall, magnificent buildings they built — the Qur'an even says ***"the like of which had never been created in the land"*** (Qur'an 89:8). With so many blessings, though, they forgot the One who had given everything to them, and they turned to worshipping idols instead of Allah.

Allah sent them a Prophet from among their own people — Hud, a kind and honest man who cared deeply about their well-being. He stood among them and said gently, ***"O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him... Do you construct on every high place a sign, amusing yourselves, and take for yourselves palaces and fortresses that you might abide eternally?"*** (Qur'an 26:124-129, summarised)

The people of 'Aad laughed at him. "We are the strongest people on earth," they boasted. "Who could ever defeat us?" They accused Hud of being foolish for asking them to give up their idols.

Prophet Hud remained calm and did not ask for anything in return for his advice. ***"O my people, I do not ask you for it any reward. My reward is only from He who created me. Then will you not reason?"*** (Qur'an 11:51) He reminded them that all their strength, their gardens, and their tall buildings were blessings from Allah, and that being thankful — not proud — was the right response.

One day, dark clouds gathered on the horizon. The people of 'Aad were overjoyed, certain that rain was finally coming to their fields. But Prophet Hud warned them that this was not a blessing at all — it was the punishment they had been warned about.

A fierce, roaring wind was unleashed upon them, blowing without stopping for seven nights and eight days. It tore apart their homes and their famous towers as though they were made of dry leaves. Everything they had been so proud of vanished. Only Prophet Hud and the believers who had trusted him were kept safe, for Allah always protects those who remain humble and obedient to Him.

Qur'an: Surah Al-A'raf 7:65-72, Surah Hud 11:50-60, Surah Al-Haqqah 69:6-8, Surah Al-Ahqaf 46:21-26

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Strength and success are blessings from Allah, not reasons to feel proud.
- It is important to be thankful for what we have instead of boasting about it.
- True guidance is offered with patience, without expecting anything in return.
- Ignoring warnings out of arrogance can lead to great loss.

Think About It

1. *What are some blessings in your own life that you should be thankful for instead of taking for granted?*
2. *Why do you think the people of 'Aad thought a storm cloud was good news at first?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Make a short list of five blessings Allah has given you (like your health, your family, or your home), and say Alhamdulillah for each one before you sleep tonight.

5. Prophet Saleh (peace be upon him)

The Miracle She-Camel

Who Was He?

Prophet Saleh (peace be upon him) was sent to the people of Thamud, a very skilled tribe who carved beautiful homes out of solid mountains but, like the people of 'Aad before them, forgot to thank the One who had blessed them.

The Story

The people of Thamud lived among rocky mountains and were famous for their skill in carving grand houses right into the stone. They had plenty of food, water, and comfort — yet many of them worshipped idols instead of Allah.

Allah sent them Prophet Saleh, a gentle and truthful man from among their own tribe. He told them kindly, ***"O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. He has produced you from the earth and settled you in it."*** (Qur'an 11:61)

Some people mockingly demanded a miracle to prove he was truly a Prophet. So, with Allah's permission, a magnificent she-camel came forth out of solid rock — a clear sign for everyone to see. Prophet Saleh told them, ***"This is the she-camel of Allah, [she is] to you a sign, so leave her to eat within Allah's land and do not touch her with harm, lest you be seized by an impending punishment."*** (Qur'an 11:64) He explained that she would drink from their well on her turn, and on the other days it would be theirs, so that no one was harmed.

For a while, people watched the gentle camel with wonder. But a group of proud men grew jealous and annoyed that they had to share their water with her. They plotted together, and in a moment of pure cruelty, they killed her — even though Prophet Saleh had warned them clearly not to.

Prophet Saleh told them sadly that they had only three days left before Allah's punishment would come. On the third day, a tremendous earthquake and a terrible blast shook the land, and by morning the wrongdoers lay silent in their homes, ***"as if they had never lived there."*** (Qur'an 11:68) Only Prophet Saleh and the believers who had obeyed Allah were saved.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-A'raf 7:73-79, Surah Hud 11:61-68, Surah Ash-Shams 91:11-15

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Allah's signs deserve respect, not mockery or harm.
- Obeying a clear command from Allah, even a small one, matters greatly.
- Jealousy and cruelty can lead a whole community into ruin.
- Warnings given out of love should always be taken seriously.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the people of Thamud were unhappy about sharing the water with the she-camel?*
2. *Can you think of a small rule that, if broken, can cause a bigger problem later?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Practice patience today by sharing something of yours — a toy, a snack, or your time — with a sibling or friend without complaining.

6. Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him)

Khalilullah, the Friend of Allah

Who Was He?

Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) is one of the most beloved Prophets in Islam. He is called Khalilullah, the Friend of Allah, and Abu al-Anbiya, the Father of Prophets, because so many later Prophets — including Isma'eel, Ishaq, Ya'qub, Yusuf, Musa, Isa, and finally Prophet Muhammad ﷺ — came from his family line.

The Story

Ibrahim was born into a family that worshipped idols. It is said that his father (or, in some narrations, his uncle) Azar even carved idols with his own hands to sell to people. Yet from a very young age, Ibrahim's heart and mind refused to accept this. He wondered: how can something we build ourselves, something that cannot even see or hear, ever be a god?

One night, gazing at the sky, Ibrahim searched sincerely for the truth. He saw a star and thought it might be his Lord, but it set. He saw the moon rise brightly, but it too disappeared. He saw the sun, brilliant and warm, but it also set at the end of the day. Then Ibrahim understood: nothing that rises and sets, nothing that comes and goes, could ever be the Creator. He declared with certainty, ***"Indeed, I have turned my face toward He who created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of those who associate others with Allah."*** (Qur'an 6:79)

Ibrahim spoke to his father with gentleness and love, even though he disagreed with him completely: ***"O my father, why do you worship that which does not hear and does not see and will not benefit you at all?"*** (Qur'an 19:42) His father grew angry and threatened him, but Ibrahim remained respectful and patient, never raising his voice in disrespect.

One day, while the townspeople were away at a festival, Ibrahim went into their temple and broke every idol except the largest one, hanging his axe on it. When the people returned and demanded to know who had done this, Ibrahim answered wisely, ***"Rather, this — the largest of them — did it, so ask them, if they can speak."*** (Qur'an 21:63) For a brief moment, some of them realised the foolishness of worshipping something that could not even defend itself — yet most refused to change.

Furious, the people built an enormous fire and threw Ibrahim into it to punish him. But Allah commanded, ***"O fire, be coolness and safety upon Ibrahim."*** (Qur'an 21:69) Ibrahim stepped out completely unharmed, one of the most astonishing miracles Allah ever showed His creation.

Later, Ibrahim migrated to new lands for the sake of Allah, travelling through Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, eventually settling near Makkah. Allah blessed him with two sons who both became Prophets — Isma'eel, born to his wife Hajar, and later Ishaq, born to his wife Sarah.

Allah commanded Ibrahim to leave Hajar and baby Isma'eel in the empty valley of Makkah, with very little water. When their water ran out, Hajar ran back and forth between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times, desperately searching for help. Then Allah caused a spring of water to burst forth right beside baby Isma'eel — the blessed well of Zamzam, which still flows to this very day.

Years later, Allah tested Ibrahim in a way that would show the world true submission. In a dream, Ibrahim saw himself sacrificing his beloved son Isma'eel. When he told his son, the boy — now grown — answered with astonishing courage: **"O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast."** (Qur'an 37:102) Just as Ibrahim prepared to fulfil the command, Allah called out, **"O Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the vision."** (Qur'an 37:104-105) and sent a ram to be sacrificed instead. This act of obedience is remembered every year during Eid al-Adha.

Later still, Ibrahim and Isma'eel worked together, side by side, to raise the walls of the Kaaba in Makkah, praying as they built, **"Our Lord, accept this from us. Indeed, You are the Hearing, the Knowing."** (Qur'an 2:127) Ibrahim then prayed for Makkah's safety, for righteous generations to come from his family, and for a final Messenger to rise among them — a dua that Allah answered many centuries later by sending Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-An'am 6:74-83, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:51-70, Surah As-Saffat 37:83-113, Surah Ibrahim 14:35-41, Surah Al-Baqarah 2:124-129

What Can We Learn?

- Believing in One God (Tawheed) is worth standing firm for, even against your whole family or community.
- You can disagree respectfully, even with people you love, when they ask you to do wrong.
- Complete trust in Allah brings safety, even in the middle of a fire.
- True obedience means following Allah's command wholeheartedly, even when it is difficult.
- Sacrifice made sincerely for Allah's sake is never wasted.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Ibrahim looked at the stars, moon, and sun before recognising Allah?*
2. *How did Ibrahim manage to disagree with his father without being disrespectful?*
3. *What does the story of the sacrifice teach us about trusting Allah's plan?*

A Small Challenge

Say the dua Ibrahim and Isma'eel made while building the Kaaba — 'Our Lord, accept this from us' — the next time you do a good deed, even a small one.

Remember This

The running between Safa and Marwah that Hajar did while searching for water became part of the rituals of Hajj and Umrah that Muslims perform to this day.

7. Prophet Isma'eel (peace be upon him)

The Obedient Son

Who Was He?

Prophet Isma'eel (peace be upon him) was the firstborn son of Prophet Ibrahim, born after his father had prayed for a child for many long years. He grew up in the valley of Makkah and became known for his patience, obedience, and deep love for Allah.

The Story

When Isma'eel was still a nursing baby, Allah commanded Ibrahim to leave him and his mother Hajar in the empty desert valley of Makkah, where there was no water, no food, and no other people. Hajar asked Ibrahim gently, "Did Allah command you to do this?" When he said yes, she replied with full trust, "Then Allah will not abandon us."

Soon their water ran out, and baby Isma'eel began to cry from thirst. Hajar ran anxiously between the two nearby hills of Safa and Marwah, back and forth seven times, searching desperately for any sign of help. Then, near where Isma'eel lay, water suddenly began to bubble up from the ground — the miraculous spring of Zamzam, which Allah sent as mercy for a baby and his faithful mother. As the Qur'an reminds us, **"And We made from water every living thing." (Qur'an 21:30)**

Isma'eel grew up strong and righteous in that same blessed valley. Years later, Allah tested his father Ibrahim with a very difficult dream — that he must sacrifice his son. When Ibrahim gently told Isma'eel what he had seen, the boy — showing remarkable maturity and faith — replied, **"O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast." (Qur'an 37:102)**

Both father and son submitted completely to Allah's command. Just as Ibrahim was about to carry it out, Allah called out, **"O Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the vision." (Qur'an 37:104-105)** and a ram was sent to be sacrificed instead, sparing Isma'eel's life and rewarding both of them for their sincerity and trust.

As Isma'eel grew older, he worked side by side with his father to build the Kaaba, carrying stones and helping raise its walls while both of them prayed that Allah would accept their humble effort. Isma'eel later married and settled in Makkah, and his descendants eventually included Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah As-Saffat 37:100-107, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:30, 85, Surah Maryam 19:54-55

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Obeying Allah, even when it is hard, brings great reward.
- Patience and bravery can be shown at any age.
- Allah never abandons those who put their full trust in Him.
- Loving Allah means being willing to give up what we love most for His sake.

Think About It

1. How do you think Isma'eel felt when his father told him about the dream?
2. What does Hajar's trust in Allah while alone in the desert teach us about relying on Him?

✦ A Small Challenge

The next time something feels difficult or scary, try saying 'Hasbunallahu wa ni'mal wakeel' (Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best disposer of affairs), just like the believers before you have said in hard moments.

8. Prophet Lut (peace be upon him)

A Warning to a Wrongdoing People

Who Was He?

Prophet Lut (peace be upon him) was the nephew of Prophet Ibrahim and was sent by Allah as a Messenger to the people of a nearby city who had turned away from decency and from Allah's guidance in serious ways.

The Story

Prophet Lut lived among a people who had grown cruel, unfair, and shockingly indecent in their behaviour toward one another. They openly ignored right from wrong and mocked anyone who reminded them of it.

Lut stood among them and pleaded, ***"Indeed, you approach men with desire, instead of women. Rather, you are a transgressing people." (Qur'an 7:81)*** He begged them again and again to fear Allah and turn away from their wrongdoing, warning them gently but firmly that Allah is Merciful to those who repent.

Instead of listening, the people mocked him and threatened to throw him and his followers out of the city for daring to criticise them. Only a small number of people — Lut's own household, aside from his wife — believed in him.

One day, Allah sent angels in the form of handsome young travellers, first to Ibrahim to give him the good news of a son, and then onward to Lut. When Lut saw the strangers, he grew anxious, worried about how the people of his city might treat guests. The wicked townspeople indeed rushed toward his home, intending harm. It was then that the angels revealed who they truly were, and told Lut, ***"Indeed, we are messengers of your Lord; they will never reach you. So set out with your family during a portion of the night... and let not any among you look back." (Qur'an 11:81)***

That very night, Lut left the city quietly with the believers in his household. His wife, who had secretly sided with the wrongdoers rather than with Lut, stayed behind and was not saved. At sunrise, Allah overturned the city completely, and a shower of hard stones fell upon it as a sign of what happens when a people refuse to turn back after every kind of warning has already reached them.

Prophet Lut and the believers who obeyed Allah's command were kept completely safe — a lesson for every generation that comes after them.

Qur'an: Surah Al-A'raf 7:80-84, Surah Hud 11:69-83, Surah Ash-Shu'ara 26:160-175, Surah Al-Ankabut 29:28-35

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Standing up for what is right takes courage, even when almost no one listens.
- Choosing bad company over good guidance — as Lut's wife did — can lead someone away from safety.
- Allah always protects those who sincerely obey Him.
- It is never too late to turn back to Allah in repentance, until the warning is fully ignored.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Lut felt worried when the strangers arrived at his home?*
2. *What can we learn from the fact that even living in the household of a Prophet did not save Lut's wife?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Practice being a good influence today — remind a friend or sibling kindly to do something good, the way Prophet Lut kept reminding his people, even when it felt difficult.

9. Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon him)

The Boy Who Forgave

Who Was He?

Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon him) was the beloved son of Prophet Ya'qub (Jacob). His story is told so beautifully in the Qur'an that an entire chapter, Surah Yusuf, is named after him and is described as **"the best of stories."** (Qur'an 12:3)

The Story

As a boy, Yusuf saw a wondrous dream: eleven stars, the sun, and the moon all bowing down to him. His father Ya'qub, sensing something significant, told him lovingly, "My son, do not tell this dream to your brothers, or they may plot against you."

Sadly, Yusuf's older brothers were already jealous, because their father loved Yusuf so dearly. One day they took him far from home, planning something terrible. They threw him into the deep, dark well and returned home pretending to cry, telling their father that a wolf had eaten him. Prophet Ya'qub was heartbroken, and though his eyes grew weak from years of crying, he never lost hope in Allah's mercy.

Allah, however, was watching over Yusuf. A group of travellers found him in the well and, not realising he was a free young man from a good family, sold him in Egypt. There, Yusuf was raised in the home of a nobleman, where he grew into a young man known for his honesty and his beautiful character.

The nobleman's wife tried to tempt Yusuf toward something wrong, but Yusuf refused firmly, saying, **"I seek refuge in Allah. Indeed, he is my master, who has made good my residence."** (Qur'an 12:23) Even though he had done nothing wrong, Yusuf was unjustly sent to prison — yet even there, he remained patient, kind to the other prisoners, and busy reminding people about Allah.

In prison, Yusuf explained the dreams of two fellow prisoners, and Allah gave him a deep understanding of dream interpretation. Years later, when the King of Egypt saw a puzzling dream that none of his advisors could explain, word reached him that Yusuf could interpret it. Yusuf explained that Egypt would enjoy seven years of plentiful harvest, followed by seven years of famine, and he advised the people to store grain wisely during the good years. The King was so impressed by Yusuf's wisdom and honesty that he freed him and placed him in charge of Egypt's stores of food.

Years later, during the famine, Yusuf's own brothers travelled to Egypt to buy grain, not recognising the powerful man in front of them as their long-lost brother. Yusuf recognised them immediately. After testing them gently to see if they had changed, he finally revealed

the truth: **"I am Yusuf, and this is my brother!" (Qur'an 12:90)** The brothers were stunned and deeply ashamed, admitting, "We were truly wrong."

Rather than taking revenge, even though he had every right to be angry, Yusuf said with a generous heart, **"No blame will there be upon you today. Allah will forgive you; and He is the most merciful of the merciful." (Qur'an 12:92)** He sent for his father, and the whole family was joyfully reunited in Egypt, exactly as his childhood dream had once shown.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Yusuf 12:1-101

What Can We Learn?

- Forgiveness is one of the most powerful and beautiful things a person can offer.
- Staying honest and patient during hardship is always rewarded by Allah, even if it takes years.
- Jealousy can push people to do terrible things, so we must guard our hearts against it.
- Allah's plan often unfolds in ways we cannot imagine while we are living through the difficulty.

Think About It

1. How do you think Yusuf managed to stay kind and patient through so many years of hardship?
2. Why do you think forgiving his brothers was more powerful than punishing them?
3. Has there ever been a hard time in your life that later turned into something good?

A Small Challenge

Think of someone who once hurt your feelings, even in a small way, and make a sincere intention to forgive them in your heart, just as Yusuf forgave his brothers.

Did You Know?

Surah Yusuf is the only chapter in the Qur'an that tells one complete story from beginning to end, without switching to other topics in between.

10. Prophet Ayub (peace be upon him)

The Patient Prophet

Who Was He?

Prophet Ayub (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as Job, was blessed by Allah with great wealth, good health, and a large, loving family. He is remembered above all for his extraordinary patience during a very long and painful test.

The Story

Prophet Ayub was known throughout his land for his kindness, his generosity to the poor, and his constant gratitude to Allah. Yet Allah, who tests those He loves most, allowed Ayub's blessings to be taken away one by one. His animals and his farmland were lost, and then, most painfully of all, his children passed away. Finally, Ayub himself became extremely sick for many long years.

Even as people who once respected him began to stay away, Prophet Ayub never once complained about Allah's decree or asked "why me?" His heart remained full of trust, and he would softly say, ***"Indeed, adversity has touched me, and You are the Most Merciful of the merciful."*** (Qur'an 21:83)

Throughout this long trial, his devoted wife stayed faithfully by his side, caring for him with love even when they had very little left. Prophet Ayub often reminded himself that Allah, who had given him so many blessings for so many years, surely had wisdom in this test too, and he never lost hope even for a moment.

After many years of illness borne with beautiful patience, Allah finally answered his quiet dua. Allah told him, ***"Strike [the ground] with your foot; here is a cool bath and water to drink."*** (Qur'an 38:42) Ayub obeyed, and a fresh, cool spring gushed out from the earth. As he bathed in it and drank from it, his sickness disappeared completely, his strength returned, and Allah restored his family and his blessings — ***"and the like thereof with them, as mercy from Us."*** (Qur'an 21:84)

Prophet Ayub immediately fell into sujood, thanking Allah again and again, and his story has remained, ever since, the greatest example in Islam of what it means to stay patient and thankful through every kind of hardship.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Anbiya 21:83-84, Surah Sad 38:41-44

✦ What Can We Learn?

- True patience means trusting Allah even when we don't understand why something difficult is happening.
- Gratitude should not depend on how easy or hard our life feels at the moment.
- Every hardship, no matter how long it lasts, eventually comes with relief.
- A loving family that stays together during hard times is a great blessing.

Think About It

1. What do you think helped Prophet Ayub stay patient for so many years?
2. Have you ever had to be patient about something for a long time? How did it feel when it finally got better?

✦ A Small Challenge

The next time something doesn't go your way, try to say 'Alhamdulillah alaa kulli haal' (all praise is for Allah in every situation) instead of complaining, just like Prophet Ayub did.

11. Prophet Shu'ayb (peace be upon him)

The Honest Trader

Who Was He?

Prophet Shu'ayb (peace be upon him) was sent by Allah to the people of Madyan, a busy trading community, at a time when honesty in the marketplace had almost completely disappeared.

The Story

The people of Madyan were skilled traders and merchants, but many of them had become dishonest. When they weighed goods to sell, they would secretly use unfair scales, giving customers less than they paid for while keeping the extra for themselves. They believed no one could see what they were doing.

Allah sent Prophet Shu'ayb, a wise and gentle Messenger, to remind them of the truth. He stood in the very marketplace where the cheating happened and said kindly but firmly, ***"O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him... And do not deprive people of their due and do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption."*** (Qur'an 11:84-85)

He reminded them, ***"What remains [lawful] from Allah is best for you, if you would be believers."*** (Qur'an 11:86) — teaching them that a small amount earned honestly carries far more blessing than a large amount earned through cheating.

Some people listened and corrected their ways, weighing goods fairly and dealing honestly from then on. But many others mocked Prophet Shu'ayb and even threatened him, complaining that his teachings would ruin their profits. "You are only stopping us from doing as we please with our own money," they said angrily.

Prophet Shu'ayb continued warning them with patience and compassion, hoping they would change before it was too late. But when they refused again and again, a mighty earthquake and a great blast overtook their city, and by the next morning the wrongdoers lay motionless in their homes. Only Prophet Shu'ayb and the believers who had listened to him were spared.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Hud 11:84-95, Surah Al-A'raf 7:85-93, Surah Ash-Shu'ara 26:176-190

What Can We Learn?

- Honesty in buying and selling is deeply important in Islam.

- Cheating others, even in small amounts, is something Allah sees and dislikes.
- A little earned honestly brings more true blessing than a lot earned by dishonest means.
- Warning people kindly, again and again, is a beautiful form of caring for them.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the people of Madyan believed no one could see their cheating?*
2. *Can you think of an example of honesty in everyday life, like at a shop or at school?*

✿ A Small Challenge

If you buy or trade something this week — even swapping a sticker or a toy with a friend — make sure you are completely fair and honest about it, the way Prophet Shu'ayb asked his people to be.

12. Prophet Musa (peace be upon him)

The Prophet Who Faced a Tyrant

Who Was He?

Prophet Musa (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as Moses, is mentioned more than any other Prophet in the Qur'an. His life story is filled with courage, miracles, and an unshakeable trust in Allah, even when he stood before the most powerful and cruel king of his time.

The Story

Long ago in Egypt, a proud and cruel king called Fir'awn (Pharaoh) ruled the land and even claimed to be a god. He treated the Bani Isra'il (Children of Israel) harshly, forcing them into difficult labour, and, fearing a prophecy that a child among them would one day end his rule, he ordered that every newborn boy be killed.

It was into this dangerous time that baby Musa was born. Allah inspired his mother with a plan: she placed her baby in a basket and gently set it afloat on the river, trusting Allah completely with her son's life. The basket drifted along the water until, remarkably, it came to rest at the palace of Fir'awn himself.

Fir'awn's wife, Asiyah, a righteous woman who secretly believed in Allah, found the baby and fell in love with him at once. She pleaded with Fir'awn, **"He will be a comfort to me and to you. Do not kill him; perhaps he may benefit us."** (Qur'an 28:9) And so, remarkably, Musa grew up safe inside the very palace of the man who wanted to harm children like him.

As a young man, Musa left Egypt after a difficult and unintended incident, and he journeyed to a distant land called Madyan. There, he kindly helped two young women water their flock, and afterward, tired and far from home, he made one of the most heartfelt duas recorded in the Qur'an: **"My Lord, indeed I am, for whatever good You would send down to me, in need."** (Qur'an 28:24) He was welcomed into a good family, married, and lived peacefully there for years.

Then, one night while travelling, Musa saw a fire glowing on the side of Mount Sinai. When he approached it, Allah spoke to him directly — an honour given to no other Prophet in quite the same way — and commanded him, **"Go to Fir'awn. Indeed, he has transgressed."** (Qur'an 20:24)

Musa, feeling the weight of this enormous task, asked Allah for his brother Harun to help him, **"and appoint for me a minister from my family... that we may glorify You much and remember You much."** (Qur'an 20:29-34) Allah granted his request.

Musa and Harun bravely entered Fir'awn's court and declared, **"Indeed, we are messengers of the Lord of the worlds." (Qur'an 26:16)** Fir'awn refused to believe them and challenged Musa by gathering the finest magicians in the land. When Musa threw down his staff, it transformed into a real serpent by Allah's power, swallowing up the magicians' tricks. Astonished, the magicians immediately fell into sujood, declaring, **"We have believed in the Lord of the worlds, the Lord of Musa and Harun." (Qur'an 26:47-48)**

Furious at being humiliated, Fir'awn chased Musa and the Bani Isra'il with his entire army until they reached the edge of the Red Sea, with the sea ahead and the army closing in behind. The people cried out in fear, but Musa answered with complete confidence, **"No! Indeed, with me is my Lord; He will guide me." (Qur'an 26:62)**

Allah commanded Musa to strike the sea with his staff, and it split into two great walls of water with a dry path between them. Musa and his people crossed safely to the other side. When Fir'awn and his soldiers tried to follow, the sea closed back over them, and the tyrant who had oppressed so many was finally gone.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Qasas 28:1-42, Surah Taha 20:9-79, Surah Ash-Shu'ara 26:10-68

What Can We Learn?

- Allah protects the ones He loves, even in the most dangerous circumstances.
- Asking for help when a task feels too big, as Musa asked for Harun, is a sign of wisdom, not weakness.
- True courage means fearing only Allah, not any powerful person.
- Allah can open a way forward even when a situation looks completely impossible.

Think About It

1. How do you think Musa's mother felt as she placed her baby in the river, trusting Allah?
2. Why do you think Musa asked Allah specifically for his brother's help before facing Fir'awn?
3. What does the parting of the sea teach us about trusting Allah in scary situations?

A Small Challenge

The next time you feel afraid of something, say Musa's words quietly to yourself: 'Indeed, with me is my Lord; He will guide me,' and take one brave step forward anyway.

 Did You Know?

Musa is mentioned by name in the Qur'an more than any other Prophet — well over one hundred times.

13. Prophet Harun (peace be upon him)

The Helper of His Brother

Who Was He?

Prophet Harun (peace be upon him), the older brother of Prophet Musa, was known for speaking clearly and gently. Allah chose him to support his brother during one of the most difficult missions any Prophet was ever given.

The Story

When Allah commanded Musa to go and warn Fir'awn, the proud king of Egypt, Musa felt the weight of the task and turned to Allah with an honest request: **"And appoint for me a minister from my family — Harun, my brother. Increase through him my strength and let him share my task."** (Qur'an 20:29-32) Allah answered, **"We will strengthen your arm through your brother, and grant you both authority."** (Qur'an 28:35)

From that moment, Musa and Harun stood side by side. Together they walked into Fir'awn's palace and said firmly, **"We are messengers of your Lord, so send with us the Children of Israel and do not torment them."** (Qur'an 20:47) Fir'awn responded with anger and mockery, but the two brothers stayed calm, patient, and united.

Harun's gentle way of speaking balanced Musa's boldness perfectly. Whenever the mission felt heavy, Harun stood beside his brother, sharing the burden and never letting him feel alone. Later, when Musa went up Mount Sinai to receive Allah's revelation, Harun stayed behind to care for the Bani Isra'il, patiently trying to guide them and keep them away from wrongdoing during his brother's absence.

Throughout their mission, the two brothers showed the whole world a beautiful example of what it means to work as a team for the sake of Allah — supporting one another, forgiving each other's worries, and never competing for credit.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Taha 20:29-36, 90-94, Surah Al-Qasas 28:34-35, Surah Maryam 19:53

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Working together as a team makes a difficult task easier to carry.
- Speaking kindly and clearly can be just as powerful as speaking boldly.
- Supporting a sibling or friend in doing good is a beautiful act of worship.
- Allah blesses those who help one another for the sake of goodness.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Musa specifically asked for his brother Harun to help him?*
2. *Can you think of a time when working with someone else made a hard task feel easier?*

A Small Challenge

Ask a sibling, cousin, or friend to help you with a task this week, and thank them sincerely afterward — just like Musa and Harun supported each other.

14. Prophet Musa and the Strange Cow

A Mystery Solved by Obedience

Who Was He?

This is a special story from the time of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him), about the Bani Isra'il and a mystery that was only solved because they finally chose to obey Allah's instructions completely.

The Story

During the time of Prophet Musa, a man among the Bani Isra'il was found dead, and no one knew who had done it. Different families began to argue and accuse one another, and there was a real danger that the disagreement would tear the community apart.

They came to Prophet Musa, hoping he could help them uncover the truth. Musa turned to Allah, and Allah gave him an unusual instruction: **"Indeed, Allah commands you to slaughter a cow."** (Qur'an 2:67)

Instead of simply obeying this clear command, the people began asking question after question. "What kind of cow?" "What colour should it be?" "How old should it be?" Each time Musa patiently brought them Allah's answer, and each time they found another question to ask, making a simple task far more complicated than it needed to be.

Finally, after much delay, Allah described the cow precisely: a bright yellow cow, healthy, without blemish, that had never been used to plough the earth or water the fields — **"A cow neither old nor virgin, but median between that... a yellow cow, bright in colour."** (Qur'an 2:68-69) Such a cow was very hard to find, but eventually they located exactly the one described and sacrificed it, just as Allah had commanded.

When they finally obeyed, Allah revealed the truth behind the mystery in a miraculous way, showing the community who had truly committed the wrongdoing, and putting an end to their arguments. The people were amazed at how Allah's wisdom brought clarity and peace once they simply chose to trust and obey without endless hesitation.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Baqarah 2:67-73

What Can We Learn?

- When Allah or a parent gives a clear instruction, it is best to obey without unnecessary arguing.

- Asking too many questions can sometimes delay a good outcome.
- Allah's commands always contain wisdom, even when we don't immediately see it.
- Obedience brings clarity and peace to confusing situations.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the people kept asking so many extra questions instead of just obeying?*
2. *Can you think of a time when doing what you were asked right away, instead of arguing, made things easier?*

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time someone gives you an instruction that is good and reasonable (like a parent or teacher), try to follow it right away with a good attitude, without extra questions or delay.

15. Prophet Dawood (peace be upon him)

The Just King

Who Was He?

Prophet Dawood (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as David, was given the rare honour of being both a Prophet and a king. Allah blessed him with wisdom, physical strength, and one of the most beautiful voices ever heard.

The Story

As a young man, Dawood was known for his strong faith even before he became famous. When a fearsome giant named Jalut (Goliath) threatened the believers in battle, everyone else trembled with fear, but young Dawood stepped forward with complete trust in Allah. Using only a small stone and a sling, he defeated the mighty Jalut, showing everyone that **"how many a small company has overcome a large company by permission of Allah."** (Qur'an 2:249)

Allah later honoured Dawood with both prophethood and kingship, an unusual and special combination. As a ruler, Dawood was famous for his fairness. Whenever two people came to him with a dispute, he listened patiently to both sides before making a decision, never rushing to judge and never letting anger guide him.

Allah also gave Dawood the Zabur (the Psalms) and blessed him with an extraordinarily beautiful voice. It is said that when he recited praises to Allah, **"We subjected the mountains to exalt [Allah] with him, and the birds; and We were doing [that]."** (Qur'an 21:79) — meaning the birds and mountains would join him in glorifying Allah, and anyone nearby would feel calm and moved.

Despite his fame, Dawood remained humble and hardworking. He is remembered in Hadith as someone who ate only from what he earned with his own hands, working with iron to make armour, rather than relying entirely on the wealth of his kingdom. He constantly reminded his people to be grateful for Allah's blessings, to worship sincerely, and to always treat one another with fairness and kindness.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Baqarah 2:251, Surah Sad 38:17-26, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:78-80, Surah Saba 34:10-11

What Can We Learn?

- True strength comes from trust in Allah, not just physical power.

- A fair leader listens carefully before making any decision.
- Gratitude and worship should continue even when a person becomes successful or famous.
- Working honestly with your own hands is a noble and blessed way to live.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think young Dawood was not afraid of a giant like Jalut?*
2. *What makes a leader truly fair, in your opinion?*

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time you have to settle a disagreement between two friends, try listening carefully to both sides before deciding who is right, just like Prophet Dawood did.

16. Prophet Sulayman (peace be upon him)

The King Who Listened

Who Was He?

Prophet Sulayman (peace be upon him), the son of Prophet Dawood, was given a kingdom unlike any other — one where humans, jinn, animals, and even the wind obeyed him by Allah's permission.

The Story

Allah blessed Sulayman with the rare ability to understand the speech of birds and animals, and He gave him control over the wind and the help of the jinn. Yet despite such extraordinary power, Sulayman remained deeply humble and always turned to Allah in gratitude, praying, ***"My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me... and admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants."*** (Qur'an 27:19)

One day, Sulayman was marching with his grand army of soldiers, jinn, and birds through a valley. As they approached, a small ant called out to the other ants, ***"O ants, enter your dwellings that you not be crushed by Sulayman and his soldiers while they perceive not."*** (Qur'an 27:18) Sulayman heard the tiny voice clearly and, rather than ignoring it, he smiled at the ant's care for its community and thanked Allah for letting him understand even the smallest of His creatures.

Sulayman also had a special messenger among the birds — the hoopoe, or Hudhud — who would fly far and bring him news from distant lands. On one occasion, the hoopoe returned with news of a queen, the Queen of Saba' (Sheba), who ruled a magnificent kingdom but worshipped the sun instead of Allah. Sulayman sent her a respectful letter inviting her to worship the One true God, and eventually the queen visited his court, was amazed by his wisdom, and chose to submit to Allah.

Despite ruling over jinn, animals, and vast wealth, Sulayman never let any of it make him arrogant. He treated every creature — no matter how small — with respect, and he taught his people that a truly great leader is one who remains thankful, humble, and gentle to all of Allah's creation.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah An-Naml 27:15-44, Surah Sad 38:30-40

What Can We Learn?

- Being thankful for Allah's blessings should come before feeling proud of them.
- Kindness to animals and even the smallest creatures reflects a caring heart.
- Great power should be used with humility, not arrogance.
- A wise leader listens to news and advice from everyone, even those who seem small or unimportant.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Sulayman smiled instead of getting annoyed when he heard the ant's warning?*
2. *What do you think made the Queen of Saba' change her mind about worshipping the sun?*

A Small Challenge

Be extra gentle with an animal or insect you come across today — perhaps by helping a stray cat, or carefully moving an insect outside instead of harming it.

Amazing Fact

The hoopoe bird, Sulayman's messenger in this story, is a real bird still found today, known for the beautiful crown-like feathers on its head.

17. Prophet Ilyas (peace be upon him)

The Caller to Allah

Who Was He?

Prophet Ilyas (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as Elijah, was sent by Allah to a community that had turned away from Him to worship a stone idol named Ba'l instead.

The Story

In a green land of mountains and rivers, the people had begun decorating a lifeless idol called Ba'l with gold and jewels, bowing to it and asking it for help — even though it could not see, hear, or do anything at all.

Prophet Ilyas stood before them and said with love and firmness, ***"Will you not fear Allah? Do you call upon Ba'l and leave the best of creators — Allah, your Lord and the Lord of your first forefathers?" (Qur'an 37:124-126)*** He reminded them of every blessing Allah had given them — the sun, the rain, the crops in their fields — and urged them not to forget the One who provided it all.

Most of the people refused to listen, afraid of losing their comfortable habits, and some even mocked him. But Prophet Ilyas never lost patience. Day after day, with calm courage, he continued reminding people of the truth, hoping that even a few hearts might soften.

A small number of sincere people did believe and followed him, learning to worship Allah alone and live honestly. Allah honoured Ilyas greatly for his patience and courage, mentioning him among the righteous in the Qur'an: ***"And indeed, Ilyas was from among the messengers... Peace upon Ilyas." (Qur'an 37:123, 130)***

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah As-Saffat 37:123-132, Surah Al-An'am 6:85

What Can We Learn?

- Standing firm for the truth is worthwhile, even if most people around you disagree.
- Gratitude for Allah's blessings should never be forgotten, no matter how comfortable life becomes.
- Patience and gentle courage can soften even the most stubborn hearts.
- Allah remembers and honours those who call others to good.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the people of Ilyas's town were afraid to give up their idol?*
2. *What blessings from Allah do we sometimes forget to be thankful for in our daily lives?*

❁ **A Small Challenge**

Make a list of three blessings you often forget to thank Allah for (like clean water, good eyesight, or a comfortable home), and say Alhamdulillah for each one.

18. Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him)

Inside the Belly of the Whale

Who Was He?

Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as Jonah, was sent by Allah to a large town whose people had turned away from worshipping the One true God — and his story teaches one of the most powerful lessons about patience and sincere repentance in the whole Qur'an.

The Story

Prophet Yunus called his people again and again to leave their idols and worship Allah alone, but they refused to listen, mocking him at every turn. After trying for a long time without success, Yunus grew upset and left his town without waiting for Allah's permission to do so — something a Prophet is not meant to do.

He boarded a ship that soon found itself caught in a violent storm. The sailors, terrified that the overloaded ship might sink, decided to draw lots to see who should be thrown overboard to lighten the load. Yunus's name came up — not once, but twice — and finally, trusting Allah completely, he lowered himself into the raging sea.

Allah then sent a huge fish to swallow him whole, yet by Allah's mercy, the fish did not harm him at all. In the pitch-black darkness inside the fish, deep beneath the crashing waves, Yunus realised his mistake and turned to Allah with one of the most beautiful and often-repeated duas in Islam: ***"There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers."*** (Qur'an 21:87)

Allah tells us in the Qur'an, ***"And had he not been of those who exalt Allah, he would have remained inside its belly until the Day they are resurrected."*** (Qur'an 37:143-144) Because Yunus turned back to Allah so sincerely, Allah commanded the fish to release him safely onto the shore.

Weak and exhausted, Yunus was cared for by a plant that Allah caused to grow over him for shade and nourishment until he recovered. He then returned to his people — and this time, remarkably, they had begun to believe, having seen the signs of the coming punishment and turned to Allah just in time, becoming one of the very few nations mentioned in the Qur'an whose sincere repentance was accepted at the very last moment.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah As-Saffat 37:139-148, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:87-88, Surah Yunus 10:98

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Even Prophets can make mistakes, but sincere and immediate repentance is always heard by Allah.
- Patience is needed even when calling people to good takes a very long time.
- Allah's mercy can reach a person even in the darkest and loneliest of places.
- It is never too late to turn back to Allah, as shown by both Yunus and his people.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Allah wants us to say Yunus's dua when we feel we have made a mistake?*
2. *How do you think Yunus felt in the darkness inside the fish before he made his dua?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Memorise Prophet Yunus's dua — 'La ilaha illa anta subhanaka inni kuntu minaz-zalimeen' — and say it whenever you feel you need Allah's forgiveness or help.

💡 Did You Know?

An entire chapter of the Qur'an, Surah Yunus, is named after this Prophet, even though his own story is told in more detail in a different chapter, Surah As-Saffat.

19. Prophet Zakariya (peace be upon him)

The Answered Prayer

Who Was He?

Prophet Zakariya (peace be upon him) was a gentle and devoted elder who spent his whole life serving Allah in Bait-ul-Maqdis (Jerusalem), teaching people and caring for the young Maryam (Mary), who would later become the mother of Prophet Isa.

The Story

Prophet Zakariya had grown very old, his hair completely white and his body weak, and for many years he had one deep wish: a righteous child to continue teaching people about Allah after he was gone. Though he and his wife had never been able to have children, Zakariya never lost hope.

One quiet night in the prayer chamber, he whispered sincerely to Allah, ***"My Lord, indeed my bones have weakened, and my head has filled with white, and never have I been in my supplication to You, my Lord, unhappy."*** (Qur'an 19:4) He asked Allah for an heir who would be pleasing in His sight.

Suddenly, while he stood praying, the angels called out to him with wonderful news: ***"Allah gives you good tidings of Yahya, confirming a word from Allah... and a Prophet from among the righteous."*** (Qur'an 3:39) Astonished, Zakariya asked, ***"My Lord, how will I have a boy when my wife is barren and I have reached extreme old age?"*** (Qur'an 19:8) Allah replied simply, ***"It is easy for Me, for I created you before, while you were nothing."*** (Qur'an 19:9)

As a sign of this incredible blessing, Allah told Zakariya he would not be able to speak to people for three days and nights, even though he was perfectly healthy — a private, joyful secret between him and his Lord. Soon after, Allah blessed him and his wife with a pure, gentle son named Yahya, and Zakariya's heart overflowed with gratitude that his sincere, patient dua had finally been answered.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Maryam 19:2-11, Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:38-41

What Can We Learn?

- Never give up making dua, even if the answer seems to take a very long time.
- Allah can make even the most unlikely things happen.

- Old age or difficult circumstances are never a barrier to Allah's power.
- A sincere, humble heart in prayer is deeply loved by Allah.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Zakariya never stopped hoping, even after so many years?*
2. *Is there something you have been making dua for patiently? How does this story encourage you?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Make a sincere, private dua tonight for something good, and remember Zakariya's patience — trust that Allah hears you, even if the answer takes time.

20. Prophet Yahya (peace be upon him)

The Brave and Pure

Who Was He?

Prophet Yahya (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as John, was the long-awaited son of Prophet Zakariya, born after his parents had prayed patiently for many years. From the very start of his life, he was marked by purity, wisdom, and courage.

The Story

Even as a small child, Yahya was different from other children — calm, thoughtful, and deeply devoted to Allah. While other children played loudly in the streets, Yahya often preferred sitting quietly, learning, and remembering Allah. The Qur'an tells us that Allah gave him **"wisdom while yet a boy."** (Qur'an 19:12)

Allah commanded him directly, **"O Yahya, take the Scripture with determination."** (Qur'an 19:12) and Yahya obeyed with his whole heart. He grew into a young man known for his gentleness, his truthfulness, and his deep respect for his parents. He never spoke harshly, never hurt anyone, and always helped those who were poor or in need.

As Yahya grew older, he saw many people around him ignoring Allah's commands and following their own desires instead. Even though this troubled him deeply, he did not shy away from reminding people gently, "Fear Allah, and do what is right." When some grew angry at his honesty, Yahya remained calm, brave, and unafraid — for his courage came from his love of Allah, not from wanting to prove anything to anyone.

Allah praised Yahya beautifully in the Qur'an, describing him as **"kind to his parents, and he was not domineering, disobedient. And peace be upon him the day he was born and the day he dies and the day he is raised alive."** (Qur'an 19:14-15)

Though his life was short, Yahya became a timeless example of purity, truthfulness, and quiet, faithful bravery.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Maryam 19:12-15, Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:39

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Good manners and kindness to parents are deeply loved by Allah.
- You can be gentle and still be brave when standing up for what is right.
- Wisdom and good character can be shown even at a young age.
- True courage comes from love of Allah, not from wanting attention.

Think About It

1. *What do you think made Yahya different from the other children around him?*
2. *How can you show kindness and respect to your own parents this week, the way Yahya did?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Do one extra kind thing for your parents today without being asked — like helping tidy up or saying a heartfelt thank-you.

21. Prophet Isa (peace be upon him)

The Kind Messenger

Who Was He?

Prophet Isa (peace be upon him), known in other traditions as Jesus, was a gentle and merciful Messenger of Allah, born miraculously to Maryam (Mary), a pure and devoted woman chosen by Allah above all the women of her time.

The Story

Maryam had dedicated her life to worshipping Allah, and when Allah blessed her with a son without a father — a sign of His limitless power — many people were confused and asked her difficult questions. Instead of arguing back, Maryam simply pointed to her newborn baby. To everyone's astonishment, baby Isa spoke from the cradle, saying, ***"Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet."*** (Qur'an 19:30)

As Isa grew, Allah blessed him with extraordinary miracles — all performed only by Allah's permission, never by his own power. The Qur'an tells us Isa could shape a bird from clay and, ***"by permission of Allah,"*** (Qur'an 3:49) breathe life into it so it would fly. He healed those who were blind from birth and those with serious illnesses, and, by Allah's will alone, he even brought the deceased back to life.

Despite these astonishing miracles, Isa never once claimed any power for himself. He always reminded people, ***"Indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is a straight path."*** (Qur'an 3:51) He was famous for his mercy, his patience, and his deep care for the poor and the sick. He forgave those who wronged him and taught people to love one another and to worship Allah sincerely.

Even when many people refused to listen and made life very difficult for him, Isa remained gentle and patient, continuing to pray for guidance for those around him. His life remains, for Muslims, a shining example of humility, mercy, and complete devotion to Allah alone.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Maryam 19:16-34, Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:45-51, Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:110

What Can We Learn?

- True miracles happen only by Allah's permission, never by a person's own power.
- Mercy, gentleness, and forgiveness are beautiful qualities to build in ourselves.

- Helping the poor and the sick is a mark of a truly good heart.
- All worship and gratitude ultimately belong to Allah alone.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Isa always reminded people that the miracles happened by Allah's permission?*
2. *How can you show mercy and kindness to someone who is sick or in need this week?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Visit or call an elderly or sick relative this week and spend a little time being kind to them, following Prophet Isa's example of caring for others.

22. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)

Al-Amin, The Truthful and Trustworthy

Who Was He?

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the final Messenger sent by Allah, and his life is the most complete and best-documented example of good character that Muslims turn to. Long before he ever received revelation, he was already famous throughout Makkah for one shining quality: his honesty.

The Story

As a young man growing up in Makkah, Muhammad ﷺ was so well known for telling the truth and keeping his promises that the people of the city gave him a beautiful title — Al-Amin, meaning "The Trustworthy One." People who wanted to travel or feared for the safety of their valuables would leave their money and belongings with him for safekeeping, knowing without any doubt that he would never take anything that wasn't his.

He was also known for his kindness. He helped the poor, visited the sick, spoke gently even to those who were rude to him, and treated every person — rich or poor, young or old — with the same respect.

One well-known event showed his wisdom clearly, even before he became a Prophet. When the tribes of Makkah rebuilt the Ka'bah, a serious dispute broke out over who had the honour of placing the sacred Black Stone back in its position. Tempers rose, and it seemed as though the disagreement might turn into a fight. Then someone suggested, "Let us ask Al-Amin to decide — we all trust him."

When Muhammad ﷺ arrived, he thought carefully and came up with a fair solution that pleased everyone. He spread out a cloth, placed the Black Stone in the centre of it, and asked a representative from each tribe to hold one edge of the cloth. Together, they lifted the stone to the right height, and Muhammad ﷺ himself then placed it gently into position. Every tribe had shared in the honour, and no one felt cheated.

As he grew older, Muhammad ﷺ would often retreat to the cave of Hira to reflect quietly, away from the noise of the city. It was there, at the age of forty, that Allah chose him as His final Prophet, sending the angel Jibreel with the very first revelation of the Qur'an. From that moment, Muhammad ﷺ dedicated the rest of his life to spreading Allah's message of kindness, justice, mercy, and the worship of the One true God — becoming, as the Qur'an describes him, **"a mercy to the worlds." (Qur'an 21:107)**

Qur'an: Surah Al-Qalam 68:4, Surah Al-Anbiya 21:107; Sahih al-Bukhari

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Honesty builds trust that lasts a lifetime.
- Wisdom and fairness can settle even the most heated disagreements.
- Good character should be shown to everyone, not only to people who are kind to us first.
- Quiet reflection and turning to Allah can bring great clarity in life.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the people of Makkah trusted Muhammad ﷺ so completely, even before he became a Prophet?*
2. *What made his solution for the Black Stone fair to everyone involved?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Practice being completely truthful today, even in small things, and notice how it feels when people trust you because of it — just like the people of Makkah trusted Al-Amin.

💡 Remember This

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the final Messenger of Allah, and Muslims believe no other Prophet will come after him.

23. The Boy and the King

A True Story the Prophet ﷺ Told Us — Ashab al-Ukhlood

Who Was He?

This is not the story of a named Prophet, but a true account that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself taught his companions, recorded in Sahih Muslim and mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Buruj. It tells of a brave young boy who lived long ago and refused to give up his faith in Allah, no matter the cost.

The Story

Long ago, there lived a cruel king who demanded that all his people worship him instead of Allah. Anyone who refused faced severe punishment. In his kingdom lived a wise old sorcerer who taught magic to the king's people — and among his students was a young boy sent to learn from him.

On his way to the sorcerer's lessons, the boy would pass by a monk who worshipped Allah sincerely. Curious, the boy began stopping to listen to him, and in time, his heart filled with faith in the One true God, more than anything the sorcerer had ever taught him.

Allah blessed the boy with the ability to cure illnesses through sincere dua, and word of his gift spread through the kingdom. When a blind courtier of the king was healed and openly credited Allah — not the king — for the cure, the furious king had the monk and the courtier put to death, and then turned on the boy himself.

The king tried again and again to have the boy killed — from a mountaintop, in the sea — yet each time, Allah protected him and he returned unharmed, having called out sincerely to Allah for help. Finally, the boy told the king honestly that he could only be killed if the king gathered all the people together, tied the boy to a stake in the open field, and shot an arrow while saying, "In the name of the Lord of this boy."

The king, thinking this was simply a trick, did exactly as the boy said — and this time, the arrow reached him. As the boy fell, the people who were watching cried out together, "We believe in the Lord of this boy!" The truth the boy had died for had reached an entire kingdom in that very moment.

Furious that his own plan had led his people to believe in Allah, the cruel king ordered large trenches to be dug and filled with fire, commanding that anyone who believed in Allah be thrown into the flames unless they gave up their faith. Remarkably, the believers remained firm, refusing to abandon the truth even in the face of the fire, and the Qur'an tells us of their reward: ***"Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds — for them will be gardens beneath which rivers flow. That is the great attainment."*** (Qur'an 85:11)

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Qur'an: Surah Al-Buruj 85:4-11; Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- True faith is not measured by age — even a young boy can be remarkably brave for Allah's sake.
- Sincere belief is worth holding onto, even when it is dangerous to do so.
- Allah's plan can turn even a cruel trick into a way of spreading the truth.
- Every sacrifice made for Allah's sake is seen and rewarded by Him.

Think About It

1. *What do you think gave the young boy the courage to stay firm in his faith?*
2. *Why do you think the people believed in Allah after seeing what happened to the boy?*

A Small Challenge

Think of one thing you believe is right, even if it isn't the most popular choice among your friends, and practise holding firm to it with quiet courage this week.

Part Two

Stories of the Companions (Sahabah)

24. Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (may Allah be pleased with her)

The Loving Wife

Who Was She?

Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) was a respected businesswoman in Makkah, admired for her honesty and generosity. She became the first person to ever believe in Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his message, standing beside him during the most uncertain moment of his life.

The Story

Khadijah ran a successful trading business in Makkah, and she hired the young Muhammad ﷺ, then known simply as Al-Amin, the Trustworthy One, to lead one of her trade caravans. Impressed by his honesty and his gentle, noble character, she later proposed marriage to him, and they built a loving, devoted family together.

Years later, when Muhammad ﷺ received the very first revelation from Allah in the cave of Hira, he came home trembling and afraid, not yet understanding what had happened to him. He said to Khadijah, "Cover me, cover me!"

Khadijah wrapped him gently and, once he had calmed down, spoke words that have been remembered ever since for their wisdom and comfort: "Never! By Allah, He will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your relatives, help the weak, give to the poor, are generous to your guests, and help those in calamity." Her steady faith in his good character helped Muhammad ﷺ find strength during a moment of enormous uncertainty.

From that day forward, Khadijah supported him with everything she had — her wealth, her wisdom, and her unwavering belief in his mission — becoming the very first person, out of everyone in the world, to accept Islam. She stood beside him through the hardest early years of Prophethood, when very few people believed and many mocked and threatened them.

Allah honoured her greatly for her faith and sacrifice. It is narrated that the Angel Jibreel once brought her special greetings of peace from Allah, along with the news of a palace built for her in Paradise, made of hollowed pearl, free of any noise or hardship.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Supporting the people we love during difficult times is one of the greatest forms of kindness.
- Honesty and good character earn deep, lasting trust.
- Generosity toward the poor and needy is deeply loved by Allah.
- A calm, comforting word at the right moment can make a huge difference to someone who is afraid.

Think About It

1. How do you think Khadijah's calm words helped Prophet Muhammad ﷺ feel less afraid?
2. Who in your life supports and comforts you when you are worried, the way Khadijah supported the Prophet ﷺ?

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time someone in your family feels worried or upset, try comforting them with kind, reassuring words, just as Khadijah comforted the Prophet ﷺ.

25. Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Best Friend

Who Was He?

Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) was the closest and most loyal friend of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and he later became the first Caliph, or leader, of the Muslim community after the Prophet's death.

The Story

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first told his close friend Abu Bakr that Allah had chosen him as a Messenger, Abu Bakr believed him instantly, without asking for a single proof. Because of this immediate, complete trust, he earned the beautiful title As-Siddiq, "The Truthful One who never doubts."

Abu Bakr spent much of his wealth helping the poor and freeing enslaved Muslims who were being cruelly treated because of their faith, including the famous companion Bilal ibn Rabah. He stood firmly beside the Prophet ﷺ through every hardship, never once wavering, even when the small community of Muslims faced great danger.

When the leaders of Makkah plotted to harm the Prophet ﷺ, Allah commanded him to migrate secretly to Madinah. Abu Bakr insisted on going with him, and the two friends travelled by night, hiding during the day. At one point, they took shelter in a cave called Thawr, and their pursuers came dangerously close. Abu Bakr, worried for his beloved friend's safety, whispered, "O Messenger of Allah, if they simply look down, they will see us."

The Prophet ﷺ replied with complete calm, **"Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us."** (***Qur'an 9:40***) Remarkably, Allah caused a spider to weave a web across the cave's entrance and a pair of pigeons to nest just outside. When their pursuers arrived and saw the undisturbed web and nest, they assumed no one could possibly be inside, and they turned back.

After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, the Muslim community turned to Abu Bakr to lead them. As the first Caliph, he ruled with the same fairness, humility, and gentle honesty that had defined his entire life, always putting the needs of the Ummah before his own comfort.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari; Qur'an 9:40

What Can We Learn?

- True friendship means standing by someone through the hardest of times.
- Complete trust in Allah brings peace, even in the most frightening situations.
- Generosity and sacrifice for the sake of others are deeply rewarded by Allah.
- Believing sincerely, without needing constant proof, reflects a strong and trusting heart.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Abu Bakr believed the Prophet ﷺ right away, without asking for proof?*
2. *How would you have felt hiding in the cave, waiting to see if you would be found?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Be a true, loyal friend to someone this week — stand up for them or help them the way Abu Bakr stood by the Prophet ﷺ.

26. Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Strong Believer

Who Was He?

Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) was known throughout Makkah for his powerful personality and physical strength. He was once a strong opponent of Islam before his heart changed completely, and he went on to become the second Caliph of the Muslims.

The Story

Before accepting Islam, Umar was one of the fiercest opponents of the small Muslim community, and people were often afraid of his temper. One day, filled with anger, he set out with his sword to confront the Prophet ﷺ, but on the way, he learned that his own sister and her husband had secretly become Muslims. Furious, he went to their home first.

When he heard them reciting verses of the Qur'an, something inside him shifted. He asked to read the words himself, and as he read them, his heart softened completely. He went straight to the Prophet ﷺ afterward — not to harm him, but to declare his belief in Allah and His Messenger.

From that moment, Umar became one of the boldest supporters of Islam. Before his conversion, the Muslims often had to pray in secret, fearing harm from their enemies. Umar changed that, saying firmly, "Why should we hide when we are upon the truth?" He organised the Muslims to pray openly at the Ka'bah, and this open display of courage gave strength and confidence to the entire community.

Umar remained one of the Prophet's ﷺ closest advisors, fighting bravely alongside him and always insisting on fairness for everyone, whether rich or poor. The Prophet ﷺ once said with deep respect, ***"If there were to be a Prophet after me, it would have been Umar."*** (*Sunan at-Tirmidhi*)

After the Prophet ﷺ passed away and Abu Bakr's leadership ended, Umar became the second Caliph. He expanded the Muslim community's reach and built strong systems of justice and welfare, always remembering to treat every single person under his care with honesty and fairness, no matter their status.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim; Sunan at-Tirmidhi

What Can We Learn?

- A person's heart can change completely when they sincerely reflect on the truth.
- Courage means standing openly for what is right, not hiding out of fear.
- A strong personality, when guided by faith, can become a powerful force for good.
- Justice and fairness should be shown to everyone, regardless of their status in life.

Think About It

1. *What do you think caused Umar's heart to change so quickly when he heard the Qur'an?*
2. *Why do you think praying openly, instead of in secret, gave the early Muslims more strength?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Practice being brave about something good today — like standing up for a classmate who is being treated unfairly, the way Umar stood boldly for the truth.

27. Uthman ibn Affan (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Generous Giver

Who Was He?

Uthman ibn Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the closest companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, known for his gentle, shy nature and remarkable generosity with the wealth Allah had given him.

The Story

Uthman was a wealthy and successful merchant, but unlike many wealthy people, he never held tightly to his money. He looked for every opportunity to spend it for the sake of Allah and for the benefit of the Muslim community.

When the Muslims in Madinah faced a serious shortage of clean drinking water, the only well nearby belonged to a man who sold the water at a high price. Uthman purchased the well entirely and then announced to everyone that the water was now free for all to use. The whole community felt immediate relief because of his generosity.

Later, when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ needed to expand the mosque in Madinah to fit the growing number of Muslims, Uthman purchased the extra land needed and donated it completely for the mosque's expansion. The Prophet ﷺ was delighted and said, ***"Whoever builds a mosque for Allah's sake, Allah will build a similar house for him in Paradise."*** (Sahih al-Bukhari)

During the difficult Battle of Tabuk, when the Muslim army badly needed supplies, Uthman generously donated a huge amount of money, camels, and equipment, easing the burden on the entire army. Despite all this wealth passing through his hands for the sake of others, Uthman himself lived simply, dressed modestly, and remained humble and soft-spoken.

The Prophet ﷺ loved Uthman dearly for his generosity and gentle character, and he became known throughout the Muslim community as one whose charity brought comfort and relief to everyone around him.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

What Can We Learn?

- Wealth is a blessing meant to be shared, not hoarded.

- Small acts of generosity, like providing clean water, can bring huge relief to a whole community.
- True kindness is giving quietly, for Allah's sake, not to be praised by others.
- Living simply, even when wealthy, reflects a humble and grateful heart.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Uthman chose to give the well's water away for free instead of keeping it for profit?*
2. *What is something you own that you could share with someone who needs it more?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Give something of your own — money, food, or a toy — to someone in need this week, with the same generous spirit Uthman showed.

28. Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Brave and Wise

Who Was He?

Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) was the cousin of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, raised in his household from a young age. He became known for his remarkable bravery, sharp wisdom, and deep devotion to Allah, and later served as the fourth Caliph of the Muslims.

The Story

Ali grew up close to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, learning good manners, honesty, and love for Allah directly from him. He was one of the very first people to accept Islam, believing wholeheartedly while still a young boy.

When the disbelievers of Makkah plotted together to harm the Prophet ﷺ during the night, Allah commanded him to leave secretly for Madinah. To make sure the enemies believed the Prophet ﷺ was still inside his home, Ali bravely agreed to sleep in his bed that very night, knowing the danger this could bring upon himself.

Ali stayed calm and courageous through that long, uncertain night, showing tremendous loyalty and trust in Allah's plan. Because of his bravery, the Prophet ﷺ was able to leave safely, and the mission of the Hijrah succeeded.

As Ali grew older, he became known as a fearless and skilled warrior, defending the Muslim community in many important battles. Yet what made him truly remarkable was that his strength was always paired with wisdom and fairness. When people came to him with disagreements, he would listen carefully and think deeply before giving a judgment, always searching for the fairest possible solution.

After the death of the third Caliph, Uthman, Ali was chosen as the fourth Caliph. He continued to lead with honesty and deep concern for justice, always reminding people to hold firmly to the Qur'an and to treat one another with kindness and fairness.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Bravery and loyalty often go hand in hand.
- Being close to good role models from a young age shapes strong character.

- Wisdom means thinking carefully before making an important decision.
- True courage is standing for what is right, even when it puts you at risk.

Think About It

1. *How do you think Ali felt lying in the Prophet's bed that dangerous night?*
2. *Why do you think being both brave and wise made Ali such a respected leader?*

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time you have to help settle a disagreement, take a moment to think carefully and listen to everyone involved before deciding what is fair, just as Ali did.

29. Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Lion of Allah

Who Was He?

Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib (may Allah be pleased with him) was the uncle of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and one of the strongest, most respected men in Makkah, known for his courage and his fierce love for justice.

The Story

Before accepting Islam, Hamza was already famous throughout Makkah for his strength and bravery, often spending his time hunting and riding through the desert. Many people admired him, and some were even a little afraid of him.

One day, while Hamza was returning from a hunting trip, he learned that Abu Jahl, a bitter enemy of Islam, had insulted and hurt Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Filled with anger on behalf of his beloved nephew, Hamza walked straight to the Ka'bah, where Abu Jahl was sitting among the Quraysh leaders, and declared boldly, "How dare you insult Muhammad, when I follow his religion and say what he says!"

In that single moment of courage, Hamza announced to all of Makkah that he had become a Muslim. His decision gave enormous strength and confidence to the small, often-mistreated community of early believers, who finally felt they had a powerful protector standing with them.

From then on, Hamza fought bravely in defence of Islam, including at the difficult Battle of Badr, earning him the title Asadullah, "The Lion of Allah," from the Prophet ﷺ himself. Sadly, Hamza was martyred during the Battle of Uhud, and the Prophet ﷺ wept deeply for his beloved uncle, saying, ***"Hamza is the leader of the martyrs." (as narrated in various collections of hadith)***

Even though his life ended in that battle, Hamza's example of standing up boldly for truth and justice — never for pride or anger — continues to inspire people to this day.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- True bravery is standing up for truth and justice, not fighting out of anger or pride.

- Protecting those we love from harm is a noble and courageous act.
- Strength should be used to defend the weak, never to bully others.
- Sacrifice made sincerely for Allah's sake is honoured, even after death.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Hamza's declaration of faith gave the early Muslims so much confidence?*
2. *What is the difference between fighting out of anger and standing up for justice, as Hamza did?*

✿ A Small Challenge

If you see someone being treated unfairly or bullied this week, find a safe and respectful way to stand up for them, the way Hamza stood up for the Prophet ﷺ.

30. Bilal ibn Rabah (may Allah be pleased with him)

The First Caller to Prayer

Who Was He?

Bilal ibn Rabah (may Allah be pleased with him) was once enslaved in Makkah, treated cruelly because of his faith. His unshakeable belief in Allah, even through terrible suffering, later earned him one of the most beautiful honours in Islam.

The Story

When Bilal declared his belief in Allah, his enslaver became furious and tried everything to force him to abandon his faith. He would drag Bilal out into the scorching desert sun, lay him on the burning sand, and place heavy stones on his chest, demanding that he renounce Allah.

Despite the terrible pain, Bilal never gave in. Through gritted teeth, he would repeat again and again, "Ahad, Ahad" — "He is One, He is One" — referring to Allah, refusing to say anything else no matter how much he suffered.

When Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) heard of Bilal's suffering and unshakeable faith, he purchased his freedom immediately and set him free for the sake of Allah. From that day forward, Bilal was a free man, devoted entirely to serving Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

Later, when the Muslims needed someone to call the community to prayer, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ chose Bilal for this honoured role because of his beautiful, powerful voice — and because of the sincerity of his heart. Bilal became the very first Mu'adhin in Islamic history, and his voice would ring out across Madinah: **"Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!"** **(Allah is the Greatest! Allah is the Greatest!)**

The Prophet ﷺ loved Bilal dearly and once told him he had heard the sound of Bilal's footsteps ahead of him in Paradise, a sign of how highly Allah regarded his faith. After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, Bilal found it too painful to call the adhan again, as it reminded him so deeply of his beloved teacher, but his legacy as the first voice to call the world to prayer remains until today.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

What Can We Learn?

- No matter how difficult a trial becomes, faith in Allah should never be given up.
- Allah honours those who remain patient and steadfast through suffering.

- A person's worth is measured by their character and faith, never by their circumstances.
- Standing firm for what you believe in can inspire and free others too.

Think About It

1. How do you think Bilal found the strength to keep saying 'Ahad, Ahad' through such pain?
2. Why do you think the adhan became such a meaningful honour for Bilal to carry?

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time you hear the adhan, pause and listen carefully to its words, remembering Bilal's story and the sincerity behind the very first call to prayer.

💡 Did You Know?

Bilal ibn Rabah is remembered as one of the most prominent companions of African descent in early Islam, and his story is celebrated across the Muslim world as a powerful example of dignity and unshakeable faith.

31. Salman al-Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Seeker of Truth

Who Was He?

Salman al-Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) travelled an extraordinarily long journey — both physically and spiritually — from his home in Persia all the way to Madinah, searching sincerely for the truth about Allah.

The Story

Salman was born into a wealthy family in Persia, but even as a young man, something inside him felt unsettled. He sensed that his family's religion was not the complete truth, and he longed to find real answers about the One true God.

When he encountered a group of Christian worshippers, he felt a sense of peace in their devotion and left his home to learn more from them, moving from teacher to teacher over many years. Each teacher, before passing away, would tell him of a final Prophet who was soon expected to appear, guiding him toward the next stage of his long search.

Eventually, hearing signs that pointed toward Madinah, Salman travelled there, crossing deserts and difficult terrain, sometimes even facing hardship and mistreatment along the way. When he finally met Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and heard him speak, recognising the signs he had learned about from his teachers, his heart was flooded with joy. He declared, "This is the truth I have been searching for all my life!"

The Prophet ﷺ welcomed him warmly and said with affection, "Salman is one of us, a member of the family of the Prophet." Salman quickly became one of the most valued companions, known for his intelligence and clever ideas.

During the Battle of the Trench (Khandaq), it was Salman who suggested a clever strategy — never before used in Arabia — of digging a deep trench around Madinah to protect the city from the invading armies. His idea proved brilliantly effective, and the Muslims were able to defend their city successfully.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Musnad Ahmad

What Can We Learn?

- Sincerely searching for the truth, even when it takes a long journey, is always worthwhile.
- Allah guides those who genuinely seek Him with an open heart.

- New and clever ideas, even from unexpected places, can benefit the whole community.
- Patience during a long search is eventually rewarded.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Salman kept searching for so many years instead of giving up?*
2. *What does his story teach us about being open to learning from different places and people?*

✿ A Small Challenge

If you have a question about your faith that you don't know the answer to, ask a parent, teacher, or imam this week, just as Salman kept asking and searching until he found the truth.

32. Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Trustworthy Leader

Who Was He?

Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah (may Allah be pleased with him) was among the very first people to accept Islam and one of the closest, most humble companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, known for his gentle nature and complete honesty.

The Story

Abu Ubaidah rarely spoke unless he had something wise or important to say, and whenever he gave his word, people knew they could rely on it completely. The Prophet ﷺ loved him deeply and once said, ***"Every nation has a trustworthy man, and the trustworthy man of this nation is Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah."*** (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Because of his honesty and calm leadership, the Prophet ﷺ often appointed him to lead the Muslim army during military campaigns. Even though he held such an important position, Abu Ubaidah never behaved with pride. He treated every soldier under his command like a beloved brother.

During one difficult journey when food supplies ran dangerously low, Abu Ubaidah made sure that whatever little food remained was shared fairly among all the soldiers, always taking the smallest portion for himself and giving the best to others.

Even after he became a respected leader among the Muslims, Abu Ubaidah continued to live very simply, without a grand home or fine clothing. When someone once asked him why he did not keep more wealth for himself, he smiled gently and said, "I don't need much — I only need what will take me to Jannah."

People loved and respected him deeply for his fairness, humility, and unwavering honesty, and when he eventually passed away, the Muslims mourned, saying they had lost one of the most trustworthy men their community had ever known.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Keeping your word, in big things and small, builds deep trust with others.
- A true leader serves others before serving himself.

- Living simply, even with wealth or status, reflects humility and wisdom.
- Trustworthiness is one of the most valuable qualities a person can have.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the Prophet ﷺ chose Abu Ubaidah specifically for his honesty when leading the army?*
2. *What does it mean to 'need only what will take you to Jannah,' as Abu Ubaidah said?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Practice keeping every promise you make today, no matter how small, to build the same trustworthy character Abu Ubaidah was known for.

33. Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Brave Archer

Who Was He?

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the earliest people to accept Islam and became famous for his courage and skill, being the very first person to shoot an arrow for the sake of Allah in the defence of the early Muslim community.

The Story

From a young age, Sa'd loved and believed in Prophet Muhammad ﷺ deeply, accepting Islam early on despite the risks this brought from his own community. He was known for his physical strength, courage, and steady trust in Allah.

As tensions grew between the small Muslim community and those who opposed them, Sa'd became known as a skilled archer, ready to defend the truth whenever it was needed. In one of the earliest recorded clashes, Sa'd was the first Muslim to shoot an arrow in defence of Islam, showing tremendous bravery at a time when standing up for the faith was extremely dangerous.

The Prophet ﷺ cherished Sa'd's courage and devotion, and on one occasion, filled with affection and pride, said to him, "Shoot, may my father and mother be sacrificed for you, O Sa'd!" This was an extraordinary expression of love and encouragement from the Prophet ﷺ.

Throughout the years that followed, Sa'd continued to fight bravely in defence of the Muslim community, never once giving up his trust in Allah, even during the most difficult moments of battle. He became known as one of the ten companions who were given the incredible news, during their lifetime, that they were promised Paradise.

Sa'd's story reminds us that real courage is not about seeking glory, but about standing firm for truth and trusting completely in Allah's help, even in the most frightening circumstances.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Courage for the sake of truth is one of the most admirable qualities a person can have.
- Trusting Allah in dangerous or difficult moments brings inner strength.
- Encouragement from someone we love and respect can inspire us to be braver.
- Standing firm for what is right is more important than seeking praise.

Think About It

1. *How do you think Sa'd felt being the first person to defend the Muslims with an arrow?*
2. *What does it mean to be brave 'for the sake of Allah' rather than for fame or attention?*

A Small Challenge

Do something brave and good today, even if no one is watching or praising you for it — just for the sake of pleasing Allah, like Sa'd did.

34. Talha ibn Ubaidullah (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Shield of the Prophet ﷺ

Who Was He?

Talha ibn Ubaidullah (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the earliest and most devoted companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, remembered above all for the extraordinary bravery he showed in protecting the Prophet ﷺ during a moment of great danger.

The Story

Talha accepted Islam early and loved the Prophet ﷺ with his whole heart, standing firmly by his side through every hardship the small Muslim community faced in its early years.

During the Battle of Uhud, a chaotic moment arose when enemy soldiers surrounded the Prophet ﷺ, and arrows and stones flew through the air from every direction. Many of the Muslim fighters were frightened and scattered, but Talha ran directly toward the danger instead of away from it.

He reached the Prophet ﷺ, who had been injured, and helped him climb to safety on a nearby rock. Then, without any hesitation for his own safety, Talha placed his own body between the Prophet ﷺ and the incoming arrows, shielding him completely. Arrow after arrow struck Talha's hand and body, wounding him badly, yet he did not step back even once until he was certain the Prophet ﷺ was safe.

After the battle ended, the Prophet ﷺ looked upon Talha with deep love and admiration and said, "Whoever wishes to see a martyr walking upon the earth, let him look at Talha ibn Ubaidullah."

Talha's selfless bravery that day became one of the most remembered acts of loyalty in early Islamic history, teaching generations of Muslims what it truly means to protect and defend those we love, even at great personal cost.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

What Can We Learn?

- True bravery often means running toward danger to protect someone else, not away from it.
- Loyalty and love for the Prophet ﷺ inspired incredible acts of selflessness among his companions.

- Protecting others, even at a cost to ourselves, is one of the most noble things we can do.
- Real courage comes from faith, not from seeking attention or glory.

Think About It

1. *What do you think gave Talha the courage to shield the Prophet ﷺ with his own body?*
2. *Can you think of a time you protected or helped someone even though it was a little difficult for you?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Look out for someone smaller or younger than you today — a sibling, cousin, or classmate — and protect or help them the way Talha protected the Prophet ﷺ.

35. Zubair ibn al-Awwam (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Brave Defender

Who Was He?

Zubair ibn al-Awwam (may Allah be pleased with him) was the cousin of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and one of the earliest people to accept Islam, becoming known for his courage and fearless devotion from a very young age.

The Story

Even as a young boy, Zubair's heart was filled with love for Allah and His Messenger ﷺ. One day, in the early years of Islam, someone came running through the streets shouting that the Prophet ﷺ was in danger.

Without a moment's hesitation, Zubair grabbed his sword and ran as fast as he could toward the sound of trouble, ready to defend the Prophet ﷺ with everything he had, even though he was still very young. When the Prophet ﷺ saw the boy's courage and determination, he smiled warmly and made a special dua for him, asking Allah to bless his bravery and strengthen his faith.

As Zubair grew older, he became known as one of the fiercest and most loyal defenders of Islam, fighting in many important battles alongside the Prophet ﷺ. Despite his fearsome reputation in battle, Zubair was known among his close companions for his humility — he never fought to be praised or to win fame, only to please Allah and protect the truth.

His example showed the early Muslim community that courage is not measured by age, but by the strength and sincerity of one's faith.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Age does not determine how much good a person can do — Zubair showed great courage even as a young boy.
- Loyalty to what is right should come without hesitation.
- True bravery is standing for goodness, not seeking fame.
- Faith gives strength to face fear.

Think About It

1. *How do you think Zubair felt running toward danger, even though he was still young?*
2. *What is something brave and good you could do today, even if you feel a little nervous about it?*

✿ **A Small Challenge**

The next time you feel a little scared to do the right thing, remember Zubair's courage as a young boy and take a small brave step forward anyway.

36. Abdur Rahman ibn Auf (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Generous Businessman

Who Was He?

Abdur Rahman ibn Auf (may Allah be pleased with him) left everything behind in Makkah for the sake of Allah, and through honest hard work in Madinah, he built a successful trade — only to give most of it away in generosity again and again.

The Story

When Abdur Rahman migrated from Makkah to Madinah, he arrived with almost nothing — no house, no money, no business — having left it all behind for Allah's sake. But he carried something far more valuable: unwavering faith and a hardworking spirit.

In Madinah, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ paired the Muhajirun, who had migrated from Makkah, with the Ansar, the generous people of Madinah who welcomed them. One kind Ansari offered to share half of everything he owned — his home, his wealth, even offering to divide his own family's belongings. Abdur Rahman thanked him warmly but replied, "May Allah bless you and your family. Just show me the way to the marketplace."

He preferred to earn honestly rather than accept charity, and he began trading small goods like milk and dates. Because of his honesty and hard work, Allah blessed his business richly, and it grew larger and larger over the years.

Whatever wealth Abdur Rahman earned, he gave generously in charity, helping poor families, freeing people from slavery, and supporting the Muslim army during difficult battles, once donating hundreds of camels and a huge sum of money during the Battle of Tabuk.

One day, a massive trade caravan arrived in Madinah loaded with goods belonging entirely to Abdur Rahman, and the whole city buzzed with talk of how successful he had become. Feeling humbled rather than proud, he decided to give the entire caravan away in charity. When the Prophet ﷺ heard of this incredible generosity, he said, ***"Abdur Rahman ibn Auf will enter Paradise crawling because of the weight of his good deeds."*** (as narrated in various hadith collections) — meaning his charity was so heavy with reward that it would carry great weight in his favour.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Earning wealth honestly, through hard work, is a blessed way to live.
- True wealth is measured by what we give, not only by what we keep.
- Success should make us humble and generous, not proud.
- Charity given sincerely brings enormous reward from Allah.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Abdur Rahman wanted to earn his own living instead of accepting half of someone else's wealth?*
2. *How did giving away his caravan show that Abdur Rahman valued Allah's reward more than worldly success?*

✦ A Small Challenge

Set aside a small amount of your allowance or savings this week to give in charity, following Abdur Rahman's example of generosity.

37. Abu Ayub al-Ansari (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Prophet's Kind Host

Who Was He?

Abu Ayub al-Ansari (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the generous Ansar of Madinah, remembered forever for the honour he received of hosting Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in his own home after the migration from Makkah.

The Story

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ arrived in Madinah after the long and difficult journey of Hijrah, the entire city came out to welcome him with tremendous joy. Every family wanted the honour of hosting him, with some even holding the rope of his camel and pleading, "Stay with us, O Messenger of Allah!"

The Prophet ﷺ replied gently, "Let the camel go, for she is guided by Allah's command." The camel walked on peacefully through the streets, with the whole city following curiously, until finally it knelt down in front of the home of Abu Ayub al-Ansari.

Overjoyed at this honour, Abu Ayub rushed forward and said with a full heart, "O Messenger of Allah, this is my home, and everything I own is yours." He and his wife immediately prepared their best space for the Prophet ﷺ, offering him the upstairs room, but the Prophet ﷺ preferred to stay on the ground floor, so that people could easily visit and learn from him.

Abu Ayub and his wife were so careful and thoughtful that they would tiptoe quietly whenever they moved around upstairs, worried about disturbing the Prophet's ﷺ rest below. Their home became filled with warmth, respect, and blessing during the time the Prophet ﷺ stayed there.

Abu Ayub continued to serve Islam faithfully throughout his life, joining battles in defence of the Muslim community well into his old age. He is remembered as a beautiful example of true hospitality — giving generously and thoughtfully, without ever expecting anything in return.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Seerah literature, including Ibn Hisham

What Can We Learn?

- True hospitality means making guests feel comfortable and respected.

- Small, thoughtful gestures — like being quiet so as not to disturb someone — show real care.
- Serving and helping others sincerely brings great blessings.
- An honour given by Allah should be received with humility and gratitude.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Abu Ayub felt so honoured to have the Prophet ﷺ stay in his home?*
2. *How can you make a guest in your own home feel welcome and comfortable?*

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time someone visits your home, try to be an extra thoughtful and generous host, remembering Abu Ayub's example.

38. Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Scholar of Islam

Who Was He?

Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) was the young cousin of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who grew from a curious little boy into one of the greatest scholars of the Qur'an in all of Islamic history.

The Story

As a young boy, Abdullah loved sitting close to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ whenever he could, listening carefully to every word he spoke. He asked thoughtful questions and always wanted to understand the deeper meanings behind the Qur'an and the teachings of Islam.

The Prophet ﷺ noticed his curiosity and sincerity, and one day, he placed his hand gently on Abdullah's shoulder and made a special dua for him: **"O Allah, grant him deep understanding of the religion and teach him the interpretation [of the Qur'an]."** (*Sahih al-Bukhari*)

Allah answered this dua in the most remarkable way. As Abdullah grew older, he became known for his extraordinary understanding of the Qur'an, memorising it completely and understanding its meanings with astonishing depth for someone so young.

People from far and wide began travelling to learn from him, and he patiently taught anyone who came to him, always reminding his students, "Knowledge brings you closer to Allah." Despite becoming one of the most respected scholars of his time, Abdullah ibn Abbas remained humble, patient, and kind to everyone who sought his guidance.

His life is a beautiful reminder that a sincere love of learning, paired with humility, can lead a person to achieve remarkable things for the benefit of an entire community.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

✦ What Can We Learn?

- Curiosity and asking good questions can lead to deep understanding.
- Seeking knowledge brings a person closer to Allah.
- Even a young person can grow into someone whose wisdom benefits many others.
- Staying humble, even after becoming knowledgeable or respected, is a sign of true wisdom.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Abdullah ibn Abbas loved sitting close to the Prophet ﷺ and asking questions?*
2. *What is a topic you are curious about and would like to learn more deeply?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Ask a thoughtful question to a parent, teacher, or imam this week about something in the Qur'an or in Islam that you would like to understand better.

39. Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Keeper of Hadiths

Who Was He?

Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) was a devoted companion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who, despite being poor and owning very little, became the person who preserved and passed down more of the Prophet's ﷺ sayings than any other companion.

The Story

Abu Huraira's real name was Abdur Rahman ibn Sakhr, but he became affectionately known as "Abu Huraira," meaning "father of the little cat," because he loved cats so much and was often seen with a small kitten nearby.

He had very little wealth, but his heart was rich with a deep love for knowledge. More than anything, he wanted to remain close to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, listening to his teachings and learning from his beautiful character. He spent most of his time in the mosque, close to the Prophet ﷺ, even though it meant living a very simple, humble life.

One day, worried about forgetting the many things he learned, Abu Huraira went to the Prophet ﷺ and said honestly, "O Messenger of Allah, I hear a great deal from you, but I forget it." The Prophet ﷺ smiled kindly and told him, "Spread out your cloak." Abu Huraira did so at once, and the Prophet ﷺ made a sincere dua over it before telling him, "Now gather it to your chest."

From that moment onward, Abu Huraira never forgot a single hadith he learned. He went on to memorise and pass down more than five thousand hadiths — more than any other companion of the Prophet ﷺ — teaching them faithfully to everyone who wished to learn.

Because of his dedication and his remarkable memory, an enormous amount of what we know today about the Prophet's ﷺ words and actions has reached us through Abu Huraira, making him one of the most important sources of Islamic knowledge in history.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Loving knowledge sincerely can lead Allah to bless you with the ability to remember and understand it.
- A humble, simple life does not stop a person from achieving something great.

- Sharing what you learn with others is a beautiful way to spread goodness.
- It is good to ask for help honestly when we struggle with something, just as Abu Huraira did.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think Abu Huraira was so worried about forgetting what he learned?*
2. *What is something you have learned that you could teach or share with someone else?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Learn one new hadith or verse from the Qur'an this week, and share it with someone in your family, just as Abu Huraira shared what he learned with others.

💡 Amazing Fact

Abu Huraira narrated more hadiths than any other companion of the Prophet ﷺ — more than five thousand in total.

40. Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him)

The Helper of the Prophet ﷺ

Who Was He?

Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) was only a young boy when his mother brought him to serve Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and he spent the next ten years of his childhood learning directly from the Prophet's ﷺ gentle example.

The Story

Anas's mother, Umm Sulaym (may Allah be pleased with her), was a devoted believer who wanted her young son to grow up close to the best example of good character in the world. She brought little Anas, only about ten years old, to the Prophet ﷺ and said, "O Messenger of Allah, this is my son, Anas. Please let him serve you."

The Prophet ﷺ agreed warmly, placing his blessed hand on Anas's head and making a heartfelt dua for him. From that day, Anas spent ten years by the Prophet's ﷺ side, helping with small daily tasks — bringing water, running errands, and greeting guests — while quietly learning from the Prophet's ﷺ patience and kindness.

Years later, Anas would often say, "The Prophet ﷺ never once scolded me. He never said, 'Why did you do that?' or 'Why didn't you do this?'" Even when Anas made small mistakes, as any child sometimes does, the Prophet ﷺ never became harsh with him — instead, he guided him gently, with patience and understanding.

This gentle treatment left a lasting impression on Anas, shaping him into one of the most kind, patient, and beloved companions of his generation. He later said that because of the Prophet's ﷺ sincere dua, Allah blessed him with a long life and a large, happy family.

Anas's story is a beautiful reminder of how powerful gentle, patient guidance can be — especially for children who are still learning right from wrong.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari

What Can We Learn?

- Gentleness and patience teach far more effectively than scolding or anger.
- Serving others with a sincere heart brings great blessings.
- Even small daily acts of helpfulness matter and are noticed by Allah.
- The way we treat children shapes the kind of adults they become.

Think About It

1. How do you think Anas felt knowing the Prophet ﷺ never scolded him, even when he made mistakes?
2. How can you be gentle and patient with a younger sibling or cousin, the way the Prophet ﷺ was with Anas?

✿ A Small Challenge

The next time someone younger than you makes a small mistake, respond with patience and kindness instead of frustration, following the Prophet's ﷺ example.

41. Umm Ayman (may Allah be pleased with her)

The Loving Caretaker

Who Was She?

Umm Ayman (may Allah be pleased with her) cared for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from the time he was a small child who had lost his mother, and she remained one of the most devoted believers throughout the difficult early years of Islam.

The Story

When Muhammad ﷺ was still very young, his mother, Aminah, passed away, leaving him without a mother's care. Umm Ayman stepped in with deep love and tenderness, feeding him, caring for him, and comforting him through this difficult loss. The Prophet ﷺ loved her so dearly for this that he later called her, "My mother, after my own mother."

Umm Ayman was also among the very first people to believe in Islam, at a time when doing so brought real danger and hardship. She never wavered in her faith, even when life became extremely difficult for the early Muslims.

When the Prophet ﷺ and his companions made the difficult journey of Hijrah from Makkah to Madinah, Umm Ayman joined them, walking the entire way through the hot desert on foot, without a camel or horse to carry her, and with very little food or water. Despite the exhausting journey, she never once complained, her heart full of determination and love for Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

When she finally reached Madinah safely, the Prophet ﷺ was overjoyed to see her and said with deep respect, "O my mother, you are a woman of Paradise."

Umm Ayman spent the rest of her life serving the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslim community with unwavering loyalty, helping the poor, teaching others, and standing firm in her faith through every hardship, becoming a lasting example of patience, sacrifice, and sincere devotion.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Seerah literature, including Ibn Sa'd's Tabaqat

What Can We Learn?

- Caring for children who have lost a parent is a deeply valued act of kindness.
- True faith often requires patience and sacrifice, especially during hard times.
- Loyalty and love for Allah's sake can carry a person through the most exhausting journeys.

- Simple acts of devoted service can leave a legacy that lasts for generations.

Think About It

1. How do you think Umm Ayman found the strength to walk all the way to Madinah without complaining?
2. Who has cared for you the way Umm Ayman cared for the young Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?

✿ A Small Challenge

Thank someone who has cared for you like a parent or guardian this week, and tell them specifically what you appreciate about them.

42. Fatimah bint Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with her)

The Pure Daughter

Who Was She?

Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with her) was the beloved youngest daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, known for her simplicity, patience, and the deep love and respect she shared with her father.

The Story

Fatimah resembled her father closely, both in appearance and in her gentle, humble character. Whenever the Prophet ﷺ entered a room, Fatimah would stand up out of love and respect to greet him — and remarkably, he would do exactly the same for her, standing to greet his beloved daughter with equal warmth.

Despite being the daughter of the Prophet ﷺ, Fatimah lived a very simple life. She ground flour by hand, fetched her own water, and managed her household with very little help, never complaining about the hard work involved.

Once, when the physical work became tiring, Fatimah asked her father if he could provide her with a servant to help at home. Instead of granting this request directly, the Prophet ﷺ offered her something he considered even better: "Shall I not tell you something better than what you have asked for? Say Subhan-Allah thirty-three times, Alhamdulillah thirty-three times, and Allahu Akbar thirty-four times before you sleep — this is better for you than a servant."

Fatimah accepted this beautiful advice with a smile and practised it faithfully for the rest of her life, showing her trust in her father's guidance over worldly comfort.

The Prophet ﷺ loved her so deeply that he once said, "Fatimah is a part of me. Whoever upsets her, upsets me." Fatimah's life remains a beautiful example of simplicity, patience, and deep love between a child and a parent.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Simplicity and modesty are qualities of true inner beauty.
- Respecting and honouring our parents brings great blessing.

- Remembering Allah through simple words like Subhan-Allah and Alhamdulillah is a powerful daily habit.
- A humble, hardworking attitude is admirable, no matter who your family is.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think the Prophet ﷺ offered Fatimah dhikr instead of a servant?*
2. *How do you show love and respect to your own parents, the way Fatimah did for the Prophet ﷺ?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Say Subhan-Allah, Alhamdulillah, and Allahu Akbar before you sleep tonight, following the beautiful advice the Prophet ﷺ gave his daughter Fatimah.

43. Aisha bint Abi Bakr (may Allah be pleased with her)

The Wise Scholar

Who Was She?

Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) was the wife of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and became one of the most knowledgeable and important scholars in all of early Islamic history, teaching thousands of people about the Prophet's ﷺ life and teachings.

The Story

From a young age, Aisha showed a brilliant, curious mind. She loved to learn, to ask thoughtful questions, and to understand things deeply rather than simply accepting them on the surface.

Living closely alongside Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, she observed his daily life, his prayers, his kindness, and his teachings more closely than almost anyone else. After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, many companions and later generations of Muslims came to her home to learn about the Sunnah — the sayings and actions of the Prophet ﷺ.

Aisha answered every question with patience and remarkable clarity. When someone once asked her a difficult question about how the Prophet ﷺ used to pray, she smiled and said gently, "Let me tell you exactly what the Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to do," before carefully explaining what she had witnessed herself.

Because of her sharp memory and deep understanding, Aisha became one of the most important narrators of hadith in Islamic history, and countless teachings of the Prophet ﷺ have reached later generations of Muslims because she carefully preserved and taught them.

Her life is a shining example of how loving knowledge, being curious, and having the patience to teach others can leave a legacy that benefits people for many, many generations to come.

Qur'anic / Hadith Reference

Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim

What Can We Learn?

- Curiosity and asking sincere questions can lead to deep and lasting knowledge.
- Learning directly from good role models shapes strong character and wisdom.
- Sharing knowledge patiently with others benefits generations to come.
- Seeking knowledge is considered a form of worship in Islam.

Think About It

1. *Why do you think so many people came to Aisha specifically to learn about the Prophet's ﷺ life?*
2. *What is something you have learned recently that you could carefully explain to someone else?*

✿ A Small Challenge

Teach a younger sibling or cousin something you know about Islam this week, explaining it patiently and clearly, just as Aisha did for the people who came to learn from her.

💡 Did You Know?

Aisha is one of the most important narrators of hadith in Islamic history, and a large portion of what we know about the Prophet's ﷺ daily life and habits comes directly from her.