

## **Ramadan 2016: Discussion and Activities**

**1) “The month of Ramadân in which was revealed the Qur'ân, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong)” [Baqarah (2): 185]**

*What we plan to say:* Did you know that the Qur'an was sent during Ramadan? Ramadan is also called the month of Qur'an. The Quran is the best book in the world! It's a very special Book that Allah (swt) sent to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). There are so many things for us to learn from it. We learn about Allah, different stories about different Prophets, we learn about things that Allah has created like rain, the sun, the moon, etc. We also learn about the good things that Allah wants us to do. InshaAllah we're going to be learning about lots of different things that Allah (swt) tells us about in the Quran during Ramadan.

### ***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Make a Qur'an Reward chart with cool stickers to encourage the recitation/memorization of Surahs/verses during Ramadan. We will be making our charts in our Ramadan Memory books.
- 2) Making a fun Qur'an corner in your home, with cushions, mat, bean bag etc. and then make it a place where you and your child (and the rest of the family) can recite Quran on a daily basis :)

**2) Those who spend their wealth [in Allah 's way] by night and by day, in secret and in public - they will have their reward with their Lord. [Baqarah (2): 274]**

### ***What we plan to say:***

Did you know there are some people who don't have food to eat, or a house to live in or proper clothes to wear. Sadaqah is when we give some of our money to help people who need it. The Prophet (S) told us that we should help these people. And Allah (swt) tells us in the Quran that when we help others by giving sadaqat, it makes Allah very happy with us and Allah will reward us with lots of good things! How do you think we can help these people? Give them food, clothes, or money to get thing they need. InshaAllah this will make them happy and make Allah (swt) happy with us too. **Note:** Even though this verse talks about monetary sadaqah, it's also a great opportunity to talk about other forms of sadaqah, smiling, helping people etc.

### ***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Make a Sadaqah box to be used during Ramadan. Encourage the whole family to use the Sadaqah box to collect money and remind everyone that “We're collecting money to give to the poor people who don't have anything, and we want Allah to be happy with us.”
- 2) Decide on a cause, bake some cookies (or any other item) and sell them to friends and family at Iftar to raise money to be put in the Sadaqah box.

**3) “...Not a leaf falls, but He Knows it...” [Anaam (6): 59]**

### ***What we plan to say:***

Allah (swt) is one who makes ALL the trees and All the leaves on the trees. And Allah (swt) knows everything that happens. He knows what time we wake up, what we eat, when we play, when we sleep. He

knows EVERYTHING about everyone. He even knows when a leaf falls from a tree. Can you imagine that?? There are so many trees and on each tree there are so many leaves, and Allah knows about them ALL and knows when they fall too! SubhanAllah, Allah knows everything!

**Activity Ideas:**

- 1) Go outside, examine the different types of leaves on different trees. Watch leaves fall from a tree and marvel with the kids at how Allah KNOWS every single leaf that falls. That's thousands of Leaves!
- 2) Leaf collage or painting leaves (NOTE: can first go outside collect leaves and then do the activity or have pre-collected leaves ready)

**4) “Who has created the seven heavens one above another, you can see no fault in the creation of Ar-Rahman (the Most Gracious). Then look again: “Can you see any holes?” [Mulk (67): 3]**

**What we plan to say:**

In this verse Allah (swt) is asking us who created the sky and everything in it. Allah did! And Allah made the sky SO perfect. When you look at the sky can you see any holes in it? No! Because Allah (swt) made the sky so perfect. And Allah made so many more things in the sky above us. Can you tell me some of those things? Stars, Moon, Planets, Sun, Solar system, Allah made them all perfectly.

NOTE: This discussion would be much more powerful if done outside while looking at the vastness and perfection of the sky.

**Activity Ideas:**

- 1) A discussion on what lies beyond the sky we can see. The moon, sun, planets. Have books, pictures, stickers on the solar system ready to enhance the experience.
- 2) Take any opportunity to point out the vastness of the sky and how perfectly Allah made it. Can we see any holes in the sky? No!

**5) “Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad SAW) you have a good example to follow, for him who hopes in (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much. [Ahzab (33): 21]**

**What we plan to say:**

In this verse, Allah (swt) tells us that the Prophet (s) is an example of the best character. Allah chose him (S) as our Prophet and he (S) did everything in the best way which is why we should follow his example and try and act like him as much as possible. So what was the Prophet (s) like? He was always very kind to everyone and would talk nicely to them. He looked after his family well and always took care of his guests. He was always trying to help people who needed his help. He was especially loving and kind to children. And he (s) was kind to animals too. We should try to have good manners and be like the Prophet (S) and that will make Allah (swt) happy with us.

**Activity Ideas:**

- 1) Start a sunnah! Have a brainstorm session with the kids, tell them about different things the Prophet (S) used to do and pick something your family would like to incorporate into your lives.
- 2) Role play: you can use some of your child's favourite toys to role play different situations that show good character and manners, e.g. sharing, listening to others especially adults, being kind to others, going to visit people at the hospital, etc. You can also try role playing with your child
- 3) Story about the Prophet (s) and the kindness shown to the overworked camel: *'The Prophet (s) once entered the garden of a man from the Ansar (Muslims of Madinah) and there was a camel. When the Prophet saw the camel it started to cry. Then the Prophet of Allah came to it and rubbed its' ears so it calmed down. Then the Prophet said, "Who is the owner of this camel? Whose camel is this?" A young man from the Ansar told him, "O Messenger of Allah, it belongs to me." Then he told the young man, "Do you not fear Allah with regard to this beast which Allah has let you own? It complained to me that you starve it and tire it by overworking it and using it beyond its capacity.'*" (i.e. the Prophet (s) told the young man that the camel had complained that it wasn't getting enough to eat and was so tired because the young man worked it so hard.) The Prophet (s) told the young man that Allah had given him the camel and he need to take care of it properly.

**6) "Do they not see the birds above them, with wings outspread and (sometimes) folded in? None holds them (aloft) except Ar Rahman (the Most Gracious). Verily He is the All-Seer of everything." [Surah Mulk (67): 19].**

***What we plan to say:***

Allah (swt) asks us if we have seen the birds and how they fly and soar high up in the sky. Who keeps them up there in the sky? Allah!! When we see the birds flying, we should remember that it is Allah (swt) who gave them the ability to fly. SubhanAllah.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Organize an outdoor expedition to do some bird watching at a local park
- 2) Make a feather collage (NOTE: need to collect feathers beforehand)
- 3) Pretend to be birds! Use shawl as wings and pretend to fly and soar up high like how the verse describes and ask "Who keeps the birds soaring up high?" "Allah!"

**7) "And those who (carefully) maintain their prayers. They will live in gardens (Jannah) honoured." [Ma'arij (70): 34-35]**

***What we plan to say:***

Allah tells us in the Quran that if we pray our prayers properly, we will go and live in Jannah in beautiful gardens, where we will get whatever we want! Do you know how many prayers a day we pray? Five! What are they called? Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib & Isha. When we pray it makes Allah happy with us.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Make a Salah chart with cool stickers to encourage standing and praying with an adult or going to the Masjid.
- 2) Watch a video of children praying or explore an app about prayer. Some suggestions are:
  - a) Ali & Sumayya: Lets Pray App.

b) 'Time to pray with Zaky' - DVD or search on YouTube

**8) “And We have sent down blessed rain from the sky and made grow thereby gardens and grain from the harvest” [Qaf (50): 9]**

***What we plan to say:***

Allah sends rain from the sky. The rain makes lots of different plants grow. SubhanAllah so many different kinds of plants of all shapes and colours. Some of those plants are harvested as food for us. Can you think of some plants that we eat? Different fruits and vegetables, wheat to make bread etc.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Expedition to Bunnings (or any nursery/plant shop/park) to have a look at all the different plants and emphasize that Allah is the One who made all of them. Discuss the fact that they grow from a tiny seed because Allah sends down rain. Perhaps get a small plant or seeds for the house and watch it grow during Ramadan and beyond.
- 2) Go for a walk under an umbrella on a rainy day and marvel at the rain Allah has sent. Make dua together after all, when it's raining is a time du'a is accepted.

NOTE: For this verse it might be a good idea to have books, videos, pictures of how plants grow from a seed and the germination process. SubhanAllah!

**9) “And whatsoever He has created for you on the earth of varying colours. Indeed in this is a sign for people who remember.” [Nahl (16):13]**

***What we plan to say:***

In this verse Allah (swt) tells us how He is the one who made all the colours. Look around you, what colours can you see? SubhanAllah, Allah made us able to see all those different colours. Next time we see lots of different colours we can think about how the fact that Allah made them.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Paint, draw, colour. Do any art and craft activity that involves lots of colour, where you and your child can sit down and truly appreciate the different colours Allah has blessed us to see. A rainbow would be a nice craft in any form to appreciate a range of colours
- 2) Simple science experiment to make a rainbow:  
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/makearainbow.html>

**10) Indeed, Allah will admit those who believe and do good deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. [Surah Hajj (22):23]**

***What we plan to say:***

Allah tells us in the Quran that if we believe in Allah and we do good things to make Him happy with us, then Allah will send us to Jannah! In Jannah there will be amazing things that we can't even imagine or think about how amazing they will be. Did you know that the yummy things we eat here will taste even better in Jannah, better than anything we've ever tasted!! Chocolate would taste SO amazing in Jannah too, more

yummy that your favourite chocolate. Allah will give that to you and whatever else you want! Jannah sounds amazing!! I really want to go there, what about you? Yes! So InshaAllah to get there we have to do things that make Allah (Swt) happy with us.

**Activity Ideas:**

- 1) Jannah discussions with the family: Each person takes it in turn to say what they would like to have in Jannah, starting with the youngest. And then everyone can make dua that they all go to Jannah.

**11) “Verily, We have sent it (this Qur’ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) (1) And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? (2) The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months) (3) Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (as)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees, (4) (All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn. (5)” [Surah Qadr (97): 1-5]**

**What we plan to say:**

We are now in the last 10 days of Ramadan! These nights are extra special and we have to try and do even more good deeds. Also, did you know that one of the last ten nights of Ramadan is called Laylatul Qadr. There’s a surah in the Qur’an about Laylatul Qadr - Surah Qadr. In this surah, Allah tells us that praying to Allah or doing any good thing on this night is better than a thousand months! Wow that’s a lot!! It’s a very special night when lots and lots of angels come down to the earth. We can’t see them but they are everywhere! We don’t know which night it is so we have to do extra every night and then InshaAllah we will make sure we catch Laylatul Qadr.

**Activity Ideas:**

- 1) Make a dua card with the dua that needs to be repeated often during the last 10 days of Ramadan: *“Allahumma innaka affuwun tuhibbul afwa fa’fu annee.”* “O Allah you love to Pardon, so Pardon me.” Decorate by colouring, painting, stickers.

**12) “Have you not seen how your Lord extends the shadow, and had He wished, He would have made it fixed?” [Surah Furqan (25):45]**

**What we plan to say:**

Allah (swt) made shadows. Everyone of us has a shadow. We get a shadow depending on what light is shining on us. In the daytime we have shadows because of the sun. In the morning our shadows are longer and then as the sun goes up over our heads and our shadows become smaller. Then our shadows become long again when the sun starts to set. SubhanAllah like this verse in Surah Furqan says our shadow become longer and shorter because of Allah, and if Allah wanted he could have made our shadow the same size all the time.

**Activity ideas:**

- 1) Go outside and notice the shadows of everything around us. Point out how the shadow is really small at midday and then gets longer as the sun starts to set.
- 2) Shadow puppets: At night, use a torch to make shadow puppets in a dark room with your hands or get creative and make different puppets to get different types of shadows.

**13) “Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good...”**  
**[Nisa(4):36]**

***What we plan to say:***

In this verse Allah (swt) talks about how important it is for us to be good to parents, that is, our Mummies and Daddys. All mothers and fathers do so much for their children. They look after them, buy them nice things, do fun things with them just like Daddy and I do things for you. I love *my* Mummy and Daddy (our grandparents) and I always try to listen to them and do what they ask me to do and take care of them, so that Allah (swt) will be happy with me. What about you?

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Card for Mum and Dad and/or make something special they would like.
- 2) Learn the du'a: "*Rabbir hamhumma kama rabbayani Sagheera*" - "*O my Lord have mercy on them as they had mercy on me when I was small.*"

**14) “And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colours. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge.”** **[Rum (30):22]**

***What we plan to say:***

Allah (swt) created us all different, some people have different coloured skin, different coloured hair, different coloured eyes. Allah made all of us special in our own way. In different parts of the world, people look different.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Looking at the map to see how big the world is, and then describing how in different places people can look different.
- 2) Reading book of children from different cultures. One suggestion is Kids of the Ummah by Peter Gould (a great App and book of Muslims from all over the world).

**15) “And indeed, for you in grazing livestock is a lesson. We give you drink from what is in their bellies - between excretion and blood - pure milk, palatable to drinkers.”** **[Nahl (16) :66]**

***What we plan to say:***

In this verse Allah is telling us to think about how he gives us milk from cows and how amazing that is. The cow eats and eats lots of grass and that gets turned in its stomach to milk that we can drink. SubhanAllah that's the amazing creation of Allah. Milk is so so good for us and from milk we make other food like butter and cheese.

***Activity Ideas:***

- 1) Remember to say the du'a after drinking milk "*Allaahumma baarik lanaa feehi wa zidnaa minh*" - "*O Allah, bless it (the milk) for us and give us more of it.*"
- 2) Read a book or watch a video of the milking process.