

Engagement Programme

Unit 1: The Afterlife

Section 1: Returning to Allah

Aims

The aim of this session is to help children to understand we came from Allah and will return to Allah.

Learning outcomes

1. To know that we came from Allah and will return to Allah
2. To understand that everyone sins but they can still be forgiven by Allah
3. To learn the conditions of repentance
4. To realise that this world is a time for preparation for the Akhirah and our meeting with Allah

Resources

- Flipchart/ whiteboard /projector/ laptop
- Activity sheet 1
- Internet access

Preparation:

- Teachers will need to familiarise themselves with guidance notes

Skills

- Using information
- Communication skills
- Listening
- Analysing

Keywords & Values:

Return to Allah, Death, Repentance (Tawbah), Forgiveness, Akhirah

Key messages:

- We came from Allah originally and we will return to Allah one day again
- We need to start preparing ourselves to go back to Allah
- Those who return to him in this world will enjoy their return to Allah in the akhirah.



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Section 1: Returning to Allah

1. Lesson starter (20 minutes)

- Introduce the lesson by asking questions:
- What do we say when someone dies?
- Do we know the meaning of 'Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raaji'oon'?

Stimulus activity :

Younger children (8-13)

Returning to Allah Sheet 1

- Read or ask one of the pupils to read out Returning to Allah 1 (RTA1) and then answer the questions
- Ask pupils to share their answers

• 2. Preparing for Akhirah & Repentance (30 minutes)

Read the verses and hadith on this topic and answer the questions (Sheet RTA2)

3. Summary & reflection

Summarise the main points and key messages today's session drawing in from islamic guidance and pupil's contribution in the activities.

4. Further activities

- Watch the video from youtube: TURN TO ALLAH BEFORE YOU RETURN TO ALLAH
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-uyfgq0lp8>
- Memorise the Dua in surah 3: verse 193





Unit 1: Returning to Allah

RTA1

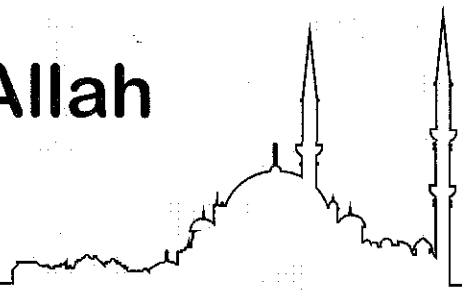
- The meaning of 'inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raaji'oon'. We all repeat this on our lips but don't know the real meaning.
- This statement is a reminder that we came from Allah originally and that we will return to Allah one day again.
- The life after death is known as AKHIRAH
- Many people live life as though they will not be going back to Allah. They go about their daily life ignorant of Allah – that He created them, provides for them, controls their life and death etc. We spend our time in eating, drinking, playing but we never think about the day that we will go back to Allah
- We will ALL GO BACK TO ALLAH. This is a fact and so we need to start preparing for that.
- We need to ask ourselves:
 - o Are we ready to meet Allah?
 - o Have I booked my ticket and reserved my place in Jannah already?
 - o If I was to die today, where am I likely to end up?
 - o Have I got answers ready for all the questions that Allah will ask me?

Activity

- DISCUSS IN PAIRS OR GROUP – How do we prepare for returning to Allah in the akhirah?

Unit 1: Returning to Allah

RTA2



Preparing for Akhirah & Repentance

“Everyone is going to taste death, and we shall make a trial of you with evil and with good, and to **Us you will be returned.**” – [21:35]

- We must all turn towards Allah and recognise that there is no way to escape from Him. Every single person will return to Allah after they die. But in this world, Allah wants us to return to Him also. Those who return to Him in this world will enjoy their return to Allah in the Akhirah. Those who do not turn towards Allah in this life will experience pain and punishment upon their return to Him in Akhirah.
- We all commit sins but Allah is ready to forgive us as long as we are ready to turn towards Him:

“O You who believe! turn to Allâh with sincere repentance! it may be that Your Lord will remit from You Your sins, and admit You into Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise)...” – [66:8]

- Story of the man who killed 99 people (Story sheet 1)

Lessons from the story:

- The limitless forgiveness and mercy of Allah – willing to forgive any sins, in any amounts (except shirk that is not repented from) as long as we don't die upon shirk/kufr
- Not despairing from the mercy of Allah
- The great difference between a worshipper and a scholar
- The importance of staying away from evil environments, places and people in order to be righteous

Glad tidings for the repenter:

- Saheeh hadeeth qudsi: “Allah says: “Whoever knows that I am able to forgive all sins, I shall forgive him, and I shall not mind, so long as he does not associate anything with Me.”
- In fact Allah, if we turn back to Allah and change our ways, Allah is willing to exchange our bad deeds with good ones!
“...except those who repent and believe (in Islâmic Monotheism), and do righteous deeds, for those, Allâh will change their sins into good deeds, and Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” – [25:70]



Unit 1: Returning to Allah

Activity

Read the following and discuss

1. How do we prepare for the akhirah?
2. What is the difference between those who return to Allah in this world (i.e. repent) and those who do not?
3. What are the key lessons to be learnt from the story of the man who killed 99 people?
4. What is the one sin that is not forgiven by Allah as long as it has not been repented for?

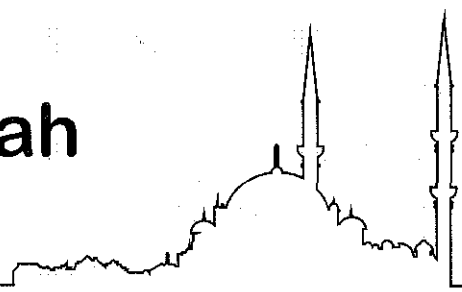
Homework

Learn the following Du'a

رَبَّنَا فَاعْفُرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَقَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ

Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and efface our bad deeds and take our souls in the company of the righteous. (3:193)

Unit 1: Returning to Allah



The man who killed 99 people

Abu Sa'eed Sa'd ibn Malik ibn Sinan al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

"There was among the people who came before you a man who killed ninety-nine people. Then he asked about the most knowledgeable person on earth, and was directed to a hermit, so he went to him, told him that he had killed ninety-nine people, and asked if he could be forgiven. The hermit said, 'No,' so he killed him, thus completing one hundred.

Then he asked about the most knowledgeable person on earth and was directed to a scholar. He told him that he had killed one hundred people, and asked whether he could be forgiven. The scholar said, 'Yes, what could possibly come between you and repentance? Go to such-and-such a town, for in it there are people who worship Allah. Go and worship with them, and do not go back to your own town, for it is a bad place.'

So the man set off, but when he was halfway there, the angel of death came to him, and the angels of mercy and the angels of wrath began to argue over him. The angels of mercy said: 'He had repented and was seeking Allah.' The angels of wrath said: 'He never did any good thing.' An angel in human form came to them, and they asked him to decide the matter. He said: 'Measure the distance between the two lands (his home town and the town he was headed for), and whichever of the two he is closest to is the one to which he belongs.' So they measured the distance, and found that he was closer to the town for which he had been headed, so the angels of mercy took him." (Saheeh Muslim)

According to a report in al-Saheeh: "The righteous town was a hand-span closer, so he was counted as one of its people." According to another report in al-Saheeh: "Allah commanded (the evil town) to move away, and (the righteous town) to move closer, and said: 'Measure the distance between them,' and they found him to be a hand-span closer to the righteous town, so he was forgiven."