

Unit 1: The Afterlife

Section 2: Minor Signs of the Day of Judgement

Aims:

- The aim of this session is to help children to learn and understand the minor signs of the day of judgement

Learning Outcomes:

1. To acquire an overview of the minor signs
2. To realise the truth of Islam as the predictions of the Prophet (saw) come true.
3. To realise that the Day of Judgement is nearing
4. To realise the importance of preparing for the questioning of the Last Day

Resources

- Flipchart/ whiteboard
- Activity sheet 1

Preparation:

- Teachers will need to familiarise themselves with guidance notes

Skills

- Using information
- Communication skills
- Listening
- Analysing

Keywords & values:

Day of Judgement, Last Day, The Hour

Key messages:

- The day of Judgement is near
- It will be difficult to maintain our iman in such days, so we have to take our provisions
- The individuals 'last day' will be at the time of his death.
- The main issue is to not count the days but rather to prepare for it

1. Lesson starter (20 minutes)

Introduce the lesson by asking questions:

- What is the Day of Judgement?
- What are some of the minor signs of the Day of Judgement?
- Do we know when the Day of Judgement will take place?

Stimulus activity:

Younger children (8-13)
Minor Signs Sheet 1

- Read or ask one of the pupils to read out Minor Signs Sheet 1 (MiS1) and then answer the questions
- Ask pupils to share their answers

2. Minor Signs (30 minutes)

Read the sheet (Sheet MiS2) and discuss each point to give greater clarity, as pupils may not have come across many of the signs which have already taken place and are currently occurring

3. Summary & reflection

Summarise the main points and key messages of today's session drawing in from Islamic guidance and pupils' contribution in the activities.

4. Homework - Memorise the Dua



Minor Signs Sheet 1 (MiS1)



- What is the Judgement Day?
The Last Day is the day on which Allah will resurrect all creatures after their death, and He will raise them from their graves to hold them accountable for their deeds which they did in this world. Allah created man and enabled him to live on earth in order to worship Him and perform the deeds that please Allah, and which will benefit him as well as all mankind. Man may perform some good deeds and some bad ones. That is why on the Last Day, the Creator will issue Judgments on His slaves. He will reward the pious for their good deeds, punish the sinners and the oppressors for their sins, and Allah will get back the right of the oppressed from his oppressors and will give it back to him.

- Judgement Day is coming closer but we are not realising this:

○ اقْتَرَبَ لِلنَّاسِ حِسَابُهُمْ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مُّعْرِضُونَ

“Closer and closer to mankind comes their Reckoning, while they turn away in heedlessness.” – [21:1]

○ The Prophet (saw) said, whilst pointing with his index and middle fingers, “The time of my advent and the Hour are like these two fingers.”

- When will the Day of Judgement take place? – No one knows the actual time, not even the Prophet (saw)

- However, Allah has given us signs:

فَهَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ بَغْتَةً فَقَدْ جَاءَ أَشْرَاطُهَا فَأَنَّى لَهُمْ إِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ ذِكْرُهُمْ

*“Do they then await (anything) other than the Hour, that it should come upon them suddenly? **But some of its portents (indications and signs) have already come, and when it (actually) is on them, How can they benefit then by their reminder?**” – [47:18]*

Questions:

1. Summarise what the judgement day is in one sentence.
2. How close is the day of judgement?
3. Why has Allah given us signs before the day of judgement?



Minor Signs Sheet 2 (MiS2)

Minor Signs That Have Already Taken Place

- The coming of the Prophet (saw)
- The splitting of the moon
- The great fire of Hijaz
- The discontinuing of collection of jizyah and kharaj

Minor Signs Continuing Or Yet To Happen

- Emergence of false prophets
 - "There will be thirty Dajjaals among my ummah, each of whom will claim that he is a Prophet, but I am the Seal of the Prophets, there will be no Prophet after me."
 - Examples: Musaylamah Al-Kathaab, Elijah Muhammad from the Nation of Islam
- Communications revolution
 - "The Hour will not come until the time when a man will leave his home, and his shoes or whip or stick will tell what is happening to his family." - Perhaps refers to mobile phones and their use.
- The spread of alcoholism (Khamr)
- Increase in killing and murder
- Honesty will disappear – i.e. corruption will be everywhere
- Some characteristics of people close to the end of time:

'Ali ibn Abi Talib said, "The Prophet said: 'If my Ummah bears fifteen traits, tribulation will befall it.' Someone asked, 'What are they, O Messenger of Allah?' He said:

*'When any gain is shared out only among the rich, with no benefit to the poor;
when a trust becomes a means of making a profit;
when paying Zakat becomes a burden;
when a man obeys his wife and disobeys his mother;
and treats his friend kindly whilst shunning his father;
when voices are raised in the mosques;
when the leader of a people is the worst of them;
when people treat a man with respect because they fear some evil he may do;
when much wine is drunk;
when men wear silk;
when female singers and musical instruments become popular;
when the last ones of this Ummah curse the first ones –
then let them expect a red wind, or the earth to swallow them, or to be transformed into animals"*



Minor Signs Sheet 2 (MiS2)



There are many more signs but it is clear that the end days will be difficult time for the believers:

Increase of fitna and tribulations

- Difficulties of practising the deen
- Immense amount of confusion and doubts about the truth/falsehood
- Prevalence of ignorance
- Abu Hurairah said, The Prophet said:

“Woe to the Arabs from the great evil which is nearly approaching them: it will be like patches of dark night. A man will wake up as a believer, and be a kafir (unbeliever) by nightfall. People will sell their religion for a small amount of worldly goods. The one who clings to his religion on that day will be as one who is grasping an ember - or thorns”

Key Message: In Sahih al-Bukhari, there is a Hadith which states that a Bedouin asked the Prophet about the Hour. He said, “It will surely come to pass. **What have you prepared for it?”**...

Homework – Memorise the following dua

Dua for Protection from Hellfire:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

“Our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter and save us from the torment of the Fire” (Surah Al-baqarah, Verse 201)



Unit 1: The Afterlife

Section 3: Minor Signs of the Day of Judgement

Aims:

The aim of this session is to help children to learn and understand the major signs of the day of judgement

Learning Outcomes:

1. To clearly identify all of the major signs
2. To realise that the Day of Judgement is nearing
3. To realise the importance of preparing for the questioning of the Last Day

Resources

- Flipchart/ whiteboard
- Activity sheet 1

Preparation:

- Teachers will need to familiarise themselves with guidance notes

Skills

- Using information
- Communication skills
- Listening
- Analysing

Keywords & values:

Day of Judgement, Last Day, The Hour, Dajjal, Ya'juj & Ma'Juj, 'Isa (AS), Mahdi, Dukhan

Key messages:

- The day of Judgement is near
- It will be difficult to maintain our Iman in such days, so we have to take our provisions
- These events will occur and the Hour will be established. With the Hour comes judgment and this is what every human should be thinking about and preparing for.

1. Lesson starter (20 minutes)

Introduce the lesson by asking questions:

- [Recap] What is the Day of Judgement?
- What are some of the major signs of the Day of Judgement?

Stimulus activity:

Younger children (8-13)
Major Signs Sheet 1

- Read or ask one of the pupils to read out Major Signs Sheet 1 (MaS1) and then answer the questions
- Ask pupils to share their answers

2. Major Signs (30 minutes)

Read the verses and hadith on this topic and fill in the blanks on the activity sheet (Sheet MaS2)

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. Homework – Memorise the Dua



Major Signs Sheet 1 (MaS1)



- In the Hadith of the Prophet (SAW) we learn that there are 10 major signs of the coming of the day of Judgement:

“The Last Hour would not come until the ten signs appear: a landslide in the east, and a landslide in the west, and a landslide in the peninsula of Arabia, the smoke, the Dajjal, the beast of the earth, Ya’juj and Ma’juj (Gog and Magog), the rising of the sun from the west and the fire which would emit from the lower part of Aden.” The tenth being the descent of ‘Isa (AS). (Sahih Muslim)

- The Prophet (SAW) also said that after all the minor signs have occurred, the major signs will all happen in very quick succession:

“The signs are like beads strung on a string. If the string breaks, they [quickly] follow one after the other.” (Recorded by Ahmad)

- We do not know the specific order of these signs however, Ibn Hajar has divided them into 2 categories – one definitely occurring before the other.

- The 2 categories of major signs:

1. The landslides, The Dajjal, Ya’juj & Ma’juj and ‘Isa (AS) - The appearance of signs from this category should awaken us and encourage us to repent to Allah
2. The beast, the smoke, the rising of the sun from the west – These signs signal the beginning of the resurrection and as such there will be no question of repentance - it would be too late.

Questions:

1. Have any major signs occurred?
2. When are these major signs going to occur?
3. What are the differences between major and minor signs? (Quantity, length etc.)
4. What are the differences between the 2 categories of major signs?
5. Why has Allah given us these signs? Couldn't Allah have just caused the day of judgement to occur without these signs?



Major Signs Sheet 2 (MaS2)

Ya'juj and Ma'juj:

Ya'juj and Ma'juj were wild tribes of central Asia who used to attack people and spread corruption on the earth during the reign of King Dhul-Qarnayn. To protect his people from their invasions, Dhul-Qarnayn raised an iron wall. The Qur'an says that when the day of judgement is near, Ya'juj and Ma'juj would be everywhere on the earth.

"When Ya'juj & Ma'juj are let loose (from their barrier) and they swiftly swarm from every mound" (21:96)

Landslides:

Among the major signs are that 3 landslides will occur – one in the east, one in the west and one in the Arabian Peninsula. Ibn Hajar states that it is likely that the nature of these landslides will be of a much greater magnitude and severity, setting them apart from what occurs customarily in this world

Dajjal:

Al-Dajjal will come, claiming to be God holding Heaven and Hell. His purpose is to deceive, and unbelievers will follow him. He is short, red-faced, blind in the right eye, and has hair which sticks up. He will go around the world, but will be unable to enter Madinah or Makkah.

'Isa Alayhi Salaam:

'Isa (AS) will come at the time of Al-Dajjal and al-Mahdi as well. He will descend at the time of Fajr prayer on a masjid in Damascus, the capital of Syria. He will call people back to Islam and will also be a military leader. The People of the Book will revert to Islam, and wealth will be super-abundant. 'Isa (AS) will break the cross, kill the swine, and personally slay the Dajjal.

The Beast

Allah says in the Qur'an:

"And when the Word is fulfilled against them (the unjust), we shall produce from the earth a beast to (face) them: He will speak to them, for that mankind did not believe with assurance in Our Signs" (Surah 27, Ayah 82)

The Smoke

Smoke will appear all over the earth which will cause believers to catch something similar to a slight cold, whereas the unbelievers will be hit harder by it. Finally, a cold wind will come and kill all believers, leaving only unbelievers on the earth who will then witness the LAST HOUR. The angel Israfil will blow a trumpet, and the resurrection of all human beings will begin. - At this point, the Day of Resurrection commences in which the skies and earth are destroyed by Allah.

The rising of the sun from the west

"No good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before, nor earned good (by performing deeds of righteousness) through his faith." (Surah 6:158)

This verse is referring to the rising of the sun from the West, according to the opinion of the majority of Quran commentators such as Tabari and Ibn Kathir.



Major Signs Sheet 2 (MaS2)



Homework – Memorise the following Dua

رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَمَمْنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

"Our Lord! surely we believe, therefore forgive us our faults and save us from the chastisement of the fire" (Surah Aal-e-Imran, Verse 16)

