

Unit 1: The Afterlife:

Section 4: Death

Aims:

The aim of this session is to help children to learn about death and understand that death is not the end of a person.

Learning Outcomes:

1. To acquire an overview about death itself
2. To understand that there is life after death
3. To realise that we need to prepare for our own death

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:

Death, Life after death, Resurrection, Journey, Soul, Angel of Death, Shaytaan

1. Lesson starter (20 minutes)

Introduce the lesson by asking questions:

- What comes to mind when you hear the word 'DEATH'?
- What are some examples of how people die? Give some international examples as well
- Has anyone experienced a death in their family? Friends? Etc.
- Ask one or two people to relate that experience

Stimulus activity:

Younger children (8-13)

Death Sheet 1 (DS1)

- Read or ask one of the pupils to read out and then answer the questions
- Ask pupils to share their answers

2. The process of Death and Repentance before it (30 minutes)

- Read the verses and hadith on this topic and answer the questions (Sheet DS2)
- Activity: Hand out the word search to each pupil for completion

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



Death - Sheet 1 (DS1)



The **time of death** can be described as the most important moment in the journey of man

- Man is taken away from the world he was familiar with to the unseen

But when death comes to one of them he says 'My lord return me so that I shall do righteousness in that I neglected' No indeed it is only a word he says and there behind them is Barzakh until the day they shall be raised up. [23: 99-100]

- When man sees the angel of death he wishes for it to be delayed even for one more minute and be allowed to offer more good deeds – such delay is impossible at this moment

If you could see when the wrongdoers taste the pangs of death and the angels stretch their hands out, [saying], 'Deliver up your souls. This day you will be awarded a degrading punishment.' [6:93]

- Here it is stated that death is painful for the disbelievers. Although they are ordered to surrender their souls to the angels, they are unwilling; therefore, the soul must be forced out as it does not wish to meet its punishment. [Qurtubi]

Questions:

1. Where are we taken after death?
2. Why do people wish to remain in this life when they see the angel of death?
3. When a soul is removed from the body of a disbeliever, what is the reason behind why they feel pain?



Death - Sheet 2 (DS2)

The process of Death:

According to hadith: The Angel of Death [says to the disbeliever], 'O you foul soul, come out to the anger and wrath of your Lord.' The soul inside the disbeliever's body is overcome by terrible fear, whereupon the Angel of Death violently pulls it out like multi-pronged skewers being yanked out of wet wool - tearing with them the arteries and nerves.

The Angel of Death comes to the [dying] believer, sits at his head and says, 'O you good soul, come out and receive your Lord's forgiveness and pleasure.' Then the soul flows out effortlessly just as water flows from the mouth of a water jug.

Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that the messenger of Allaah (SAW) said: When the soul of a believer comes out [of its body], two angels receive it and rise with it towards the heavens, whereupon the inhabitants of the heavens say, "A good soul has come from the earth. Allaah has blessed you and the body which you used to occupy." [Muslim]

The Agony of Death:

Aishah (RA) reported: Truly, I saw the messenger of Allah when death approached him. He had a container with some water in it into which he dipped his hand and then wiped his face. Then he said: O Allah help me to overcome the agonies of death.

- This hadith shows us that even the Messenger of Allah was seeking protection from the agonies of a death
- Just imagine what we can expect to go through when our time comes.

Appearance of Satan:

Hadeeth: Verily Satan comes to you at all circumstances and affairs of your life, even at the time of eating. [Muslim]

Al-Qurtubi mentions that a great number of pious and dependable scholars are known to have witnessed the presence of Satan at death. He relates that he heard one of his own respected teachers, Imam Abul-'Abbaas Ahmad bin 'Umar al-Qurtubi, say, "I visited the brother of our teacher, Shaikh Abu Jafar Muhammad al-Qurtubi at Cordoba and found him near death. It was said to him, 'Repeat Laa ilaaha illallaah,' to which he replied, 'No! No!' When he came to, we mentioned what had occurred. He said, 'Two devils came to me, one on my left and the other on my right. One of them said, "Die as a Jew, for verily it is the best of religions," while the other said, "Die as a Christian, for truly it is the best of religions." So I answered them saying, "No! No! How dare you say such a thing to me!"



Death - Sheet 2 (DS2)



Repentance before Death:

Forgiveness is not for those who continue to do evil deeds up until when death comes to one of them [and] he says, 'Truly, I repent now!' [4:18]

- This simple Ayah tells us that repentance at the time of death is insufficient for forgiveness
- We need to repent beforehand!

Questions:

1. Describe the difference between the soul being removed from a good person versus a bad person?
2. Where does the soul go after it has been removed from the body?
3. Are we saved from the agony of death as long as we are 'good' believers?
4. Can a person repent at the time of death? Of not, why not?
5. What is the main message to be taken away from the above?

Homework

Learn the following Dua from the hadith of the prophet:

When any of you completes the last tashahhud of his prayer, let him seek refuge in Allaah from four things, saying, 'O Allaah, verily I seek refuge in you from the punishment of the Hellfire and the torment of the grave; from the fitnah of life and of death; and from the evil fitnah of the false messiah. [Muslim, Nasai & others]

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ، وَمِنْ عَذَابِ جَهَنَّمَ، وَمِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْمَحْيَا وَالْمَمَاتِ،
وَمِنْ شَرِّ فِتْنَةِ الْمَسِيحِ الدَّجَالِ



Death - Sheet 2 (DS2)

Activity Sheet: Word Search

Death

Find and circle these words. They run up, down, across, and diagonally.

Death	Life	Journey	Soul	Angel	Shaytaan
Hereafter	Resurrection	Dunya	Agony	Repentance	Disbeliever
Believer					

