



**EAST PRESTON ISLAMIC COLLEGE**

*Islamic Studies.*

*Term Two Holiday Homework.*

*Grade Five: FM, SA.*

*Student Name* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Due Date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*

*Parents Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

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# Character of the Prophets

## Objective of the Lesson:

All the prophets had common character traits. Students will analyze some of the common character attributes that distinguished the prophets. This lesson describes how these character traits can be emulated by all Muslims in their daily lives.



Islam requires us to believe in all past prophets. We are required to make no distinction among them.<sup>2:136</sup> This means that we are required to show respect for all the prophets. The Qur'an says that some prophets became famous and some were given a higher honor, but they were of equal rank.<sup>23:52</sup> Some prophets had greater responsibilities and some had difficult missions. In this lesson, we are going to study some of the character traits of the prophets.

**Faith in the Oneness of Allāh:** Every prophet believed in the Oneness of Allāh. Whether it was Ādam (A), Nūh (A), Ibrāhīm (A), Yusūf (A), Mūsā (A), Sulaimān (A), 'Isā (A) or Muhammad (S), everyone believed there was no deity but Allāh. Their main message to their people was God is One—worship Him alone. People used to worship idols or other objects, but the prophets repeatedly told their people to give up worshipping idols and accept one God. Let us read some quotes from the Qur'an:

- Nūh (A) said: *O my people! serve Allāh, you have no deity other than Him. Surely I fear for you the punishment of a mighty Day.*<sup>7:59</sup>
- Lūt (A) said: *Worship Allāh and obey me.*<sup>26:163</sup>
- Hūd (A) said: *O my people! worship Allāh, you have no deity other than Him. Will you not then practice reverence?*<sup>7:65</sup>
- Sālih (A) said: *O my people! worship Allāh, you have no deity other than Him.*<sup>7:73</sup>



- Shu'aib (A) said: *O my people! worship Allāh; you have no deity other than Him.*<sup>7:85</sup>
- Luqmān (A) said: *O my son! do not associate with Allāh. Surely polytheism is indeed a grievous wrongdoing.*<sup>31:13</sup>

All prophets provided the same message of Unity, or the Oneness of Allāh. They never asked people to worship them. We must respect and follow the message sincerely. No matter what happens in life, we should never give up believing the Oneness of Allāh. None of the prophets ever worshipped false gods or false deities during their lifetimes.

**Mode of delivery of the message:** All prophets were required to simply deliver the message of Allāh. They were not required to force anybody to believe. They simply asked, requested, and encouraged their people to believe. If someone believed, the prophets gave them additional good news. If someone rejected the message, the prophets continued to preach the message to them, but did not force them to believe. The prophets did not curse their people, nor did they punish them, scold them, or do them any harm.

**Prophets did not tell lies:** All prophets were truthful. If they were dishonest, they could not have delivered the truth about Allāh. Since they were truthful, they never told lies. They were honest and kind-hearted. None of the prophets ever used dishonest means to communicate their messages. Allāh says:

*"And it is not of any prophet to act dishonestly. And whoever acts dishonestly, he will bring forth that dishonesty he has done on the day of the Awakening; then each soul will be paid back fully what it has earned, and they will not be wronged."* (3:161)

**Prophets were human beings:** All of the prophets were human beings. People who refused to follow the prophets often questioned why Allāh did not

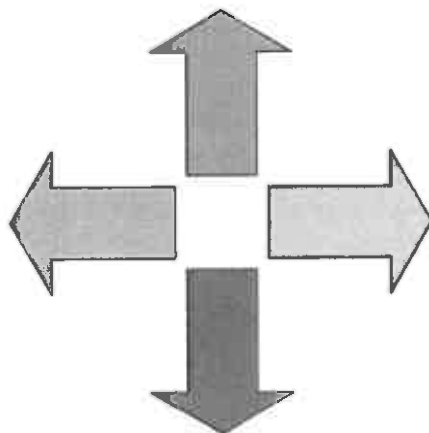
send angels as messengers. In response, Allāh said: *"And if We had made him an angel, We would certainly have made him a man."*<sup>6:9</sup> This shows that only human beings can guide other human beings. Allāh mentioned that all of the prophets ate food and went to the markets—to indicate their human nature.<sup>5:75; 25:20</sup>

**Prophets were visionaries and pioneers:** All prophets were pioneers. When most people blindly followed the ways of their ancestors, the prophets introduced revolutionary thoughts. They told people to give up their idols and worship one/God. The people who worshipped idols always replied: *"We shall rather follow that upon which we found our forefathers."*<sup>2:170</sup>

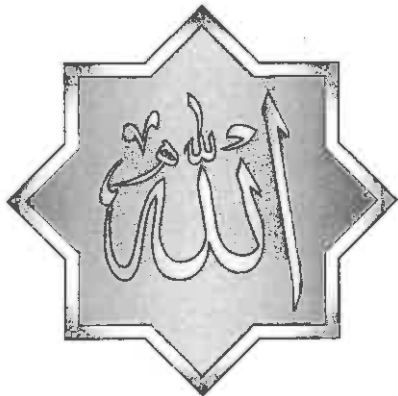
**Prophets were kind:** All prophets were kind-hearted and compassionate. They were particularly kind to their families and parents. Prophet Ibrāhīm (A) was kind to his father even though his father was an idol-worshipper. His father threw him out of his home and even threatened to stone him, but Ibrāhīm (A) prayed for his father and wished him peace.<sup>19:47</sup> Prophet Yahyā (A) was dutiful and kind to his parents.<sup>19:14</sup> 'Isā (A) was kind and dutiful to his mother.<sup>19:32</sup>

**Prophets did not compromise the truth:** No prophet ever compromised the truth. The Quraish once told Prophet Muhammad (S) that if he did not speak against their gods, they would accept Islam. The Prophet (S) did not compromise with them, and continued to speak the truth.

**Prophets did not punish people:** All the prophets were rejected, taunted, ridiculed, and tortured by their people. Ibrāhīm (A) was placed in fire, 'Isā (A) was persecuted, Mūsā (A) was pushed to the extreme by his people, Lūt (A) was threatened, and Nūh (A) was laughed at and ridiculed. But none of the prophets sought revenge against their community. The people sarcastically asked the prophets to bring punishment upon them, but the prophets said that the punishment was Allāh's responsibility.



**Prophets were not greedy:** Often we perform an act expecting something in return. There is nothing wrong with this. Your teacher receives a salary for teaching. A doctor or lawyer serves their clients and is paid for their services. When prophets delivered



the message of Allāh, they did not want any money or rewards from their people. People used to ask the prophets why they were preaching—was it for money? They replied that they served without expecting or asking for any reward from the people. Their reward was from Allāh.

*And O my people! I do not ask for it any wealth, my reward is with none but Allāh. (11:29)*

*And I do not ask you for any reward for it; surely my reward is only with the Lord of all the worlds. (26:180)*

The response above was provided by: Nūh, Hūd, Sālih, Lūt, and Shu'aib (A). It is also quoted in verses 26:109, 127, 145, 164, and 180.

**Prophets performed jihād:** All of the prophets showed strong determination. They worked hard in their mission. They performed **jihād**. The simple meaning of the word jihād is "trying hard to reach a noble goal." For example, when you work hard to do well on an exam, you are doing jihād for the exam. When you see your parents are working hard to earn money to support the family, they are doing jihād. Similarly, the prophets worked hard to convince their people. The prophets did not give up their mission.

**Courage to withstand opposition:** Not everybody liked the prophets preaching religion. Many people

became angry with the prophets and wanted to harm them or kill them. But the prophets did not lose their courage. They stood up to the opposition. In the process, they sometimes suffered, but they persevered. They knew that as long as they were on the right path, the opponents would fail to harm them because Allāh was on their side.

**Prophets depended upon Allāh:** All of the prophets sincerely and whole-heartedly depended upon Allāh for help. They used to pray to Allāh to save them from the bad people. They did not give up hope. When the time came, Allāh helped and saved them. Allāh told prophet Lūt (A) to move out one night before He destroyed the evil cities. Similarly, Allāh told Nūh (A) to build a ship to rescue all the believers before a massive flood destroyed his community. Allāh asked Ibrāhīm (A) to migrate to a different land when people became hostile toward him. Allāh asked Mūsā (A) and his followers to leave Egypt by night and rescued them across the sea. It is Allāh's principle to save the righteous people from all danger planned by evil people.

**A lesson to learn:** From the summary above, we learned that as long as we remain on the path of Allāh, He always saves us. The right path is sometimes difficult, but the right path is the only path Allāh wants us to follow. Sometimes people we know want us to do bad things or tempt us to misbehave. We must resist the temptation. In middle school and high school, we have a lot of challenges, a lot of temptations. But we must stay on the right path. Even if everyone else goes in the wrong direction, we must follow the right path. The question is: how do we know which path is the right path? We only know this by following Allāh's command and our Prophet (S)'s sunnah.

We must follow the right path with determination and dedication. We should be patient when we are faced with difficulty. We should show the utmost trust in Allāh. All the prophets' examples show that Allāh always favors the good people and always saves them from evil.

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1. What is the single message preached by all prophets?

- A. Obey our friends.
- B. There is no deity but Allāh.
- C. Worship me, I will guide you to Allāh.
- D. The right path is not for everybody.

2. In the end, what happens to those who follow Allāh with a sincere heart?

- A. Allāh will protect them.
- B. Allāh will punish them a little.
- C. Allāh will forget them until they provide a ransom.
- D. On the Day of Judgment they will become blind.

3. The lesson uses a specific term that means “trying hard to reach a noble goal.” Which Arabic word is used to describe trying hard?

- A. Shahādah.
- B. Kalimah.
- C. Jihād.
- D. Salāt.

4. When the prophets delivered their messages, what did they NOT ask for from the people?

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5. What is true about the status of all the prophets?

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6. Which statement about all the prophets is correct?

- A. They showed courage.
- B. They showed determination.
- C. They trusted in Allāh.
- D. All of the above.