



Lesson 4 Islamic prayer

The big picture

This lesson explores more deeply one of the five pillars discussed in the last lesson: prayer or salah.

Islamic prayer takes place five times a day, each time taking about ten minutes. These compulsory prayers help Muslims keep God at the front of their thoughts and keep them from doing bad deeds. Other prayers also take place at any time and these are called du'a and are often more personal prayers.

The thinking skills strategy of fact or opinion will be used in this lesson. This strategy is used when material is controversial, such as the idea of a religious belief. It encourages people to think about what is a fact, a belief or an opinion.

Learning objective

Learning about:

- To understand the importance of regular prayer in a Muslim's life; and to understand the beliefs that teach the importance of regular prayer.

Learning from:

- To understand that what is truth to one religion, may be considered to be an opinion to another group of people.

Success criteria

Learning about:

- Pupils will be able to explain the importance of prayer in the life of a Muslim and discuss how prayer improves the life of a Muslim.

Learning from:

- Pupils will have considered facts and opinions about prayers and be able to express their own views about how different people might categorise beliefs.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A2, A3, B3, C2

Resources

- Access to the Internet for video clips of wuzu and salah (www.cleo.net.uk/subjects.php Click on RE KS2)
- **Resource sheet 7:** 'Fact or opinion?'
- **Resource sheet 8:** 'Prayer'

Vocabulary

Belief, du'a, fact, Hadith, opinion, Qur'an, Ramadan, salah

Key questions ?

Why do Muslims pray?

What is the significance of prayer to a Muslim?

Introduction

Introduce the learning objective: 'In this lesson we are going to learn about the importance of prayer to Muslims. You will consider some ideas about prayer and think about whether they are a fact or an opinion.'

Discuss Islamic daily prayer. Explain that it is carried out five times a day and that preparation for prayer is essential. Washing, or wuzu, takes place in a ritual order. After wuzu has taken place prayer can begin once the person is in a clean place, perhaps on a prayer mat and facing Makkah.

Allow people to discuss the following questions with a partner and then get together to discuss each question as a class:

Key questions

*Why do you think people pray?
How do you think it makes them feel?
Do you pray? How does it make you feel?
If you don't pray what do you do when other people might pray?*

Activities

Stimulus

Introduce the 20 fact or opinion cards (**Resource sheet 7**), give out a set to each pair and allow people time to read through them. You may need to read out some of the cards and explain specific vocabulary. For example, you may need to explain that a Hadith is a reported saying of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which gives Muslims guidance on areas of life which are not laid down in the Qur'an.

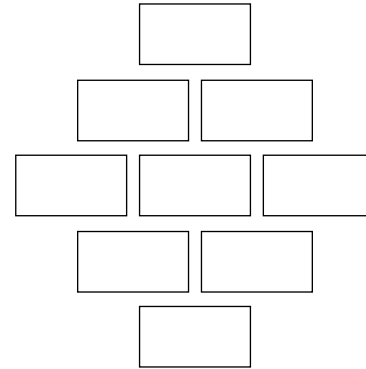
Response

In their pairs, ask the class to discuss whether the statements on the cards are facts or opinions and sort the cards into two piles. Select a card to discuss as a whole class, for example: 'Prayer performed in company is 27 times better than prayer performed alone. (Hadith)'. Have people put this card in the fact or opinion pile? Why have they chosen to put it there? Would a Muslim person choose to put it in the same place? Why? You may want to discuss with the class whether it would be useful to have a 3rd category of belief. Which cards might be placed in this category?

Give out copies of **Resource sheet 8**. Ask each group to write down a justification for why one of their cards is on the fact pile and why one of the cards is on the opinion pile. Ask people to share their categorisations and discuss them as a class.

After the discussion, ask each group to choose nine of their opinion cards that they would like to work with. Arrange the cards into a diamond with one card on the top row, two on the second row, three on the third row, two on the next row and one on the bottom row as follows:

Most strongly held view



Least strongly held view

When each group is happy with their arrangement of cards, ask each pair to get together with another pair so they can compare responses. Find out if the justifications of card placements from other groups have changed anyone's mind about their own placements.

Plenary

Ask people to explain why they think prayer is important to a Muslim. How do they think a Muslim person would consider that prayer improves their life?

After they have expressed their views, ask them to fill in the sentence starter on their prayer

Resource sheet.

Discuss the decision-making process they have been involved in throughout the lesson. What have they found helpful about working in this way?

Ask them to write their responses on the second half of the prayer **Resource sheet**.

Differentiation

(By resources) less able people could be given a reduced number of cards to work with, enabling them to complete the task in a similar amount of time as the rest of the class. Cards will need to be carefully chosen so they still receive a mixture of fact and opinion cards.

(By pairing) a less able reader could be paired with a more able reader so time can be spent in discussion rather than struggling with reading.

Extension

More able people should be encouraged to answer the written questions in more depth. They may find it easier to write without the sentence starters to give them more freedom. Ask them to compare the importance of prayer to a Muslim with the importance of prayer to someone from another religion they have studied. Encourage them to comment on similarities and differences between prayer in the two religions. Why are there differences?



Name: _____

Date: _____

Fact or opinion?

Daily prayers are important because when we worship God we are talking to Allah.	Prayer makes me feel that I am communicating with God. It should help us stop doing evil things.
Prayer makes me feel close to Allah.	I know that if I have prayed with all my concentration and my heart and for the sake of Allah then I will be rewarded.
Muslims pray five times a day.	During Ramadan there is one extra prayer time each day.
'Children of Adam, wear your best clothes to every place of worship.' (Qur'an 7:31)	Prayer performed in company is 27 times better than prayer performed alone. (Hadith)
Prayer is very powerful.	God answers prayer.
Du'a is a personal prayer. It often contains requests to God.	Praying is a waste of time.
Prayer makes me feel more alive and responsible. It makes me feel strength in my faith, and develops a generous community.	When I pray, I feel very relaxed and happy, especially on the Friday prayer, which keeps us Muslims together and united in our community.
The prayer makes me feel I am communicating with God.	Some people are lazy and miss their prayers. Unfortunately one of those idle people is me.
It is very difficult to describe exactly how prayer makes me feel. One feeling is being refreshed, and ready to carry on with the rest of the day, and also that God is there for me and will forgive me if I should do something wrong.	Prayer should make us feel close to Allah, as if he is standing in front of us.
Prayer is something serious, not a joke.	Prayer makes me feel clean and fresh, like a new person inside.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Prayer

I think...

is a fact because...

I think...

is an opinion because...

I think prayer is important in the life of a Muslim because...

Working in pairs today has been... because...

I have... this work because...