

MUHARRAM BOOKLET

1440/2018

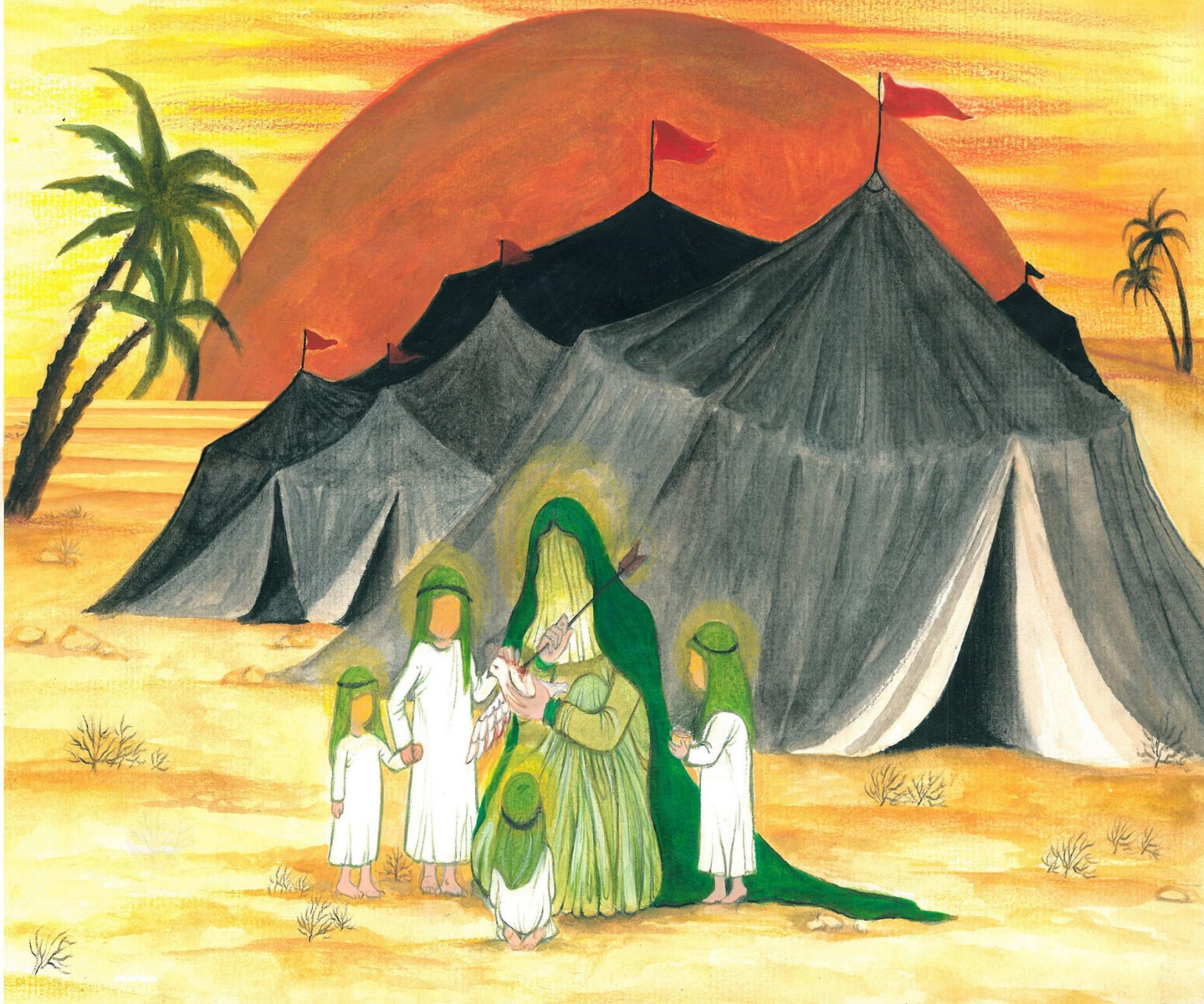


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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Salamon Alaikum Dear Instructors and parents,

The month of Muharram has once again graced us with its presence. A month full of potential to elevate our spirituality through learning and comprehending the teachings of Imam Hossein (PBUH).

Through the sacrifice of Imam Hossein (عليه السلام), Muharram became the vital blood that runs through the body of Islam. People all around the world gather to learn more about Imam Hossein (PBUH) and his crucial messages for all human beings. With each year that passes, people become more passionate about these gatherings as if Ashura just happened.

The prophet of Islam (PBUH) said:

إِنَّ لِقَتْلِ الْحُسَيْنِ حَرَارَةً فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لَا تَبْرُدُ أَبَدًا.

There is a heat (love) in the hearts of the believers for martyrdom of Hossein (PBUH) which never gets cold.

Muharram inspired many people and nations to change and improve. Now it is our turn to gather the treasures of this month and foster our souls with this wealth. We take the full advantage of this time to benefit ourselves and our families especially our precious children.

Due to children's natural thirst for knowledge and their sense of curiosity they can benefit from this month even more than adults. If they are provided a well-structured program children can learn life lessons that they will carry with them the entirety of their life.

Alhamdulillah, through the grace of Allah (swt) we were able to create our first Muharram curriculum at Islamic Center of Zahra (ICZ) so that our children may benefit from the teachings of Karbala in a child appropriate environment in their own language. This booklet is designed for children between 6-12 years old.

Within this booklet you will find 10 activities to engage children at the beginning of each session along with 10 related lessons from Karbala.

The activities are especially designed to interactively engage children with Muharram and encourage them to attend as many sessions as possible. Each

activity is designed with an important message which is indicated in each description. It is recommended to explain the message related to each activity to the children. Please do not spend more than 20 minutes for each activity.

The lessons are the main components of this booklet. We used the method of direct and indirect teachings to enhance children's learning. The lessons are designed to have a main message as indicated in the title of each lesson and many indirect messages throughout the lesson (moral or belief messages). This will help children to learn about the main lesson while comprehending some vital points related to the main topic.

In addition, we used the role modeling technique to familiarize children with righteous and unrighteous characteristics by observing them in Imam Hossein (PBUH) and his companion as well as their enemies. In this way, the children can visualize the teachings and can relate to the subjects in a more tangible way.

The lessons should be taught interactively and the teachers should engage the audience as much as possible. Please remember that children at this age have short attention span and might get distracted very easily. Around the age of 10 they are able to focus longer and be more attentive. Please be patient with them and try to redirect them to the program if they get distracted.

There are a few important objectives behind creating this curriculum such as: improving our children's Islamic beliefs, developing their most important moral characteristics, making them familiar with incorrect characteristics, improving their confidence, enhancing their self-esteem as a Muslim and a follower of Ahlul bayt (PBUT), creating good memories from the month of Muharram in their mind, developing an image of a true role models and heroes in their minds, etc.

InshaAllah with the blessings of Allah, we will be able to develop long lasting lessons and memories of this blessed month in the life of our children by the teachings of Imam Hossein (PBUH).

Sayed Hadi Yassin
Resident Alim of
Islamic Center of Zahra (ICZ)
Muharram, 1440 (2018)

Tips for parents on how to create Muharram traditions outside the center:

Muharram is a unique opportunity for you to develop your children's Islamic knowledge and moral compass. However, this tedious job is not only reliant on the Majalis and children's programs. Of course, the most important help is from you and your approach towards Muharram.

Here are a few suggestions regarding Muharram:

- 1- Create a Muharram environment at home (place different Muharram signs throughout your home and talk more about Imam Hossein (PBUH) at home)
- 2- Have black clothing for yourself and your children and explain why we wear this color clothing.
- 3- Encourage the whole family to participate in Muharram Majalis.
- 4- Encourage your children to participate in children's programs.
- 5- Ask your children to help you to create some food (tabarruk) and help people at the center.
- 6- With your children's help, create and design Muharram posters for the house and put them on the wall.
- 7- At night tell them some stories about Karbala before sleeping (keep them age appropriate).
- 8- Especially during the last few days before the 10th of Muharram make sure you don't joke and don't have any fun activities.
- 9- Follow up with what they learned at the children's program at the center.
- 10- Encourage them to prepare a recitation or short speech for Muharram.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Children Muharram Curriculum

Night One:

Activity 1: Muharram Shirt:

Supplies:

Black Shirt (s, m, l, xl)

Fabric markers

Karbala Stencils

Tape

Instructions:

Provide one black shirt to each child in their correct size.

Let the children use the stencil to write on the shirt.

Then let them decorate their shirts with things that are related to Karbala (handprint, flag, etc.)

This is their Muharram shirt and they should try to wear it every night

Parent's involvement:

Please try to motivate your child to wear this shirt every night. This will give them a sense of autonomy and remind them that they should be active in the path of Imam Hossein (as) and Ashura.



Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 1: Who is Imam Hossein (PBUH)?

Yes we all know who our third Imam is and we know that he is a grandson of the prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH). His mother is Fatima Zahra (PBUH) and his father is our Imam Ali (PBUT).

But really who is Imam Hossein (as) that we hear his name everywhere, so many people talk about him, people spend so much time and money to commemorate his martyrdom and we have Muharram and Safar masaaeb for him.

Who knows what Imam did that he became so important for so many people across the world?

Yes, great job, Imam Hossein (PBUH) not only was an infallible Imam who helped people to get closer to Allah (as) but also helped us to learn about many moral and ethical lessons.

Before we go further to know Imam better we should stop and talk about his enemies first. We should know who and why they stood in front of our Imam and killed him.

Yes, the worst enemy of our Imam was Yazid (may Allah not be pleased with him). He claimed to be the caliph of RasulAllah (PBUH) and lead people religiously while he did not respect and follow Islamic rules at all. Some of the haram things he did were: drinking in front of others, gambling, listening to haram music. Not only these, he was oppressing people and killed many innocent people just because they did not agree with him or if they protested against what he did.

Let me give you an example, in just one occasion that is called "Harrah" he killed over 10,000 innocent people of Madina, yes you heard correctly over 10,000 innocent men and women. Many of these people were among the companions of RasulAllah (PBUH).

Now Yazid who is so corrupt wants to be the leader of Muslims and help them get closer to Allah (swt). Can you believe that?

Let me ask you, if you were there, would you accept Yazid to be your leader or obey him?

Of course not.

Now let's get back to Imam Hossein (PBUH), he is an infallible Imam who is the true successor of RasulAllah (PBUH). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

Hossein (PBUH) is from me and I am from Hossein (PBUH),

Meaning that I approve the path of Hossein (PBUH) and his path is my path.

How helpful was Imam Hossein for the people, always increasing their knowledge by teaching them about true Islam, leading and judging their disputes and issues, helping poor and needy people, and protecting innocent people.

Yes, he should have these attributes, that is why he is the Imam, that is why Allah (swt) himself chose those infallible people to be our Imams.

Now Imam Hossein (PBUH) is seeing that Yazid is destroying Islam and Muslims and he has taken this position while it is not rightfully his. Imam did not tolerate this and he stood in front of Yazid only and only for the sake of Allah and to revive true Islam. He said himself:

إِنِّي لَمْ أَخْرُجْ أَشْرًا وَلَا بَطْرًا ، وَلَا مُفْسِدًا وَلَا ظَالِمًا ، وَإِنَّمَا خَرَجْتُ لِطَلَبِ الْإِصْلَاحِ فِي أُمَّةٍ جَدِّي ، أُرِيدُ أَنْ آمُرَ
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَأَنْهِيَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

I did not come out seeking to do evil, nor seeking to have fun, nor seeking corruption nor oppression.

Rather, I came out seeking reform in the nation of my Grandfather. I want to enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.

Yes, this is what we expect from our pious and brave leader to stand in front of oppression and corruption.

We admire Imam Hossein for sacrificing his holy life and the life of many of his friends and family members so we could have true Islam today, otherwise Yazid and his friends would have definitely destroyed Islam and wouldn't let us have true Islam.

Now that you know a little bit more about how amazing Imam Hossein is and how important his sacrifice was for us let's say Salaam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
 وَ عَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
 عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيتُ وَ بَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَ النَّهَارُ
 وَ لَجَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
 السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
 وَ عَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
 وَ عَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
 وَ عَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah
 and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
 Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
 as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
 May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)
 Peace be upon al-Hossein,
 upon `Ali ibn al-Hossein
 upon the sons of al-Hossein,
 and upon the companions of al-Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziyarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, I know many of you now wish you could be in Karbala and help Imam and his family especially his little children. But don't worry he said whoever hears about my story and wishes to be with me and help me it is as he or she actually helped me in Karbala.

Also, more important than that is that today we have our Imam of the time who is calling us to help him, exactly like those people who could help the Imam of their time Imam Hossein (PBUH). Now you tell me, who is the Imam of our time?

Yes Imam Mahdi, he is the same as Imam Hossein and he is calling us to help him by our actions and by being his true Shia and his follower. By being strong in our faith and getting ready for his Zohour, inshaAllah.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الزَّمَانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ الْأَيْمَةِ الْحُجَّجِ الْمَعْصُومِينَ وَ
الْإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامَ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَسَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of Allah's Messenger.

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world.

Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Two:

Activity 2: Plant your Iman Seed:

Supplies:

Plastic container

Markers

Soil

Water

Seeds

Instructions:

Provide a small vase (plastic cup or planter) and let the kids design it with the names of Karbala and Imam Hussain (as).

After each child is done with their design they will come to the teacher to help place the seed and soil inside the container. Over the next 10 days we will watch our seeds of (Iman) grow.

Remind the kids that just as we have to take care of these seeds so that they will grow, we should plant the seed of Iman in our hearts. If we take care of this seed by good deeds it will grow and will make it beautiful. If we neglect and do not give it everything it needs it will not grow.

The seed is the seed of Iman to Allah (swt), the soil is our pure generation and family, the light is the guidance of Allah (swt) through Imam Hossein (PBUH) and the water is our good deeds such as: being nice to parents, saying our prayers, remembering Allah (swt) throughout the day, being helpful to others, and so on. Can you provide some examples of good deeds that you do?

Children should come every night to water their seed, if not the seed might not get enough water and won't grow as the seed of others who come every night.



Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 2: What was the secret behind Imam Hossein's success?

Alhamdulillah, last night we were able to talk about who Imam Hossein (PBUH) is, and how righteous and brave he was for sacrificing his life to keep true Islam alive for us.

Tonight we want to talk about the secret that helped Imam Hossein to become successful in his path. Yes, if we can find that secret and use it for our life we can become successful as well.

Why do you think Imam Hossein went through all those troubles and sacrificed himself, his family, and his friends?

Yes, as some of you said, for the sake of Allah, looking for His satisfaction.

The most important reason Imam Hossein did that was to be a good servant for Allah. Becoming a good Abd (servant).

Therefore, if we can follow the same path and try to do everything in our life for the sake of Allah to become a better servant we can reach salvation as well.

So, that means whenever we want to start doing anything in life first we should purify our intention and do it for the sake of Allah. Yes, I mean anything, going to school, helping others, eating and drinking, and even playing (Your intention would be: O' Allah, I am playing because I need to have fun so I can later have more energy to study or help others).

If you want to make sure what you are going to do is correct or not, see if Allah would be happy with you if you did it. If yes, that is the best thing to do.

Quran also says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you (infallible Imams)

Nisa, 59

And Quran mentioned in another verse that following RasulAllah (PBUH) is equal to following Allah because he always orders you to do things that make Allah happy.

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ

He who obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah

Nisa, 80

Let me give you an example, imagine last week you ask your classmate if you could borrow his or her spare pencil because you couldn't find yours and they refused and didn't give it to you.

Now a week later he or she comes to you and asks if he or she can borrow your pencil, what do you think you should do?

- a) Refuse it and tell them, no I won't give you my pencil because you didn't share your pencil with me last week.
- b) You share your pencil with him/her to make Allah happy.

Which one do you choose? Yes the one that has the satisfaction of Allah in it, even if it is hard to do.

This was the secret behind Imam Hossein's success.

Let me share a story with you.

When Imam reached a place close to Karbala one of the commanders of Yazid whose name was "Hurr" blocked Imam's path and didn't let Imam go towards the city of Kufa nor go back to Medina. Although Hurr didn't let Imam Hossein go, Imam gave water to him and his camp who were thirsty. Imam did this just for the sake of Allah and his satisfaction, otherwise he could say: now that you don't let me go I won't give you water.

By the way, Hurr later on repented to Allah and joined the army of Imam Hossein and became one of the honored martyrs of Karbala. Hurr realized he had to make a choice to follow Yazid and make him happy by killing Imam Hossein or making Allah happy by supporting Imam, and finally he decided the right path to help Imam.

Okay I have a question, who wants to volunteer to answer it.

What kind of decisions do we have to make every day?

Going to school, studying well, being nice to others, helping mom at home... we can decide to do them or not.

Imam Hossein also had a choice to follow Yazid and oppress others like him, or to follow Allah and seek His happiness, and he decided to follow Allah. Because he knew in his heart that was the right thing to do.

Who can tell me some of the ways that we can practice to become a better servant for Allah?

Yes, Salah, fasting, respecting our parents, helping others, having a good temper...

Therefore, Insha'Allah from now on whatever you want to do make sure you ask yourself this question:

Will Allah be happy with me if I do it? If your answer is yes then do it very confidently and if your answer is no do not do it, otherwise you will regret your decision.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-'Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever

as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)
Peace be upon al-Hossein,
upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein
upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, remember that our Imam of time Imam Mahdi is witnessing your actions. Making him happy by good deeds is equal to making Allah happy so make sure you have the intention to make him happy everyday at least with one of your actions.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الرَّمَّانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
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مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world.

Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Three:

Activity 3: Ya Hossain (PBUH) Headband:

Supplies:

Strip of black fabric

Elastics

Puffy fabric paint

Needle and thread

Instructions:

Provide a headband size black fabric with some elastics.

Also, have some fabric paints. Better to be puffy fabric paint.

Have children design their headband and write Ya Hossain in Arabic or English (for younger children have Ya Hussain written out before hand).

Then the teacher or assistant will sew the elastics to the fabrics.

The children should be encouraged to wear their headbands every night.

Talk to children about our identity, that we should be proud to be Muslim and Shia. Because Islam is the best religion and Ahlulbait (PBUT) are the most righteous people who Allah (swt) created.

Therefore, we have the best of all holy books which is Quran, we have the last and the most important prophet who is Muhammad (PBUH), we have the best leaders who are our infallible Imams, and the best religion which is Islam. Therefore, this is our identity and we should be proud of it, not to be shy but to announce it.



Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 3: Build your identity as Muslims:

Okay here's a question, raise your hand if you know it: $2+2=?$

Wow many of you raised your hands to answer, yes 4.

Do you know why you were so confident to raise your hands and answer the question?

Yes because you knew the answer and you were sure that your answer is correct. If you were not sure, you wouldn't raise your hands.

Some people are shy to show and announce that they are Muslims and sometimes even don't practice it, you know why? Because they are not as confident as you were when you answered the question.

One of the reasons that they are not confident is lack of knowledge. They don't know that much about who they are and the benefits of being Muslims.

They don't know or forgot that they believe in one God, Allah, the one who is the most beneficent, the most merciful, the kindest, the most powerful, and the one who knows everything and created the whole world.

Question: what is the importance of having a prophet?

They forget that this powerful God sent his best messengers RasulAllah Muhammad (PBUH) to guide us and show us the best path. All 124,000 prophets came to provide the pathway for the appearance of the prophet of Islam as the last prophet.

Yes, we need to have a prophet to show us the best path, to interpret the Quran and the words of Allah and to show people that it is possible to be the best servant of Allah.

These people who are not strong enough to announce and practice as Muslims are those who don't realize or don't study well to know that they have the best of all holy books which is Quran, the words of Allah.

Question: what is the benefit of Quran?

Quran teaches us how to follow Allah and worship Him, Quran teaches us how to interact with our families and others, Quran teaches us how to respect our parents and elders, Quran teaches us how to be careful not to fall into Shaytan's traps, Quran teaches us how to get lessons from the life of those people who lived before us and not to make the same mistakes as they did and hurt ourselves.

Quran with all these benefits is Noor, the light of Allah, light of guidance, Quran is pure and every single word of it is from Allah our master.

Also, these people who are shy to announce they are Muslims and want to hide it are those who forgot or don't know that Allah assigned the best of all His savants to be our Imams and leaders. Infallible Imams who are the purest and any impurity is away from them.

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

Allah only intends to keep impurity away from you, O people of the [Prophet's] household, and to purify you with [extensive] purification.

Ahzab, 33

Someone tell me why we need to have an Imam? Good job! Great answers.

Let me put all your answers in one example:

Imagine your teacher is going on a vacation and will be absent for some days or weeks, what will they do? Leave the class unattended and tell the students just keep studying yourself and learn from your books? Or will they assign a substitute teacher to take care of the class while they are not there?

Yes, they never leave the class unattended. They usually choose a qualified person for this job to take over the job.

Also, the teacher will not leave it to the students and ask them: Students, you go find someone to take care of your class and teaches you, because the teacher knows the students are not qualified to do so.

Now imagine, how could RasulAllah leave this world without assigning anyone to take care of his students and Ummah, all the Muslims? Is it even possible that after all that he did (23 years) to raise Islam that he would just leave and not give us someone to teach us?

Nope, it is impossible. That is why he assigned Imam Ali (PBUH) after himself to be the leader of the Muslims and guard the true Islam so the enemies won't change it.

And you know, that RasulAllah (PBUH) does not make any decisions about Islam without the permission of who? That's right, Allah! Therefore, this is Allah who indeed decides who should be the Imam and the guardian of his religion Islam, because he knows the best about us and knows who is the most qualified for this responsibility.

Let's get back to our first question:

Then why after knowing all this information about Islam and our beliefs should we be shy or embarrassed to show that we are Muslims?

Where do you think people usually feel shy to show they are Muslims?

At school, in the restaurant where they want to make sure everything is halal, outside when they need to say their prayers and others might see them...

Remember one of the biggest lessons that we learned from Imam Hossein (PBUH) and his companions is that when it comes to the truth and haq, never be shy to announce and defend it, no matter how hard it is.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
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عَلَيْكَ مِثْلُ سَلَامِ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعْلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِثْلَ لَزِيَارَتِكُمْ
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وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-'Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.

Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)

Peace be upon al-Hossein,
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and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziyarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, remember that our Imam of time Imam Mahdi is witnessing your actions. Making him happy by good deeds is equal to making Allah happy so make sure you have the intention to make him happy everyday at least with one of your actions.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الزَّمَانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
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الْإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامٌ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَ سَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Four:

Activity 4: Prepare and write a letter to Imam Hossein (PBUH):

Supplies:

Stationery paper

Envelope

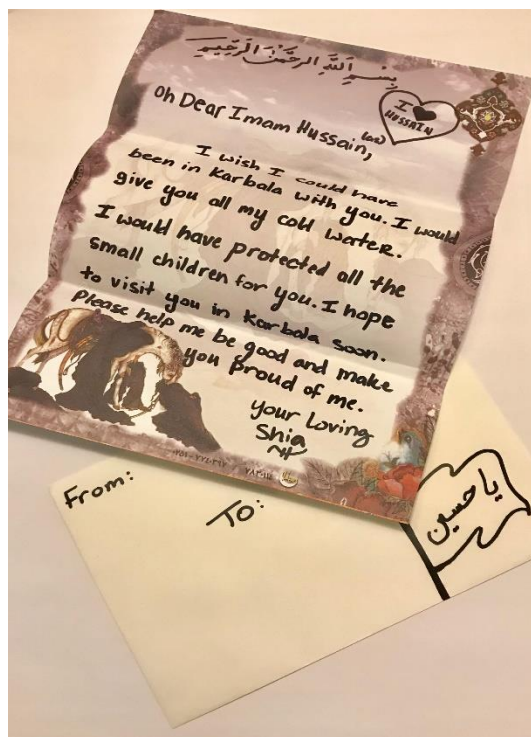
Pencil and marker

Instructions:

Provide nice letter paper with envelopes.

First let the children decorate their letter as they wish.

We are going to ask them to write a letter to Imam Hossein and share their stories or concerns with him. They can write about whatever is in their hearts.



Before that, explain to the children the importance of having a relationship with Ahlulbait.

Allah is so merciful that He sent the best of his prophets to us. Allah also appointed his successors who are the holy Imams. Those who respect Ahlulbait and follow them they try to be the best and be righteous. They always do good deeds and avoid doing haram.

Although we can directly ask Allah for our requests, it is recommended to ask Ahlulbait to be our intercessors to Allah and ask for our requests and hajaat.

Now write a letter to Imam Hossein. This is a secret letter and we do not reveal the content to anyone. Then seal the envelope. We will take your letters to Karbala and place them in the Zarih of Imam inshaAllah.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson Four: Forgiveness:

One of the beautiful recommendations of Islam which we can see very clearly in Karbala is the topic of forgiveness.

Do you know why Allah likes us to be forgiving? The reason that Allah ordered us to forgive others is because He is the most forgiving one.

Quran said:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins.

Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

Zumar, 53

You see that Allah calls Himself the forgiving. Therefore, we need to practice the same thing and forgive all those who did something wrong to us and upset us. Don't you want others to forgive you then you need to practice the same thing.

This is actually what Imam Hossein (PBUH) did in Karbala. You heard about the story of Hurr ibn Yazid Riyahi the one who blocked the path of Imam and his caravan and didn't let them go back.

On the day of Ashura (10th of Muharram) when Imam gave a speech Hurr realized that he made a mistake and he shouldn't be in the army of Yazid because he is a corrupted and cruel person and that he should join Imam Hossein. However, he was not sure, if Imam would forgive him.

He put his shoes around his neck (it was a sign of regret among Arabs) and went towards the tent of Imam Hossein (PBUH). Probably on his way he was thinking how I can ask for forgiveness, I am the reason that Imam is in this situation because I didn't let him go, I blocked his way. When he got closer to the tent of Imam, he couldn't believe his eyes, guess what, Imam Hossein (PBUH) was already standing in front of the tent waiting for Hurr. Wow! How forgiving and amazing is Imam Hossein who even had mercy upon his enemy.

Hurr began to plead for Imam Hossein's forgiveness and Imam said we accept it, "don't worry Hurr, welcome to our side".

MashaAllah good for Hurr, Imam invited him to come inside the tent but he said he wanted to be the first person to be martyred in the path of his Imam. He left and fought very bravely with the soldiers of Yazid and finally became martyred.

Karbala taught us another lesson. Make sure you ask for forgiveness whenever you do something wrong, first and foremost ask Allah for forgiveness and then ask anyone who should forgive us.

Then Imam taught us, that we should also forgive those who did something wrong to us. We should not hold a grudge against them.

قال على عليه السلام
قَلَّةُ الْعَفْوِ أَفْبَحُ الْغُيُوبِ وَالتَّسَرُّعُ إِلَى الْأَنْتِقَامِ اعْظَمُ الذُّنُوبِ

Lack of forgiveness is the ugliest of flaws and rushing to exact revenge is the gravest of sins.

Let me ask you a question:

Who here knows what it means to repent?

Yes, to sincerely ask Allah to forgive those wrong actions that we did and now we regret doing.

Allah forgives those who make mistakes and commit sins. Whoever realizes that they did something wrong they should go and repent to Allah and ask for forgiveness. They should be sure that Allah will definitely forgive them if they repent sincerely.

Although, you are still young and don't have that many sins, it is very good if you learn from now to repent to Allah and ask for forgiveness.

Who can tell me some examples of things we should repent and ask forgiveness for?

Yes, also, I remember once a student who took the belongings of her classmate (Maryam) without her permission. Maryam was very upset and crying because she couldn't find her beautiful pencil. That student realized that she shouldn't

have taken someone's belongings without their permission but didn't know how to fix the problem. She went to her teacher and asked her what she should do. The teacher who was very kind told her that first she should repent to Allah for what she did, this is stealing and it is haram in Islam. Then the teacher told her to go and give the pencil back to Maryam and ask her to forgive her. At the beginning it was very hard for her to do this, but she knew that this is the right thing to do. She went and told Maryam that she made a mistake and asked her to forgive her. Maryam also remembered the story of Imam Hossein who forgave Hurr when he asked for forgiveness, then she said, it is fine, just make sure you don't do it again. The two friends hugged and all was good again.

Yes, Allah loves those who accept other's forgiveness.

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وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفَنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنْ سَلَامِ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنْ لِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
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Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)
Peace be upon al- Hossein,

upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein,
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MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الرَّمَّانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
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الإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامَ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مُلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَ سَهَّلَ
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Night Five:

Activity 5: Crystal names:

Supplies:

Borax
Mason jars
Pipe cleaner
Scissors
Food color dye
Warm water
String
Popsicle sticks

Instructions:

Ask children to mention some of the names of Allah. See if they know the meaning of the name.



Ask the kids to make some names of Allah (already provide for them on a paper) with their pipe cleaner. Once they are done they will bring the name to the teacher so they can place it in the jar of solution. (This will be left in the classroom until the following night)

Remind children about the names of Allah and the importance of them. Give some examples of the names of Allah and explain the meanings such as, Raheem, Rahman, Sattar, Shakur....

Remind children that it is important to remember Allah in our daily life. The best way is to pray 5 times daily to remember Him and to appreciate Him.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson Five: Controlling our tongue:

Let me ask you a question:

If someone gives you a gift, you should not use it the way that it would upset them. For example, your father buys you a ball and says just don't play inside the house because you might end up breaking something. You shouldn't use it against his will, right?

Did you know the reason that Allah created us and our body parts is to use them in the best way and to not do anything wrong with them?

Imagine if you didn't have a tongue (call on one of the students and ask them to call someone with their mouth closed). See? They can't.

Now that Allah gave us this great favor, He asked us not to use it against His will. Like what? Can anyone help answer this question?

Yes, not to lie with it, not to curse with it, not to backbite with it, not to break anyone's heart with it, what else?...

Yes, we should use our tongue in the best way to please Allah not to make Him upset. (Btw, whatever makes Allah upset is so dangerous for us or people around us, like backbiting, or breaking someone's heart).

Allah said in Quran:

وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ

And speak to people nicely, and establish prayer and give zakah (charity).

Baqarah, 83

Therefore, it is very important to watch our tongue and how we talk.

Ok, how many sins do you think can happen with your tongue?

More than 70 major sins have been mentioned that can happen with our tongue, wow that is so scary.

We've got to be very careful.

RasulAllah (PBUH) said:

The majority of people of hell are those who couldn't control their tongue and because of their tongue they go to hell.

Actually, the majority of the enemies of Imam Hossein (PBUH) had this issue and they were talking very inappropriately. On the day of Ashura some of them were insulting Imam Hossein (PBUH) and his family.

I am sure you agree with me, we do NOT want to have any of the characteristics of the enemies of ALLAH and Imam Hossein (PBUH). Therefore we should watch our language.

RasulAllah (PBUH) said:

إِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ حَرَامٌ عَلَى كُلِّ فَاحِشٍ أَنْ يَدْخُلَهَا

The one who curses will not enter heaven

ميزان الحكمه، 3 / 2376 / 6

Quran also says: do not even use bad words for the enemies of Allah let alone your friends.

وَلَا تَسُبُّوا الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ

And do not insult those they invoke other than Allah

Anaam, 108

On the other side, this tongue can help us to help others get closer to Allah.

Can you tell me some of the good things that we can do with our tongue to help others to do good?

Yes, appreciating others, saying a hadith or reciting Ayah Quran, appreciating Allah by saying (الحمد لله), defending an oppressed person, and many other things.

Imam Baqir (PBUH) said:

قُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ أَحْسَنَ مَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يُقَالَ لَكُمْ

Talk to people better than the way you would like to be talked to.

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One of the best ways that the family and the companion of Imam Hossein (PBUH) used their tongues was on the night of Ashura. When Imam Hossein (PBUH) told them you can go and leave me, you don't have to stay here to be killed, they stood up one after another and said: O' Imam we will not leave you, even if we have multiple lives we will still sacrifice our lives for you and will defend you. They assured Imam that they will not leave him.

Good for them who were able to support their Imam and InshaAllah we will have this opportunity to help and support our Imam.

Remember, one of the best ways that you can use your tongue to get closer to Allah is to learn and narrate the Ayaat of Quran, or traditions of Ahlulbait.

I know many of you guys give short lectures, so who is going to be the volunteer to give a 5 minute speech about Imam Hossein (PBUH) tomorrow night?

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الْإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامٌ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوَلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلَأَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرْجَكَ وَ سَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Six:

Activity 6: Spin of Information

Supplies:

Plane white paper plates
Round head fasteners
Markers
Scissors

Instructions:

Provide each child with two paper plates and a metal round head fastener.



They will cut a window into one paper plate. Then they should divide the paper with a marker into sections like a pie: one name and kunya of Imam Hossein, then the name of his mother and father and grandfather, the year he was born, the year he was martyred, names of his children and so on and so forth. Once they are done fasten the two plates together in the center.

This activity will help children to have access to the biographical information about Imam in a nice and fun way. They can spin the plate and access different information.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 6: The characteristics of the enemies of Imam Hossein (PBUH):

Tonight I am going to talk to you about those people who stood against Imam Hossein (PBUH) and killed him, although they knew how amazing Imam Hossain was and how beneficial he was for the society.

Yes, whoever wanted to find the most generous person in that region they were referred to Imam Hossein, whoever wanted to find the most knowledgeable person they were referred to Imam Hossein, whoever was looking to find the most pious person he couldn't find anyone better than Imam Hossein (PBUH).

Then why did they kill him? What were the characteristics of the enemies of Imam Hossein (PBUH)?

We should know about them to get away from these characteristics so we won't have anything in common with those horrible people who didn't have any mercy upon our Imam and his little children and friends.

1- Lack of strong faith (Iman):

The first problem they had was that they didn't strongly believed in Allah and RasulAllah (PBUH):

Actually Quran says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ

O you who have believed, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger

Nisa, 136

That means we had some people who claimed that they are believers (momin) but really they were not and Allah is telling them to have Iman.

If they truly believed in Allah they would have listened to his messenger as Quran said:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."

Ale-Imran, 31

And if they listened to RasulAllah (PBUH) they wouldn't fight with his family and kill them because RasulAllah (PBUH) always said that:

إِنِّي تَارِكٌ فِيكُمْ الثَّقَلَيْنِ مَا إِنْ تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا لَنْ تَضِلُّوا- كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَ عِزَّتِي أَهْلَ بَيْتِي وَ إِنَّهُمَا لَنْ يَفْتَرِقَا حَتَّى يَرِدَا عَلَيَّ الْحَوْضَ

Verily, I am leaving behind two precious things (thaqalayn) among you: If you follow these two, you will never go astray: the Book of God and my family (`itrah), my household (Ahl al-Bayt), for indeed, the two will never separate until they come back to me by the Pond (of al-Kawthar on the Day of Judgment)."

Do you think those who hurt his grandson Imam Hasan and Imam Hossein (PBUT) they listened to this order of RasulAllah (PBUH). Do you think those who killed the Imams who were all from the family of RasulAllah (PBUH) loved him? No they never loved rasulAllah (PBUH) otherwise they wouldn't go against his orders and recommendations.

RasulAllah (PBUH) said:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و اله و سلم: فاطمة بضعة مني فمن أغضبها أغضبني

Indeed Fatimah is a part of me. Hence, whosoever angers her angers me

اعلام الورى بأعلام الهدى، 1، 294

So, if someone bothers you and hurts you don't you think that they also bother and hurt your mother because she loves you so much?

Therefore, those who bothered and hurt the children of Hadhrat Zahra (PBUH) in fact bothered and angered her and based on this tradition, they actually bothered rasulAllah (PBUH), and whoever bothers rasulAllah (PBUH) bothers Allah.

2- The second characteristic of those who killed Imam Hossain was jealousy. They were so jealous of Imam Hossein (PBUH) because everybody loved him. They were also jealous among each other.

Especially Shimr bin Zil Jawshan, who killed Imam Hossein, was the main reason that they didn't let Imam Hossein go back and killed him because he wanted to become the commander of the army of Yazid.

Do you know who else was so jealous?

Shaytan was jealous of Adam, which is why he didn't bow down in front of him although Allah ordered him to do so.

Let me share a tradition with you about jealousy:

Imam Ali (PBUH):

لَا تَحَاسَدُوا فَإِنَّ الْحَسَدَ يَأْكُلُ الْإِيمَانَ، كَمَا تَأْكُلُ النَّارُ الْحَطَبَ

Do not be jealous of each other, for jealousy eats away at faith like fire consumes firewood.

3- Eating Haram:

Yes, I know you might be surprised but one of the characteristics of those who fought with Imam Hossein was that they used to earn haram sustenance and eat haram.

Imam Hossein himself after he gave a lecture to the army of Yazid and they didn't listened to him said:

The reason that they don't listen to me and don't accept it is because their stomachs are full of haram.

Therefore, we should be careful, where we get our money from, make sure we don't take anything from anyone without their permission, or we shouldn't eat any haram food, no matter how hungry we might be outside, but we should only ask our parents to provide halal meat and food for us InshaAllah.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيتُ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)
Peace be upon al-Hossein,
upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein,
upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, remember that our Imam of time Imam Mahdi is witnessing your actions. Making him happy by good deeds is equal to making Allah happy so make sure you have the intention to make him happy everyday at least with one of your actions.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الرِّمَانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ الْأَيْمَةِ الْحُجَّجِ الْمَعْصُومِينَ وَ
الإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامَ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلَأَتْ ظُلُمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَ سَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Seven:

Activity 7: Bad Apple (Having bad behaving friends).

Supplies:

Pieces of apple

Snack size Ziploc bags

Vinegar

Dropper

Instructions:

Give each child 1 plastic bag and then tell the students the following story:

Ahmad was a very well behaved boy. He just made a new friend named Farhad. Farhad was not well behaved. He was always using bad words, bullying others, disrespecting elders and lying



(Now let the children smell the vinegar and point out how bad it smells. This is the smell of the bad behaviors. Then have each child place one piece of apple into their plastic bag and name it Farhad. Now let them put 2-3 drops of vinegar in the bag as the sign of his bad behaviors).

Ahmad's parents warned him that if he hung out with Farhad these bad behaviors would rub off on him. Ahmad kept telling his parents that he would be careful and that he just wanted to be his friend because he was cool and had a lot of nice toys.

(Now let them add another piece of apple into the same plastic bag, this is Ahmad).

Ahmad, spent more and more time with Farhad and gradually he started to behave like him. He became disrespectful to his parents, started yelling when he was upset, and lying. His parents realized this and told him that he is starting to act like Farhad and he needs to correct his behavior.

(Have the children smell the plastic bag and see that both pieces of apple no longer smell good).

Ahmad realized his mistakes and promised his parents that he would stop spending time with Farhad. He started hanging out with a group of nice and faithful friends from the masjid who were very respectful and always watched their behavior.

(Take another bag and place 4-5 slices of good apple to the bag to represent the good friends at the masjid note that all the pieces of apple smell good. Now let them add one more piece into this bag and say it is Ahmad. Because he hangs out with them and is watching his behavior he no longer smells bad).

Let the children take their bag with themselves to see how bad behavior gradually corrupts the apples and affects them.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 7: Who is the best friend?

Let me start with a question. Who is your best friend?

Can you tell me some of the characteristics of your best friend? Why did you choose them as your best friend?

Did you know one of the most important decision that you make in your life is the friends that you choose? Sometimes that can change your life to be better or worse. Therefore we should be very careful who we choose to be friends with.

Would you like to know what kinds of friends Allah recommend for us? He actually talked about this and we have a lot of verses of Quran and traditions from Ahlulbait who told us who can be our best friend and who is the worst one.

Let's see what the characteristics of a good friend from Allah are:

1- Strong Faith (Iman):

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا عَدُوِّي وَعَدُوَّكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ تُلْقُونَ إِلَيْهِم بِالْمَوَدَّةِ وَقَدْ كَفَرُوا بِمَا جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ الْحَقِّ

O you who have believed, do not take My enemies and your enemies as friends, expressing love with them while they have rejected the truth that has come to you (Islam).

Mumtahina, 1

2- Those who respect your beliefs:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَكُمْ هُزُوًا وَلَعِبًا

O you who believe, do not take those who have taken your faith in ridicule and fun (those who make fun of your religion) as friends.

Maeda, 57

3- Truthfulness:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

Oh you who believe, fear Allah and be in the company of the truthful
Tawba, 119

4- Encourages you to the righteousness:

امام على (عليه السلام):

خَيْرُ إِخْوَانِكَ مَنْ دَعَاكَ إِلَى صِدْقِ الْمَقَالِ بِصِدْقِ مَقَالِهِ وَنَدَبَكَ إِلَى أَفْضَلِ الْأَعْمَالِ بِحُسْنِ أَعْمَالِهِ

The best of your brothers (friends) is the one who exhorts you to speak the truth by his own truthfulness and compels you to perform the best deeds by his own good actions.

5- Forbids you from doing something wrong:

امام على (عليه السلام)

صَدِيقُكَ مَنْ نَهَاكَ، وَعَدُوُّكَ مَنْ أَغْرَاكَ

Your friend is one who forbids you [from evil] and your enemy is one who entices you [to Perform evil].

ميزان الحكمه ، 2 / 1589 / 10

So, these are some of the characteristics of a good friend. As you see the one who is faithful and invite you to do good things is the best friend. For example, a good friend is the one who encourages you and helps you to study better and get better grades.

Let me tell you the story of a very good friend. Imam Hossein (PBUH) had a very dear friend whose name was “Habib ibn Mazaher”. Habib loved Imam Hossein so much and was always looking to see and serve him. When Imam Hossein arrived in Karbala, Habib was in the city of Kufa (near Karbala). Imam wrote a letter to Habib and invited him to join his caravan. When Habib saw the letter he knew that as a good friend he should quickly go and be at the service of his best friend. He left Kufa and joined Imam’s army. Habib was able to fight against the cruel

army of Yazid (May Allah not be pleased with him), and finally was able to reach the best level which is Shahadah (martyrdom) in the path of Allah and Imam Hossein (PBUH).

Yes, a good friend always supports their friends, especially when this friend is their Imam of time.

Who would like to be the friend of Imam Hossein and Imam Mahdi (PBUT)? Great, all of you, now you tell me what should you do to be a good friend for them?

Yes, follow them and their recommendations, avoid committing haram, saying our prayers, helping others, never do something that will break their hearts (haram), and be a good waiter in the path of the zohour of Imam Mahdi.

Now tell me some of the characteristics of a bad friend?

Yes, the one who encourages you to follow Shaytan, the one who uses bad words when they talk, the one who you learn bad behavior from, the one who watches bad things and pictures and shares with others.

A bad friend is the one who takes you away from the path of Allah, the one who invites you to evil tasks, the one who teaches you not to respect others or not to pray.

Let me share the story of a bad friend who ruined the life of his friend. There are two men in the army of Yazid, Omar Saad and Shemr. These two were friends even before Ashura, but they are among the worst people in Karbala who killed Imam Hossein (PBUH). Omar Saad became the commander of the army of Yazid who, with Shemr's help killed the grandson of the Prophet of Islam, Imam Hossein (PBUT). These two were so jealous of each other that they didn't want to accept the truth and not fight with Imam Hossein (PBUH). They didn't want to lose their positions and the prizes from Yazid. Instead of encouraging each other to do good, they both did evil because of jealousy and greed.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيْتُ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

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and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)
Peace be upon al- Hossein,
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upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

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السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ فَاطِمَةَ الرَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ الْأَيْمَةِ الْحُجَّجِ الْمَعْصُومِينَ وَ
الإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامَ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَسَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Eight:

Activity 8: Group newspaper.

Supplies:

Poster board

Markers

Karbala related clippings

Glue

Scissors

Instructor:

Break the large group into equal smaller groups (3-4 children each).

Provide one white poster board to each group as well as some glue, markers, scissors and clippings.




You should give the children the below traditions and ask them to make their own newspaper based on these traditions and decorate it. The topic is about Salah (prayer) and the importance of it. They should be creative and make the most informative and beautiful newspaper.

Tell them that how Imam Hossein (PBUH) paid attention to Salah at the day of Ashura. Although, the war already started and they were trying to kill Imam and his friends, when it was the time of the noon prayer Imam said we have to pray.

Imam Hossein (PBUH) asked some of his friends to stand in front of them so if their enemies attack they can block those who are praying. Imam started his congregational prayer with his friends but their enemies attacked them and tried to kill them while they were praying. Some of the friends of Imam became martyred right there because they had to block the arrows from reaching Imam and others who were praying.

Therefore, our prayers are so important that even in the middle of the war Imam Hossein (PBUH) didn't abandon it. It shows us that we need to say our prayer on time all the time.

Now encourage the children to make their newspaper with the topic of Salah, they should use the below verse of Quran and the below traditions. They should

<p>A Story About Salah From Imam Hussain</p> <p>Imam Hussain (AS) cared for salah on the day of Ashura. Although the battle had already started and Yazid's army was trying to kill the Imam and his companions, when it was the time of prayer, Imam commanded his army that we have to pray. Imam Hussain (AS) asked some of his soldiers to protect the people who were praying, by blocking the attacks. The Imam started his congregational prayer, and some of the friends of Imam were martyred right there. They had to block the arrows from reaching Imam and others who were praying. This story of Imam Hussain shows that our prayers are so important that even in the middle of the war Imam Hussain (PBUH) didn't leave them. It shows us that we need to say our prayers on time, no matter the situation.</p>	<p>بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ</p> <p>Salah is Important!</p>   <p>Just like your phone your soul needs recharging!</p>  <p>Even in battle, Imam Hussain put his salah first.</p>	<p>Qur'anic Verse and Hadith About Salah</p> <p>وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ</p> <p>And establish prayer and give zakah and obey the Messenger - that you may receive mercy.</p> <p>Qur'an, Surah Noor, Ayah 56</p> <p>إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ الصَّلَاةَ، فَإِنْ قَبِلَتْ قِيلَ مَا سِوَاهَا</p> <p>Narrated from Imam al-Baqir (a.s.): The first thing that the servant will have to account for is his prayer, if accepted, all else will be accepted.</p> <p>Al-Kafi, v. 3, p. 268, no. 4</p> <p>الصَّلَاةُ مِفْتَاحُ الْجَنَّةِ</p> <p>Prayer is the key to heaven</p> <p>Nahj Al-Fasaha, Hadith #1588</p>
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also integrate the story of Imam Hossein (PBUH) praying in the noon of Ashura in their newspaper as well.

Their newspaper will be put on display for everyone to see.

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

And establish prayer and give zakah and obey the Messenger - that you may receive mercy.

Noor, 56

الإمام الباقر (عليه السلام): إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ الصَّلَاةُ، فَإِنْ قُبِلَتْ قُبِلَ مَا سِوَاهَا

Narrated from Imam al-Baqir (a.s.): The first thing that the servant will have to account for is his prayer, if accepted, all else will be accepted.

Al-Kafi, v. 3, p. 268, no. 4

الصَّلَاةُ مِفْتَاحُ الْجَنَّةِ

Prayer is the key to heaven

Nahj Al-Fasaha, H. 1588

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 8: Who is your Hero of Karbala?

Now a days, children from all over the world have some heroes for themselves. The majority are fictional and imaginary heroes who only exist in cartoons or video games and are not real. But really who should be our hero?

Tonight I am going to introduce the true meaning of a hero, the one who is the strongest, most loyal, politest, and the one who loved children very much.

We want to have a hero who was real not fake, who really did something to deserve to be called a hero not just in cartoons.

Yes, you all know him, he is the brother of Imam Hossein, Hadhrat Abbas ibn Ali (PBUH). He was the commander of the army of Imam and the strongest and the bravest soldier of them all.

According to history, Hadhrat Abbas was tall, very handsome, with athletic body, very brave, and pious. They mentioned that he was like his father Imam Ali (PBUH) in the war and everyone was afraid of confronting him because they knew they couldn't stand in front of him.

But, what made Hadhrat Abbas, someone who is so brave that Imam Hossein (PBUH) told him that he is the whole army for Imam and if Imam loses him it means the whole army is scattered.

I am sure you agree with me, it was not only his physical appearance and his bravery that made him reach that highest position that Imam Sajjad (PBUH) said:

وَإِنَّ لِلْعَبَّاسِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى مَرْزَلَةً يَغِيظُهُ بِهَا جَمِيعُ الشُّهَدَاءِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

Allah gave a position to our uncle Abbas that all the shohada (martyrs) at the Day of Judgment are envious of that position.

سفينه البحار ، 155/2

How could he achieve this position that no one could achieve?

Hadhrat Abbas had some amazing characteristics that we should study and try to also have in our lives:

1- The most important character that Hadhrat Abbas had was the degree of his Iman. He was so pious and faithful which helped him sacrifice his life for the sake of the Imam of his time Imam Hossein (PBUT).

Imam Sadiq (PBUH) taught us to recite the Ziarat of Hadhrat Abbas and say:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَبْدُ الصَّالِحُ

Peace be upon you, O righteous servant (of Allah)

Yes, he was the righteous servant of Allah, meaning that, if we want to pick a hero for us the first condition and characteristic of him is the Iman of that hero. The more pious and the closer he is to Allah the better hero he will be.

2- Submission to the Imam of time:

Another characteristic of Hadhrat Abbas who is our dear hero is that he always submitted himself to Imam Hossein's will and never ever did anything against his will.

He was always following his Imam's orders.

In the same Ziarat Imam Sadiq (PBUH) said:

الْمُطِيعُ لِلَّهِ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِأَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْحَسَنِ وَالْحُسَيْنِ صَلَّيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَسَلَّم

and obedient to Allah, to His Messenger, to the Commander of the Faithful (Imam Ali), to al-Hasan, and to al-Hossein, peace and greetings of Allah be upon them.

Yes, actually the reason that he is faithful and a hero is that not only he follows Allah but also he is the loyal follower of RasulAllah, Imam Ali, Imam Hassan, and Imam Hossein (PBUT).

This is the second amazing characteristic of Hadhrat Abbas. That means if we find a very brave person who is strong but doesn't follow Allah and Ahlulbait they should not be our hero.

3- Courage:

Courage is not only physical strength, it is indeed the power to control the ego (nafs) to use the power and abilities for the sake of Allah.

Hadhrat Abbas was very strong when it came to his ego and he had full control over his desires. He was the servant of Allah not Shaytan.

4- Loyalty:

Another characteristic of a hero is loyalty to their faith and commander. Because of his loyalty and bravery in Karbala Hadhrat Abbas became an example of a loyal soldier and commander for the whole world.

On the eve of Ashura, Imam Hossein talked to his friends and family members and asked them to leave him because they are just looking after him. His family members and friends stood up and one after another showed their loyalty to Imam. The first person who stood up and expressed his loyalty was Hadhrat Abbas. He said:

“And why should we abandon you? So that we may live after you! May God not show us such a day ever.”

Look, how brave and loyal he is. SubhanAllah! Good for you guys for having such an awesome hero in your life.

On the day of Ashura, the army of Yazid blocked the water and the river of “Furat” Euphrates. When Imam Hussain asked Hadhrat Abbas to get water for the children, he got into the river, got down, and filled his water container. It had been three days that he didn’t drink as well and he was very thirsty, he could drink some water before he leaves the river, but he did not do so. No one would have blamed him if he drank but due to his loyalty to Imam Hossein and his children that he didn’t drink.

5- Politeness:

The last characteristic of Hadhrat Abbas that we mention here is that he was the most respectful person in front of elders especially his Imam. They narrated that he never called Imam Hossein “brother” just out of respect, until the last moment of his life when he fell down from his horse because of the strike against his head

and he called “O brother, come and help your brother” and Imam Hossein came very quickly to him.

When Hadhrat Abbas left the Furat River, he was happy that he had water for the children of Imam Hossein (PBUT). On the way back, he had to pass through some palms trees, this is where the enemy hid so they could attack him from behind. They knew they could not stand in front of him and fight with him. Abbas is the son of Imam Ali the one who everyone was afraid of on the battle field. No one had the power and bravery to fight with Abbas. One of those cowardly soldiers of Yazid attacked him from behind and cut his right hand. It was then when he recited these poem:

By God, though you have severed my right hand
My faith, I will surely forever defend
I will defend the truthful leader with conviction
The grandson of the pure and truthful Prophet.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever

as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)

Peace be upon al-Hossein,
upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein,
upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, remember that our Imam of time Imam Mahdi is witnessing your actions. Making him happy by good deeds is equal to making Allah happy so make sure you have the intention to make him happy everyday at least with one of your actions.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الزَّمَانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ الْأَيْمَةِ الْحُجَّجِ الْمَعْصُومِينَ وَ
الْإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامٌ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوَلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَ سَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Nine:

Activity 9: Hossein is the Ark of rescue

Supplies:

Paper plate
Markers
Cardboard
Scissors
Glue

Instructions:

Provide a paper plate, crayons and cardboard.

Have the children cut the paper plate in half and glue them together. Then they should color it with brown color and have the cardboard to create a cabin for their ark.



This activity is based on the hadith narrated from RasuluAllah (PBUH) that said:

إِنَّ الْحُسَيْنَ مِصْبَاحُ الْهُدَى وَسَفِينَةُ النَّجَاةِ

Hossein is the ark of rescue.

Talk to the kids about how following Imam Hussain (as) can rescue us. That his ark is the largest and fastest.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 9: How following Imam Hussain (as) can rescue us.

We are now at the eve of 9th of Muharram. You see how quickly these 10 days are passing by us. We should make sure even after these 10 days we still work towards learning the teachings of Imam Hossein (PBUH) and his family.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

إِنَّ الْحُسَيْنَ مِصْبَاحُ الْهُدَى وَسَفِينَةُ النَّجَاةِ

Hossein (PBUH) is the light of guidance and the ark of rescue.

Imam is the light of guidance.

How?

Imagine if you enter a dark room and there is no light. The first thing you want to do is ask someone to turn on the light otherwise you will bump into something in the room and hurt yourself, or you will never find what you wanted from the room. This world is like this room so dark without the guidance of Allah and His light.

Imam Hossein (PBUH) is the light of guidance that can tell us to stay in front of oppression, not to oppress anyone and not to let anyone oppress others.

What do you do if you see someone is oppressing (bullying) someone at school or in the street? Yes, you either defend the oppressed one or call someone to come and help.

That is what Imam taught us, that when people are going to destroy Islam and ruin its image like Yazid we should be like Imam Hossein (PBUH) and stand in front of that oppression.

In this world we need a guide to teach us how to live in this world properly. So following the Imam's path which is the path of Islam and Allah keeps us away from Shaytan and bad deeds that can hurt our soul and body. For example, Allah said don't drink alcohol because it is physically harmful for you, or be nice and helpful to others because it can provide support for you.

Yes, Imam Hossein teaches us the true Islam that RasulAllah (PBUH) brought for all human beings and he guards it and makes sure it is away from any mistakes and false information.

Actually this is the responsibility of the Imam, to make sure that people follow the true Islam and not let others add anything from themselves into the Islamic regulations and to misguide people.

That is why our Imam taught us how RasulAllah (PBUH) was saying his salah in the most authentic way, also, we fast and break our fasts the way that Imams told us that RasulAllah (PBUH) recommended. Indeed, we follow the true ruling of Islam because RasulAllah (PBUH) said: after me learn the regulations from my true successors who are Imam Ali and his noble children.

Therefore, once you follow them you are actually following RasulAllah (PBUH) and Allah. Following Allah brings salvation to us and makes us successful in both worlds.

Exactly like the companion of Imam Hossain. They listened to him, followed him and reached the highest level of Iman, which is why we see their graves next to Imam Hossein (PBUH). Millions of people visit their graves from around the world.

They reached salvation because they followed the Imam of their time. We should pray to be like them as we recite in Ziarat Warith:

فَيَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ مَعَكُمْ فَأَفُورَ مَعَكُمْ

I wish I could be with you, so that I could also share the accomplishment with you.

But also in the other world they have the best position and have the highest levels among other martyrs (shohada).

Alright, let me ask you a question:

Tell me some of the teachings and recommendations of our Imams?

Saying our prayers

Being respectful to our parents

Helping others

Don't use bad words

Encourage people to do good

Forbid others from doing bad

Controlling our anger and having a good temper

So you see, whoever follows these orders not only will have a better relationship with others and would have a happier life in this world but also will have a better status on the Day of Judgment.

Remember, all this will happen by following the Imam of our time, like the companions of Imam Hossein (PBUH) who followed him and reached salvation, we should also follow the Imam of our time to be able to reach salvation and be rescued.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَاعَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَزْوَاجِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah

and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.

Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever

as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night

May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)

Peace be upon al- Hossein,

upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein,
upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

Just a last reminder, remember that our Imam of time Imam Mahdi is witnessing your actions. Making him happy by good deeds is equal to making Allah happy so make sure you have the intention to make him happy everyday at least with one of your actions.

So, make sure you remember him every day and night: Let's say Salam to him:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ يَا صَاحِبَ الرِّمَانِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ الْأَيْمَةِ الْحُجَّجِ الْمَعْصُومِينَ وَ
الْإِمَامِ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ أَجْمَعِينَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ سَلَامَ مُخْلِصٍ لَكَ فِي الْوِلَايَةِ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْمَهْدِيُّ
قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَأَنْتَ الَّذِي تَمْلَأُ الْأَرْضَ قِسْطًا وَعَدْلًا بَعْدَ مَا مَلِئَتْ ظُلْمًا وَجَوْرًا فَعَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَكَ وَسَهَّلَ
مَخْرَجَكَ

Peace be upon you, O son of the Commander of the Believers. Peace be upon you, O son of Fatimah the Luminous and the Doyenne of the women of the world. Peace be upon you, O son of the Imams, the arguments (of Allah) and Immaculate and the leader of all creatures. Peace be upon you, O my master addressed by him who is loyal to your (divinely commissioned) leadership.

I bear witness that you are the well-guided Imam in word and deed, it is you who shall fill the earth with justice and impartiality after it will be filled with wrong and partiality.

So, may Allah hasten your reappearance, make easy your advent, make nearer the time of your coming, make nearer the time of your coming.

Night Ten:

Activity 10: Candle light:

Supplies:

Paper plate
Markers
Scissors
Glue

Instructions:

Using colored paper, have children cut a long rectangle. Starting from one end, fold pleats accordion style, about 1 inch apart along the whole length.

Cut a flame out of construction paper and glue it to the top side of the folded paper. Glue the bottom side of the folded paper on to the center of a paper plate.



Now ask children to decorate the plate with the names of Imam Hossein (PBUH).

This activity is based on the hadith of RasulAllah (PBUH):

إِنَّ الْحُسَيْنَ مِصْبَاحُ الْهُدَى وَسَفِينَةُ النَّجَاةِ

Imam is the light of guidance.

Imam Hossein (PBUH) is like a light that brightens our path towards success in this world and the other world. Those who follow him will never get lost not in this world nor in the other ones.

Lessons from Karbala

Lesson 10: The secret behind the success of the family of Imam Hossein (PBUT):

“Patience”

Tonight is the night of Ashura. The night of the martyrdom of Imam Hossain (PBUH). The night that all Ahlulbait are grieving and sad because of this tragedy.

Tomorrow, the 10th of Muharram is the day that they killed the truth, purity, sincerity, bravery, piety, virtue, and servitude. Tomorrow, they martyred Imam Hossein and 72 men among his family and friends.

May Allah never forgive those who oppressed him and punish them with the worst of all punishments.

It is very important to remember that as important it is to love Imam Hossein and righteous people it is equally important to dislike their enemies and unrighteous people. This is called Tawallah and Tabarra in Islam:

Tawallah (تولى) and Tabarra (تبرى). These two should always be together, loving Allah and Ahlulbait and disliking their enemies.

Imagine if your friend had people who hurt them and were their enemies. You would not support those people or like what they do. We cannot be friends with Imam Hossein (PBUH) and also be friends with those who oppressed him and killed him.

That is why in Ziarat Ashura we recite:

بَرِئْتُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَإِلَيْكُمْ مِنْهُمْ
وَاتَّقَرُّبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْكُمْ
بِمُؤَالَاتِكُمْ وَمُؤَالَاةِ وَلِيِّكُمْ
وَبِالْبَرَاءَةِ مِنْ أَعْدَائِكُمْ
وَالنَّاصِبِينَ لَكُمْ أَلْحَزَبِ
وَبِالْبَرَاءَةِ مِنْ أَشْيَاعِهِمْ وَاتِّبَاعِهِمْ

إِنِّي سِلْمٌ لِمَنْ سَالَمَكُمْ

وَحَرْبٌ لِمَنْ حَارَبَكُمْ

وَوَلِيٌّ لِمَنْ وَالَاكُمْ

وَعَدُوٌّ لِمَنْ عَادَاكُمْ

In the presence of Allah and you all do I reject these (your enemies). And I seek nearness to Allah and then to you all by means of declaring loyalty to you and to your loyalists and declaring repudiation of your enemies and those who incur animosity of you and repudiation of their adherents and followers. I am verily at peace with those who have been at peace with you, I am at war against those who fought against you, loyalist to those who have been loyalist to you, and enemy of those who have shown enmity towards you.

Yes, the enemies of Ahlulbait are the enemies of Allah and we should dislike them.

These people oppressed and tortured the family of Imam Hossein (PBUH) after his martyrdom. They tortured Imam Sajjad (PBUH) who was very sick, women, and even little children of Imam Hossein (PBUH).

We know that one of the main reasons that the whole world knows about Imam Hossein (PBUH) is because of his family who after Karbala showed everyone the ugly intentions of Yazid and his army in killing Imam and his companion. Especially Imam Sajjad (PBUH), and Hadhrat Zainab (SA) who told people who Yazid really was through their great lectures and told people how wrong they were.

What do you think is one of the most important reasons behind their success?

Yes, their patience, something that Allah recommended to us to observe.

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ

And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient,

Baqarah, 155

Imam Sajjad and Hadhrat Zainab totally acted upon this ayah and were so patient with this great tragedy. They taught us a very good lesson that whatever happens in life we should ask Allah to give us strength to be patient and not to always complain and cause issues.

Can you tell me some times that you think you should be patient?

Yes, also, when it comes to worship of Allah, we should be patient and observe His orders, saying our prayers, fasting, and many others need patience.

You know it's kind of like going to school. You should be very patient to go to school every day all the way from kindergarten, then elementary, then middle school, high school, all the way to university. If someone is not patient, they will not take the time to make good grades and pass all their classes.

Also, avoiding haram needs patience that we control ourselves and avoid committing haram.

For example, if one of your friends told you something that upset you or made you angry, you should be patient to be able to control your anger and not to say anything bad to them. Or when you are upset at your parents, you should be patient to control yourself and not disrespect them so Allah rewards you for that.

The good news is that Allah is witnessing when you are patient and He rewards you as He said in Quran:

وَجَزَاهُمْ بِمَا صَبَرُوا جَنَّةً وَحَرِيرًا

And will reward them for what they patiently endured [with] a garden [in Paradise] and silk [garments].

Insan, 12

Remember, as I said, our role model in patience is Hadhrat Zainab (SA) who was so patient. She lost many members of her family in Karbala but she was still very strong in front of Yazid and his commanders. She could defend the Imam and martyrs of Karbala very beautifully.

Who can tell me where Hadhrat Zainab (SA) received her patience from? From what source?

From her Iman (strong faith). Because she was a very righteous lady she relied on Allah and knew that Allah is the witness that is why she could tolerate that tragedy.

Now we see how important patience in life is. We actually want to be like our heroes of Karbala, therefore, we need to practice those things they did such as patience.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَا عَبْدِ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْأَرْوَاحِ الَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلَامُ اللَّهِ أَبَدًا مَا بَقِيَتْ وَبَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ
وَلَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ آخِرَ الْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَوْلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ

Peace be upon you, O Aba-`Abdullah
and upon the souls that gathered in your courtyard.
Peace of Allah be upon you from me forever
as long as I am existent and as long as there are day and night
May Allah not cause this (visit) to be the last of my visit to you (all)

Peace be upon al- Hossein,
upon `Ali ibn al- Hossein,
upon the sons of al- Hossein,
and upon the companions of al- Hossein.

MashaAllah, may Allah accept your ziarat to your Imam.

My dear children, please remember that Imam Mahdi (AJTF) is also very patient. It has been many years that he is waiting for his reappearance by Allah's permission. We should be very careful of our actions and make sure we help him and provide the situations for his Zohour. InshaAllah.

Let's say some Duas:

Ya Allah, hasten the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (AJTF)

Ya Allah, help us to be among the true followers of our Imam.

Ya Allah, give us strength to be among the best Muslims.

Ya Allah, feed whoever is hungry, and clothe whoever needs clothing.

Ya Allah, there are many innocent children who are being oppressed and in war, like the children of Yemen, please provide the opportunities for their freedom.

Ya Allah cure all who are sick.

Now let's end our Majlis with Dua Faraj.



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