

## Core Curriculum

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### 4 Prophethood in Islam

#### 4.1

#### **A Brief Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (s): The Prophet's Childhood (PART I of III)**

**Question :** Why did the Prophet migrate to Medina?

**Answer :** To flee persecution and assassination attempts on his life

**Question :** Did Abū Ṭālib convert to Islam?

**Answer :** Yes, he was of the best of Muslims, however, in order to preserve his power so that he could defend the Prophet, he kept his Muslim identity secret from most people.

**Question :** Did the King of Abyssinia convert to Islam?

**Answer :** We are not 100% sure, but we know he respected Islam and the Qur'an very much.

**Question :** Did the Prophet ever go on offensive wars?

**Answer :** No, all of his wars were defensive in nature. He never began wars.

**Question :** Why did the Prophet marry multiple women after the death of Khadijah?

**Answer :** The Prophet only married them in order to create tribal alliances so that he could defend Islam which, at the time, was under threat. At the height of his power after the conquest of Mecca, he did not take any additional wives.

#### 4.2

#### **Bio: The Prophet Muhammad as a Prophet of God (PART II of III)**

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## 4.3

### **A Brief Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (s): The Prophet's Character (PART III of III)**

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## 4.4

### **The Prophet Muhammad (s) as Messenger and Teacher**

**Question :** What's the difference between a prophet and messenger?

**Answer :** A messenger is a prophet who receives a new system of laws and (usually) a scripture.

**Question :** As a doctor, what does the Prophet Muhammad (s) heal?

**Answer :** He heals people's hearts and souls. The disease he heals is separation from God.

**Question :** Did the Prophet Muhammad (s) force belief on people?

**Answer :** No, he was a teacher, not a dictator. He taught them good and bad, as well as their consequences. But he left the choice to people to accept his message of healing or reject it.

**Question :** What are some of the ways the Prophet (s) was truthful?

**Answer :** He never cheated or lied in business while he was a merchant. He also always remained truthful even if it went against himself.

**Question :** What does it mean to be the “Seal of Prophets”

**Answer :** It means that the person in question is the last of all prophets.

## 4.5

### **The Prophet and his Relationships**

**Question :** What was the Prophet’s relationship with the Qur’an?

**Answer :** He was the Qur’an in action.

**Question :** Why did the Prophet (s) show compassion to people?

**Answer :** By showing compassion, the Messenger of Allah (s) not only expressed to them the love that was in his heart, but by doing so he also opened their hearts to him and in turn, their hearts to Allah.

**Question :** How was the Prophet’s relationship with Allah?

**Answer :** It was founded on absolute trust, obedience, sincerity and love to Him. The relationship was that of total servitude.

**Question :** Why did the Prophet (s) not disown the companions he knew would deviate after him?

**Answer :** He did not want to take away their chance of guidance as everyone must have a chance at salvation.

**Question :** What’s the point of an Ummah?

**Answer :** To break down tribal, geographic and racial barriers. These identities that people have, whether they are racial or tribal, are all mental creations and often beget hatred towards others and eventually alienation from God.

## 4.6

### **The Prophet’s Sunnah and Hadith**

**Question :** Are all hadiths equal?

**Answer :** No, some are reliable but others are fabricated

**Question :** What is Sunnah?

**Answer :** Sunnah are the sayings and actions of the Prophet

**Question :** What is a hadith?

**Answer :** A hadith is a report concerning the saying or action of the Prophet that has been orally transmitted to later generations.

**Question :** What is a Sanad?

**Answer :** Arabic term for a hadith's chain of transmission.

**Question :** Who narrated hadiths from the Prophet?

**Answer :** His companions and his Ahl al-Bayt (as)

## 4.7

### **Ghadīr and Arafah: The Two Last Sermons of the Prophet**

**Question :** What is the sermon of Ghadīr?

**Answer :** Sermon where the Prophet designated his successor and religious leader for mankind, namely Imam Ali (as) and the Ahl al-Bayt (as).

**Question :** What is the sermon of Arafah?

**Answer :** One of the Prophet's (s) last sermons where which contained a series of exhortations for Muslims in terms of their treatment of people.

**Question :** What was the Prophet's (s) last sermon?

**Answer :** Ghadīr

**Question :** What is mawla?

**Answer :** Mawla means master, that is, divine guide and master of the Muslim ummah.

**Question :** How many people were present at the event of Ghadīr?

**Answer :** Over a 100 000

## 4.8

### **Jesus and Mary in Islam**

**Question :** Is Jesus God in Islam?

**Answer :** No, Islam considers him a Prophet and Messenger only.

**Question :** Does Islam believe in the Trinity?

**Answer :** No, Islam believes in Tawhīd, meaning that God is One Person and not Three Persons.

**Question :** Does Islam believe Mary was the Mother of God?

**Answer :** Since Islam does not consider Jesus to be God, naturally then Mary is not the Mother of God either.

**Question :** What was Jesus' Divinely Revealed Book?

**Answer :** The Injīl (Gospel)

**Question :** According to Islam, was the Injīl changed over time?

**Answer :** Yes, its original message was distorted, although some of it still remains.