



DAWAH

Every Muslim's Responsibility

دعوة



Revive Pack

Lessons | Stories | Activities | Resources



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Introduction

Imagine you hear a knock at your door. Your trustworthy neighbor tells you about a tornado touching down in your neighborhood. But don't panic; there's a way to stay safe. A shelter has been set up where residents can ride out the storm.

What would your reaction be? Would you be annoyed or thankful for the heads-up? Would you call friends and family living in the area to tell them to join you in the shelter?

Similarly, Allah has sent messengers to humanity to warn them about the consequences of evil deeds, all arising from being neglectful of Him or having incorrect beliefs about Him (swt).

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once described his role as a warner in the following way.

"The example of me and people is like a man who lights a fire, and when it brightens up what is around it, moths/butterflies and creatures [that are attracted to fire] begin to fall into it. He begins to remove them from it, but they overpower him and rush into it. I am taking hold of your waists to keep you back from the Fire while [you] are rushing into it."

[Sahih Bukhari 6483]

Allah also calls His messengers bringers of "good news." This good news refers to how we can know our Creator properly to receive His mercy, blessing, and the ultimate reward of Paradise.

"Their Lord gives them the good news of His mercy and good pleasure and Gardens where they will enjoy everlasting delight."

[Quran 9:21]

Just like we would not hesitate to inform our family, friends, and neighbors about an impending tornado touch-down in our area to help save their lives, we should also not hesitate to share the message of Islam with those around us. Why? Because we know Allah's instructions are the life-giving and soul-reviving solutions to whatever anyone is facing.

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Dawah: Inviting to The Way of God

The Arabic word dawah means an "invitation." Giving dawah is to share and invite others to the message of Islam. Dawah is the first and foremost duty of all the messengers Allah has sent to humanity. And as Muslims, Allah also expects us to carry out this responsibility.

"Who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah, does righteous deeds, and says indeed I am among the Muslims."
[Quran 41:33]

The Prophet (s) also said, "Convey (my teachings) to the people even if it were a single sentence..."

[Sahih Bukhari 3461]

While it is every Muslim's duty to invite others to Islam, we are not called to convert anyone to the religion forcibly. Allah says in the Quran:

"There shall be no compulsion in (acceptance of) the religion." [Quran 2:256]

Types of Dawah

Broadly speaking, Dawah is divided into two types.

(1) Dawah to Non-Muslims

As Muslims, Allah has tasked us with sharing His message with those who are unaware and also those who reject it. It is a duty but also a test for us through

which Allah assesses our dedication to the truth.

"Who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah, does righteous deeds, and says indeed I am among the Muslims."

[Quran, 41:33]

"Let there arise among you a group inviting to all that is good, enjoining righteousness and forbidding evil. Those are the successful ones."

[Quran, 3:104]

(2) Dawah to Muslims

Believe it or not, calling Muslims to learn about their religion and implement its teachings is also called Dawah. This type of dawah is as essential as the other. After all, we must ensure our own houses are in order while discussing the disrepair of others. Allah also mentions this in the Quran:

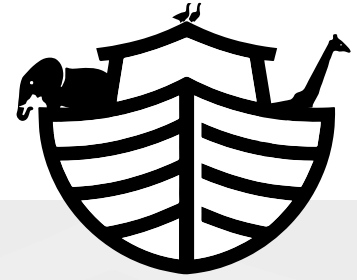
"And keep reminding, because reminding benefits the believers."

[Quran 51:55]

"And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness."

[Quran, 20:13]

Prophetic Models of Dawah



PROPHET NUH – Exemplifying Patience

The Prophet Nuh (a) patiently preached to his people for 950 years! Yet even then, only a handful of his people believed in the message. He continued to spread the message until Allah told him to stop.

“He cried, ‘My Lord! I have surely called my people day and night, but my calls only made them run farther away. And whenever I invite them to be forgiven by You, they press their fingers into their ears, cover themselves with their clothes, persist in denial, and act very arrogantly. Then I certainly called them openly, then I surely preached to them publicly and privately, saying, ‘Seek your Lord’s forgiveness, for He is truly Most Forgiving.’”

[Quran 71:5-10]

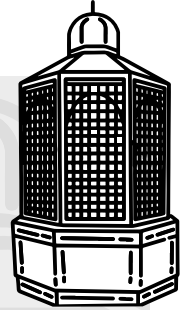
LESSON:

Our responsibility is to do our best and use all the best methods to call to the faith. We are not responsible for the results because guidance is only from Allah.

“You surely cannot guide whoever you like O Prophet, but it is Allah Who guides whoever He wills, and He knows best who are fit to be guided.”

[Quran 28:56]

PROPHET IBRAHIM – Using Logic



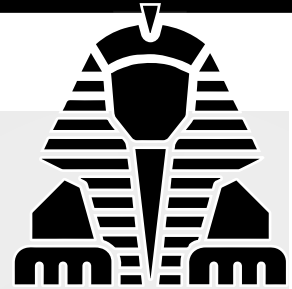
The Prophet Ibrahim (a) was wise beyond his years. As a young boy, he concluded there must be one singular, almighty Creator just by observing the rising of the stars, moon, and sun. He also appealed to his people's intellect by challenging their idol worship by asking logical questions they had no answer for.

“Then he [Ibrahim] went quietly to the (temple of the deities) and said: “What is the matter with you, why do you not eat? What is the matter with you? Why do you not speak?” Then he turned upon them, striking them with his right hand, whereupon people came to him running. Abraham said to them: “Do you worship what you yourselves have carved with your own hands while it is Allah Who has created you and all that you make?”

[Quran 37:91-97]

LESSON:

We learn from Prophet Ibrahim to ask questions of people to make them think and help them reach their own realization that they are not following the truth. Engaging the intellect is as important as engaging the heart.



PROPHET YUSUF – Seizing Opportunity

The Prophet Yusuf (a) was imprisoned after falsely being accused of sexual assault. Yet even under the dimmest of circumstances, he did not waste an opportunity to educate his fellow prisoners about Allah.

“I follow the faith of my fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is not right for us to associate anything with Allah in worship. This is part of Allah’s grace upon us and humanity, but most people are not grateful. O my fellow prisoners! Which is far better: many different lords or Allah—the One, the Supreme? Whatever idols you worship instead of Him are mere names which you and your forefathers have made up—a practice Allah has never authorized. It is only Allah Who decides. He has commanded that you worship none but Him. That is the upright faith, but most people do not know.”

[Quran 12:38-40]

LESSON:

Always keep your mind open to recognize a good opportunity to invite others to learn about Allah. Never assume that a person is a “hopeless case” and can never be guided. Prophet Yusuf even called criminals to the faith. Any soul can be guided if Allah wills. We do our part, and the rest is with Allah.



PROPHET MUSA – Speaking Truth to Power

Allah tasked the Prophet Musa (a) to preach directly to the notorious Pharaoh, who had enslaved his people. When Musa reaches his court and begins to tell him about Allah, the Pharaoh uses the opportunity to distract him and induce guilt in him for standing up against him who raised him. The Prophet Musa (a) skillfully maneuvers the conversation to bring it back to Allah.

Quran 26:18-29

18. Pharaoh protested, "Did we not raise you among us as a child, and you stayed several years of your life in our care?"
19. Then you did what you did, being utterly ungrateful!"
20. Moses replied, "I did it then, lacking guidance.
21. So I fled from you when I feared you. Then my Lord granted me wisdom and made me one of the messengers.
22. How can that be a 'favor,' of which you remind me, when it was only because you have enslaved the Children of Israel?"
23. Pharaoh asked, "And what is 'the Lord of all worlds'?"
24. Moses replied, "He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything in between, if only you had sure faith."
25. Pharaoh said to those around him, "Did you hear what he said?"
26. Moses added, "He is your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers."
27. Pharaoh said mockingly, "Your messenger, who has been sent to you, must be insane."
28. Moses responded: "He is the Lord of the east and west, and everything in between, if only you had any sense."
29. Pharaoh threatened, "If you take any other god besides me, I will certainly have you imprisoned."



(Continued: Prophet Musa)

LESSON:

Always keep your mind open to recognize a good opportunity to invite others to learn about Allah. Never assume that a person is a “hopeless case” and can never be guided. Prophet Yusuf even called criminals to the faith. Any soul can be guided if Allah wills. We do our part, and the rest is with Allah.



PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ – Exemplary Character

When the Prophet ﷺ was giving dawah in the valley of Taif, his words were met with jeers and stones from the residents of the area. He (s) was pelted with so many stones that his shoes were soaked with blood. An angel came down and said if the Prophet ﷺ allowed, he could crush the two mountains between which Taif was located, destroying the people for their rejection of God's messenger.

The Prophet ﷺ was not only tender-hearted but also a visionary. He refused the angel's offer saying even if the people didn't believe now, perhaps there would be believers among the descendants of the residents of Taif (which did end up happening).

LESSON:

Most of the time, our exceptional character (honesty, kindness, etc.) speaks louder than words. This is how Islam was spread to the Far East.

"And if you [Muhammad] had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you..."

[Quran 3:159]

"And you are truly a man of outstanding character."

[Quran 68:4]

How to Give Dawah: Dos and Don'ts

“Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided ...”

[Quran 16: 125]

Set Your Intention

Take a moment to reflect on why you are about to take part in the act of giving dawah. You want to make sure your intentions are purely for the sake of Allah and not for an ego boost.

Know the Fundamentals of Your Religion

It's crucial that before you share some Islamic knowledge, you know what you're talking about. You should have a good grasp of the basic tenets of Islam. Details of Fiqh are not needed, but you need to be firm in your understanding of aqeedah. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spent 13 years in Mecca calling to One God, The Only God worthy of worship, and that we will each be responsible for our choices on a Day of Judgement followed by reward or punishment.

Know Your Audience & Feel Genuine Concern for Them

You would not talk to an elderly neighbor the way you would to a philosophy professor. Know when to keep it simple and when to bring more sophistication to your conversation. But no matter who you're talking to, don't look down at them. Feel a genuine concern for them, just as you would be concerned about helping anyone out of a burning building. When the prophets



called on their nations, they would say, “My people.” Even when they were rejected, they would each continue to refer to them as “my people.” This showed that they were from and a part of the communities they lived among and wanted the best for them.

Exemplify the Best Character

Be courteous and patient when calling to the way of Allah. Don't resort to name-calling or cheap point-scoring, even if the person you're talking to is. Your role is simply to convey the message.

“And do not insult those they invoke other than Allāh, lest they insult Allāh in enmity without knowledge. Thus We have made pleasing to every community their deeds. Then to their Lord is their return, and He will inform them about what they used to do.”

[Quran 6:108]



Stay Focused

Don't get yourself pulled into a tangent. Many times, non-Muslims will have only heard of certain rulings in Islam, such as those regarding hijab or the LGBTQ question. Instead of taking up all the time explaining the reasoning behind these specific issues, steer the conversation back to the oneness and wisdom of Allah, who knows what's best for His creation.

Don't Become Apologetic or Desperate

Of course, there are many misunderstandings about the religion that need to be corrected, but we should not whitewash Islam in a misguided effort to win people over. Always strive for accuracy in conveying Islamic principles, even if they seem outdated compared to the latest trends.

Know That the Result Lies with Allah

Allah has only tasked us with sharing His message. Don't feel disappointed or glum if someone to whom you were talking didn't end up taking the shahadah. The Prophet (s) preached to his beloved uncle Abu Talib even on his deathbed, but the latter never accepted Islam. Allah is most aware of every human's heart and will guide whom He wills.

Be an Ambassador for Islam: Real Life Cases

1 "I recently heard a heart-warming story. A corporation reimbursed its employees up to \$30 a day for lunch. Employees always requested a full \$30 refund, except one. This employee only asks for reimbursement of the exact amount of money his lunch cost that day, whether it was \$11.05 or \$15.96. When the company's Human Resources department asked him why, he said his Muslim faith dictates that he be honest in all his dealings. The integrity of this Muslim brother greatly impressed the company managers."

– Eaman A.

2 A college professor once assigned us to read a critique of Islam written by an ex-Muslim. Being the only Muslim in my class, this worried me. Especially since I have a timid personality, and I wasn't a social person who spoke up that often in class. But I had to do something. It felt like a test from Allah, and I didn't want to let Him down. I made dua to Allah to make me strong and then went through the reading, researching counterpoints to all the arguments the ex-Muslim writer had made. It was amazingly easy to refute his objections against Islam.

The following day, after the professor was done giving a rundown of the critique, he looked directly at me as if I had anything to say. I raised my hand and said I disagreed with the writer's assessment. Muslim women, for instance, were not forced to marry against their will in Islam. I mentioned the incident of a woman who complained to the Prophet (s) that her father had married her off without her consent. When he (s) asked what she didn't like about him, she said his face (physical appearance). This caused my classmates to laugh. I continued that the Prophet (s) then told the woman it was her choice to leave her husband or remain with him.

Similarly, I spoke about the reason the jizya tax was imposed on non-Muslims under caliphates and a whole host of other objections that the ex-Muslim writer had with Islam. I asked why we were only assigned to read a critique of Islam and not any other religion.

Even though my voice and body were shaking, my professor said I gave an "eloquent" response. I found my classmates sitting next to me, smiling at me, and some of them even came up to me after class and commended me for speaking up. I never expected this reaction and am in awe till this day how easy Allah made what I thought would be a very difficult situation for me."

– Aisha A.

3

"I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, into a family where my father had converted from Catholicism to Islam around the time of my birth. Growing up as an average African-American kid, I had a bustling social life with lots of friends. However, around the age of 18, I started pondering about life and stumbled upon Islam, viewing it as the ultimate truth and the foundation upon which I wanted to build my future.

My enthusiasm for Islam was palpable, bordering on fanaticism. I was eager to share my newfound beliefs with everyone around me, leading to noticeable changes in my daily routine, especially in terms of prayer. When I was around 21, my closest friend, sensing this transformation, initiated conversations about life and my religious shift. Rather than accepting my views blindly, he sought more substantial evidence.

Our discussions continued, and one day, Jehovah's Witnesses approached him at home. Intrigued by Islam, he arranged a meeting between me and them without my knowledge. Despite my initial surprise, I agreed to attend.

The meeting involved three individuals: a lead spokesperson and two followers who remained mostly silent. The conversation covered various statements, claims, and questions about both religions. I aimed to guide the discussion towards understanding the ultimate truth.

As the discussion progressed, the lead spokesperson made comments about Allah that seemed illogical. In response, I pointed out the absurdity of certain notions, emphasizing that religion is not a game, and our goal shouldn't be to 'win' arguments for argument's sake.

Although the meeting concluded without a clear resolution, my friend, who had observed the entire discourse, was impressed with my answers and the respectful manner in which I engaged with them. This encounter ultimately deepened his interest in Islam, leading him to accept it as the truth shortly thereafter."

– **Salah S.**



Activities

HOST A KNOW YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR EVENT

Instructions MAS' **Know Your Muslim Neighbor** event is a one-of-a-kind event during which an open house is held for non-Muslims in a community to learn about their Muslim neighbors. It can be hosted at a mosque, community center, school, or other accessible space.

A KYMN event can include an exhibit on notable Muslim figures from American history, Q&A sessions, calligraphy, and much more. Find out more about organizing a Know Your Muslim Neighbor event [here](#).

Use [this quiz](#) as a fun way to start off the program. It's an engaging way for attendees to test their knowledge of Islam while the facilitator clarifies any misunderstanding.





Activities

BALANCING BALLOONS



Summary This discussion-based activity is designed to break down some challenging situations when it comes to giving dawah to Muslims and Non-Muslims

- Activity Goals**
- Introduces the fiqh of priorities
 - Instilling courage and confidence in facing difficult situations
 - Encourages discussion and problem-solving among the group

- Supplies**
- Balloons, some labeled and some blank
 - Sharpies for writing on balloon

Instructions

1. A volunteer will read a challenging scenario on an index card. At the center of the room are several dozen balloons with Sharpies for writing on them. The scenarios are:

- A teacher or professor asks the class why God created evil.
- A classmate or colleague asks you why God would care if you got a tattoo or covered your hair as a female.
- A close non-Muslim friend asks you to spend Christmas at their home.

2. A Facilitator asks, ***“In this situation, what are the different challenges, values, and considerations you might have?”***
3. Participants then take turns voicing different ideas and selecting the corresponding balloon from the ground to hand to the volunteer who read the scenario (and is still standing up). The idea is that as the audience continues to speak and brainstorm different aspects of the problem, the volunteer will be holding a lot of balloons and maybe even dropping some of them.



Activities

BALANCING BALLOONS (CONTINUED)

In the second phase of the activity, ask the volunteer to drop all the balloons. Begin asking the volunteer and audience questions about priorities. Some questions to think about can be:

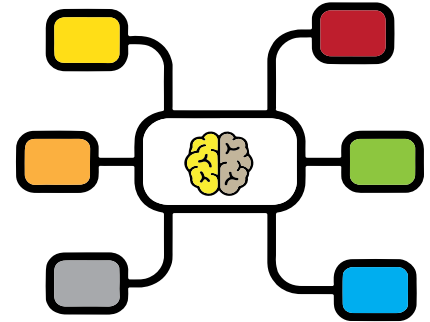
- If you had to drop all balloons but one, which one would you keep? How would that response look?
- If you could only keep three balloons, which ones? How might that response be different and slightly better?
- Can you work together to organize the balloons in order of priority for this particular scenario?

Adapt the activity as needed. Use only one scenario if the time is tight. Discuss how their answers can come in handy in a real-life scenario to give dawah.



Activities

MINDMAP THE ISLAMIC FRAMEWORK



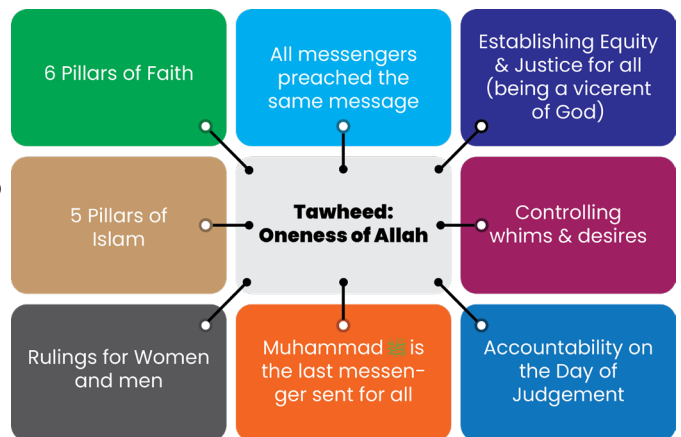
Activity Goal This activity helps participants see how encompassing and broad the Islamic paradigm is, rather than isolating issues and rules. A single piece of the puzzle might not appear to make sense, but seen as a whole, the laws of Islam form a beautiful system in which individuals are honored, and society is structured based on justice and mercy. Once participants internalize this, giving dawah will become much easier.

- Supplies**
- Whiteboard or blank wall to map out ideas
 - Sticky notes
 - Markers

Instructions We will be using a method of brainstorming called the Lotus method to help attendees see how broad the Islamic paradigm is and to see rulings on hijab, gender relations, and more that get brought up in dawah conversations, are part of a coherent system. To understand this brainstorming technique, see <https://thoughtegg.com/lotus-blossom-creative-technique/>

1. Create a mindmap that looks something like the following around different elements of the Islamic model: <https://online.visual-paradigm.com/knowledge/brainstorming/lotus-blossom-technique/>

2. The facilitator can decide how much of the mindmap they want to get started for their group or have them start it from scratch. A partially built mindmap could look like this but could also incorporate different elements:





Activities

MINDMAP THE ISLAMIC FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

3. Divide into eight groups, and each group will take one of the elements in this center map and develop a similar blossom around it, writing down related concepts and putting them on sticky notes.
4. The facilitator will ask each group to present and add their sticky notes to the mindmap. The facilitator can point out recurring themes across the board and ask their audience to point out which ideas are breaking down in society today.



Resources

Articles

5 Practical Tips for Giving Da'wah

<https://www.gainpeace.com/blog/5-practical-tips-for-giving-dawah>

Dawah Secrets That Work - 11 Tips!

<https://www.justaskislam.com/188/dawah-secrets-that-work-11-tips/>

12 Tips for Muslim Youth in Dawah

https://a2youth.com/articles/islamic_manners/12_tips_for_muslim_youth/

Skills & Tools

<https://www.dawahskills.com/category/skills-tools/>

Websites

Bridges Foundation

<https://bridges-foundation.org/about-us/>

Know Your Muslim Neighbors

<https://www.kymn.org>

ICNA National Dawah

<https://icnadawah.org>

Why Islam

<https://www.whyislam.org/>

iERA

<https://iera.org/>

Sapience Institute

<https://sapienceinstitute.org/our-services/>



Resources (CONTINTUED)

Videos

Campus Dawah: Tools and Tips

<https://youtu.be/D6psKOa980g?si=EXBmw5yJ4wzfh4du>

Know Your Muslim Neighbor Event

<https://youtu.be/Nh-1p3D0PVM?si=SUv8xXC5sROWI6r5>

Do Dawah

<https://youtube.com/@idodawah?si=9N7guHi5GVxINAEC>

How to Give Dawah

<https://youtu.be/IKOEoEXT0NE?si=gGMUdHHYQXtvodlw>

Dawah Tools

<https://thedeenshow.com/dawah-tools/>

Your Tools & How To Do Dawah

<https://youtu.be/fuDD7hzgJLE?si=0IICtAFis3mBQoRT>

The Prophetic Dawah

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ulJc06ksfko?si=WJvaOvDeYb5WECRW>

Resources for Reverts

Reverts Reconnect

<https://www.masnewyork.org/reverts-reconnect>

Embrace Reverts

<https://embracereverts.org/>

Podcasts

After Hours: A New Dawah Podcast

<https://youtu.be/Q1xx8H9C6SA?si=3Ng3pPxrPUKmn6Aa>

Guidebook to God

<https://yaqeeninstitute.org/listen/guidebook-to-god>