

When we love someone, we love to talk to them.

We love them to talk to us.



When we talk to them, we feel happy.

Muslims love Allah more than they love even their own family.

They speak to Him every day.

They feel better after they talk to Him.



Sometimes they talk to Him when they need to ask Him for something.

So when they are ill, they ask Him to make them better.

This is called making *du'aa* to Allah.



Allah hears their *du'aa*.

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Sometimes they talk to Him at fixed times in the day.

Allah told them to talk to Him at those times.

There are five of those times every day.



Allah has made it easy for us to talk to Him then.

Each time takes a few minutes.

Each one of those is called *salaah*.

Salaah means prayer.



When they do their salaah, Muslims say things to Allah which He told them to say.

Those things are nice things.

When they do their *salaah*, Muslims say how much they want Allah to help them.



And to stop them doing wrong things.

And they say how great Allah is.

And they ask Allah to protect them from things which hurt them.



The last of the Prophets ﷺ taught the Muslims how to pray.

Muslims have to do their *salaah* in that way.

They shouldn't do their *salaah* in any other way just because they like to do it that way.

They copy the way that the last Prophet ﷺ prayed.



When Muslims do their *salaah* they feel calm and happy.



Doing the *salaah* helps Muslims to stay away from doing bad things.

It helps them to stay away from hurting other people.

It helps to stop doing things which Allah does not like.



During the *salaah* Muslims speak to Allah.



And Allah speaks back to them.

They cannot hear Allah speaking to them.

They cannot touch Allah or see Him in their prayers.

But they know that He is listening to them.

And they hope to see Him after they die.



O Allah, help us to pray in the correct way.

O Allah, make it be easy for us to pray.

O Allah, accept our prayers.



Aameen.

Key points for teachers:

Muslims call upon Allah every day, through supplicating to Him and through the legislated prayers.

Remembering Allah brings about tranquillity of the heart.

Allah hears the person when he or she calls upon Him.

The obligatory daily prayers are five in number, although supererogatory prayers can be offered as well.

The timings of the prayers as well as what is said and done during the prayers are legislated by Allah, and not according to a person's whims and desires.

The prayers contain supplications in which the person asks Allah for guidance and protection from misguidance.

Prayer helps to prevent a person from falling into evil during the rest of the day.

Unlike many other religions, we do not need a physical object to direct our worship towards. Rather we cannot see or hear our Lord whom we worship but we know that He sees and hears us.

Prayer does require some effort but Allah has made it easy for us and has given us only five compulsory prayers per day.

Discussion points

- 1) How many times a day do we *have* to pray?
- 2) Are we allowed to pray at other times?
- 3) Do we make up the words of the prayer ourselves?
- 4) Do you think doing the prayers is something easy or something hard?

Homework for next time¹

- 5) Is it only men who have to pray?
- 6) What are the names of the prayers we pray every day?

¹ For those issues which are not discussed in this posting – so maybe the adult could help the child with these questions