



Sunday School SYLLABUS

Course Name: **xx**

Course Stage: **xx**

Stage Theme: **x**

Level: **x**

Ages: **13-18 years**

Version: **Draft**

www.ghamidi.org/sunday-school

Al-Mawrid USA
Ghamidi Center for Islamic Learning

Overview:

This course embarks the students on a learning journey tailored just for them. GCIL has introduced this innovative course designed to be gradual and adaptable, ensuring a personalized experience that meets individual student's unique needs and goals. This course is crafted with the vibrant energy and inquisitiveness of teenage students in mind. We understand the importance of creating a space where young students can comfortably explore and discuss various aspects of Islam. This course aims to cultivate in its students the manners of critical thinking and how to cherish it to become comfortable with their Muslim identity in the Western context. With this course, the students will engage in lively and thought-provoking discussions on various topics ranging from the core tenets of Islam to contemporary issues relevant to teenagers.

Objective:

Cultivate critical thinking and positive engagement skills by encouraging young students to question, analyze, and engage with Islamic teachings in a thoughtful manner while gaining a well-rounded and comprehensive understanding of Islamic tenets and practices. Provide a space for open discussions where students can express their thoughts and seek clarification on complex topics.

Delivery Method:

The course will allow them to share their perspectives, ask questions, and discuss in a supportive in-person and virtual environment. From multimedia presentations to interactive quizzes and dynamic discussions, this course leverages a variety of resources that resonate with the tech-savvy generation. The students will experience learning in a way that feels relevant and enjoyable.

Assessment

Interactive quizzes and discussions.

Course Outline:

The following list comprises the suggested topics that will be covered in this course in multiple sessions. One topic may take more than one session to complete. The topics will be added, adjusted, or prioritized based on interest. Also, the self-paced approach allows students to progress through the course at a rhythm that suits their schedule, ensuring a balance between their studies and other interests.

Module A: Exploring Religion

1. Orientation and Exploration

- › Introductions (Students and Teacher)
- › Why are we starting this course?
- › The main objective(s)
- › What will be covered in this course?
- › What are the expectations?
- › The length and number of sessions
- › How progress will be evaluated
- › Initial assessment (required to tailor the session topics and preferences)
- › Suggestions and Input

2. The Concept of Religion

- › The definition of religion
- › Why do we need religion?
- › Human nature and religion
- › Why did God give us a religion to follow?
- › Can science replace/fill the need for religion?
- › Alternate theories about human nature, life, the universe
- › Revealed vs other religion types
- › “I am spiritual but not religious” group
- › Appeal and dangers of areligious life
- › Why is religion still and would be relevant?

3. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

Module B: Introduction to Islam

4. Why Islam?

- › What does God want from His creation?
- › How did it all start – the narration of Adam and Satan
- › What is God’s Scheme for this Life and Universe?
- › The Abrahamic religions – Islam, Judaism and Christianity
- › How is Islam related to Judaism and Christianity?

- › What is Islam and its essence?
- › The concept of worship in Islam
- › Why is Islam the only true religion?

5. The Approach to Understanding Islam

- › The Correct Approach to Understanding Islam
- › The sources of Islam
 - Quran – the Divine Book
 - Sunnah – practices of the Prophets
- › What is Hadith?
- › The Short History of Hadith
- › The relationship of hadith with the Quran and Sunnah
- › The Importance of Hadith in Perfecting the Religion
- › The content of Islam (Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah)
- › Al-Kitab – The Law
- › Al-Hikmah – Faith and Morals
- › Examples of Al-Kitab and Al-Hikmah
- › The Objective of Islam and Why It is Central to All Instructions in Islam
- › Iman: The Inner Aspect of Islam
 - Permanent Requirements of Iman
 - Righteous deeds
 - Urging one another to truthfulness and urging one another to remain steadfast
 - Contingent Requirements of Iman
 - Migration for the cause of Islam
 - Supporting the cause of Islam
 - Adhering to justice
- › The correct religious attitude
- › The famous hadith of Jibrael (Gabriel)

Module C: Faith and Beliefs in Islam

6. Faith and Belief

- › The Role of Faith in Islam
- › Does Islam promote blind faith?
- › The concept of Righteous Deeds/Acts
- › The relationship between Faith and Actions
- › Summary of Beliefs in Islam

7. The God of Islam is the God of the Universe

- › Who is our Creator, Allah, the God?
- › The Three Unique Creations of God (Humans, Jinns and Angels)
- › Who created the Creator?
- › How God described Himself in the Quran

- › Why pure monotheism is so critical in Islam
- › God demands ultimate sincerity
- › How believing in God is closely associated with:
 - Fate and predestination
 - Concepts of good and evil
- › God's Dealings and Practices
 - Tests and Trials
 - Guidance and Error
 - Beyond Capacity Directives
 - Rise and Fall of Nations
 - Divine Help
 - Remorse and Repentance
 - Reward and Punishment

8. Prophets & Messengers

- › How does God communicate to us?
- › The concept of Prophethood
- › Why does God send Prophets?
- › Prophets are humans
- › Difference between Prophets and Messengers
- › Examples of Prophets and Messengers
- › The Role of Messengers in Understanding Religion
- › The fate of Prophet Muhammad's nation
- › How do we recognize a Prophet?
- › Why do we believe in Prophet Muhammad and other Prophets
- › Prophet Muhammad is the last Prophet
- › Why did God seize the prophethood?
- › The special status of Prophet Ibrahim's progeny

9. The Quran

- › The purpose of Divine Books
- › Quran is the verbatim speech of God
- › God has protected the Quran
- › How did God preserve the Quran?
- › The language of the Quran is protected
- › Why should the Quran be central to understanding Islam?
- › How do you approach the Quran for reading and understanding?
- › The style and genre of the Quran
- › The subject matter of the Quran
- › The miraculous nature of the Quran – its relevance is eternal
- › Other Divine Books (Torah, Psalms, & Gospel)
- › A few passages from old scriptures
- › Quran and other Divine Books
- › Quran and Science – is there a relationship?

10. The Concept of Accountability in Islam

- › The Day of Judgement and the Hereafter
- › Significance of the Day of Judgment
- › The Evidence for the Day of Judgment
- › Judgment through Prophet Muhammad
- › How does the belief in Hereafter influence our lives?
- › What will happen on that Day?
- › When will be the Day of Judgment?
- › Signs near the day of judgment
- › Major signs of the DoJ
- › Minor signs of the DoJ
- › The second coming of Jesus
- › How do these signs relate to me?

11. The Hereafter and the Heaven & Hell

- › The concept of heaven & Hell
- › Description of Hell in the Quran
- › Who are the dwellers of Hell?
- › Types of Punishment in Hell
- › Description of Heaven in the Quran
- › Dwellers of Heaven
- › Rewards in heaven
- › Life in Heaven
- › Is heaven solely for Muslims?
- › Deciding people's fate in this world
- › How hard is it to be successful?
- › Why is there an 'eternal' punishment of hell for some crimes?

12. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

Module D: Islamic Morals and Morality

13. Fundamental Principle

- › The significance of a good character
- › Prophet Muhammad is our model
- › Good character and religion
- › How are we different from other animals?
- › Our knowledge of Good and Evil is inspired – Surah 91, Verses 7-10
- › Who sets the standards for right and wrong?
- › We tend to justify our deeds – Surah 75, Verses 14-15
- › What drives us to be good?
- › The objective of being good
- › The foundation of good and evil – Surah 16, Verse 90

- Concept of Justice
- Goodness – the pinnacle of ethics and morality
- Rights of close relations
- Principles of prohibitions
- › Building character is a lifelong struggle
- › How Faith Helps in building a moral character

14. Islam's Moral Standards

- › Introduction
- › A common word in Abrahamic religion
- › Ten Commandments of the Quran (Surah 17, Verses 22-39)
 - Worshiping God alone
 - Treating parents with kindness
 - Spending in the way of God
 - Immoral behaviour (Remaining Chaste)
 - Sanctity of human life
 - Misappropriating the wealth of orphans
 - Keeping promises
 - Honesty in business and dealings
 - Speculation and suspicion
 - Pride and vanity

15. Modesty and Relationships

- › The concept of Modesty and Chastity in Islam
- › Reminder: Don't go near adultery
- › Islam's guidance on the etiquette of gender-mixing
- › The etiquette
- › Reminder: Purity is the objective
- › Dating and premarital relationships
- › How to fight the temptations?

16. Pinnacle of Morality

- › What type of qualities does God want to see in a believer
- › Humility and Humbleness
- › Grateful in Good and Bad Times
- › Patience in Good and Bad Times
- › Truthfulness and Reliability
- › Generous and Charitable
- › Modesty
- › Believer remembers God often

17. Interacting with non-Muslims

- › Introduction
- › Misconceptions about dealing with non-Muslims

- › Relationships with people of other faith
- › Calling others to Islam
- › Joining non-Muslims on social causes
- › Attending social gatherings and non-religious festivals
- › Celebrating religious festivals with non-Muslims
- › Inviting non-Muslims to your home and on religious occasions
- › Examples from the Quran and Sunnah
- › Islamophobia and our role
- › Be the ambassador of Islam

18. Respect for Diversity

- › Islam is the most diverse religion
- › Living in a multicultural society
- › Respecting other's opinions and ideas without compromising your beliefs and moral standards

19. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

Module E: The LAW in Islam (Shariah)

20. The Shariah (The LAW)

- › The Definition of Shariah
- › What is Shariah for? Why do we need laws given by God?
- › What is Sunnah?
- › The scope of Sunnah
- › Principles of Determining the Sunnah
- › List of Sunan
- › Difference between Sunnah and Hadith
- › The Scope and Limits of Shariah (Is the Law All-encompassing or only Necessary and complementary to human faculty of Jurisprudence?)
- › Law is given in both the Quran and Sunnah
- › How do the Quran and Sunnah relate in the matters of Shariah?
- › Fiqh and Ijtihad
- › Laws Given to Previous Nations (The First Book of Law: Torah, Gospel: The Book of Faith: Al-Hikmah)

21. The Shariah of Worships

- › Prayers and Its Details
- › Zakah and Its Details
- › Fasting and Its Details
- › Hajj, Umrah and Their Details

22. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

23. The Shariah of Social Interactions

- › The basic unit of family
- › Why God is so concerned about Gender Interactions?
- › Illicit relationships are prohibited
- › Quran's guidance on the norms of gender interaction (Surah Nur, 24: 27-31)
- › Quran's guidance on gender interaction under special circumstances (Surah Ahzab)
- › Special instructions about the Prophet's wives
- › How to apply these principles while living in a Western society
- › Nikah – the Marriage
- › Divorce
- › Our Relationships and Relatives
- › Addressing the Problem of Slavery

24. The Shariah Politics and Government

- › Handling Some Misconceptions
 - Misconception #1: Only 'Political Islam' can bring our glory back
 - Misconception #2: Implementation of Caliphate (Khilafah)
 - Misconception #3: Islam is against the democratic system of government
 - Misconception #4: Muslims in non-Muslim countries should struggle for political unity
- › The Real Responsibility of a Muslim State
- › Religious Obligations of a Muslim State
- › Citizenship and the Rights of Citizens
- › The System of Government

25. The Shariah of Jihad

- › The Permission for Jihad
- › The Directive of Jihad
 - Nature of the Obligation
 - The Driving Force
 - Ethical Limits
 - The Ultimate Goal
- › Divine Help
- › Captives of War
- › Spoils of War
- › Common misconception: Islam was spread by the sword
- › Common misconception: Armed political conflicts are allowed against oppressive and aggressive governments

26. The Shariah of Punishments

- › Punishment for Anarchy and Disorder (*Muharabah*)
 - Severe capital punishment (*Taqteel*)
 - Crucifixion (*Tasleeb*)

- Amputating Limbs from Opposite Sides
- Exile
- › Ultimate Punishment for Murder and Injury
 - Intentional
 - Unintentional
- › Ultimate Punishment for Fornication/Adultery (Zina)
- › Ultimate Punishment for Accusations (Qadhaf)
- › Ultimate Punishment for Theft

27. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

28. The Shariah of Preaching

- › Preaching Obligation of Prophets
- › Preaching Obligation of the Scholars
- › Preaching Obligation of the Rulers
- › Preaching Obligation of an Individual
- › Preaching Obligation of Abraham's Progeny
- › Strategy of Preaching
- › Is preaching Islam obligatory for every individual Muslim?

29. The Shariah of Economic Matters

- › Sanctity of Ownership
- › National Assets
- › Usurpation of Wealth
 - Gambling
 - Interest
- › Documentation and Evidence
- › Distribution of Inheritance

30. The Shariah Related to Food, Customs and Etiquette

- › Principle of Prohibitions (Haram) and Permissible (Halal)
- › Prohibitions in Animals' meat
- › Eating slaughter of Jews and Christians
- › Prohibition of Alcohol
- › Food shared by various religious groups
- › Eating and Drinking Etiquette
- › Greetings
- › The ceremonial utterances after sneezing
- › Circumcision
- › Hygiene – Taking care of your body
- › Cleaning the body after urination and defecation
- › Ceremonial bath after the menstrual cycle and the puerperal discharge
- › Ceremonial bath after Sex

- › Laws of Funeral
- › Celebrating Eid - Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha

31. Concept and Knowledge Evaluation

Module F: Inspirational Personalities and Guidance of Islam on Contemporary Issues

32. Revisiting the Giants in Religion Knowledge

- › Imam Abu Hanifa
- › Imam Shafai
- › Shaykh Ibn e Taymiah
- › Imam Ghazali
- › Shah Waliullah
- › Maulana Maududi
- › Allamah Shibli Noomani
- › Imam Farahi

33. Revisiting the Muslim Scientists

- › Al-Khawarizmi – Algorithm and Algebra
- › Jabir bin Hayyan – Chemistry and Alchemy
- › Ibn e Sina – Medicine and Philosophy
- › Al-Farabi – Music and Philosophy
- › Ibn Khaldun – History and Philosophy
- › Al-Kindi – Optics and Medicine
- › Nasir Al-Din Al-Tusi – Astronomy and Mathematics
- › Omar Al Khayyam – Mathematics and Poetry

34. Islam's Position on Contemporary Topics

- › Apostasy
- › Blasphemy
- › Homosexuality
- › Dating
- › Music and Art
- › Slavery
- › Keeping Dogs
- › Islamic Caliphate