

KIDS LOVE THE WAY



WE TEACH QURAN



COMPANION GUIDE

DEAR PARENTS

Assalam-o-alaikum!

GUIDELINES

Following are some guidelines on using this Companion Guide.

- Sit together as a family while listening to Luqmay's Easy Quran Meaning Audio. It motivates the children and gives them a feeling of being a part of something important.
- Have close physical contact with younger children. They can either sit right next to you or in your lap. This will help create a special bond with the children during these sessions.
- It is advisable to stop the audio at every 2 or 3 minutes intervals and then discuss or ask a question. This technique is more effective with younger kids with a shorter attention span.
- If your child is not ready or willing to participate, please do not force. The parents can start listening amongst themselves in the presence of the child, eventually in shaa Allah the child will develop interest. They are always listening and absorbing the information in their surroundings even when it is not apparent.
- Please allow your child at least 5 minutes to ponder and think over the question asked, you may let them listen to your answers or their siblings' first.
- Finally, please take note that these sessions are not 'tafseer' sessions. Infact, they are based on the idea of developing logical thinking. Trust your children to ask questions when they feel curious enough to find an answer. Guide them towards asking the right questions through casual conversation, without the pressure to give the 'right' answers. Give your child your full attention when they speak and respond with 'and' statements rather than 'but' statements. This is how we can honour their opinions and add to them without giving the impression that their answers or opinions are wrong. Every question is valid.

And with that let's begin.

In the name of Allah, the entirely Merciful, the especially Merciful.

Verse no.5-6

Q1a) Who are these people who say "Allah has a son"? Why is Allah warning them?

- Most Christians believe that Prophet Isa is the son of Allah.
- In the same way, many idol-worshippers during the time of the Prophet (PBUH) believed that the angels were the daughters of Allah.
- Allah refutes all such claims in the Quran, making it clear that He has neither any children nor parents. He also has no spouse or partner.
- Allah warns them because they are lying and saying wrong things about Allah which is a big sin. All that they say about Allah is their own made-up stories and they misguide others as well with them.

Q1b) We heard that these people who say Allah has a son, they don't have any knowledge, nor did their fathers have any knowledge.

So these people believed that Allah has sons because their parents told them so.

This is an opportunity to test ourselves. Are we blindly following our faith just because our parents have told us to? Or is our belief really strong?

- This question has to be asked with wisdom to kids 10 years and above of age.
- Imagine if your parents told you today that they don't follow the religion of Islam anymore, what would you do?
- Will you also give up and follow your parents or will you stick to your faith and only believe in Allah alone as your God?

Verse no.8

Q2) Allah says that Allah has created all the beautiful things on the Earth to test us. Can you name a few beautiful things surrounding us and how they can be a test for us?

- Allah has made the blue sky, the twinkling stars, the soft green grass, the lush trees, we see all of these things everyday, but how many times do we thank Allah sincerely for all of them?
- This is one of the ways that Allah tests us, by seeing if we are thankful to Him for all these beautiful things everyday or not and whether we share the beautiful things we own with others or not.
- Apart from thanking and sharing - do we take good care of them too? The environment, our health and so on?

Verse no.10 - 27

Q3) Why do you think Allah made the Companions of the Cave sleep for so many years?

- The Companions of the Cave were true believers in Allah. But most people in their land, including the king, worshipped others besides Him.
- The king was about to forcibly convert these young men to his own religion or kill them for defying his religion.
- So, Allah put these men to sleep in a cave hidden away in the mountains to protect them from the king.
- However, there was also a greater purpose for putting these men to sleep which was to make them a sign for all people. How? Let's here a small story to understand this better:

Ahmed has a big apple tree in his garden. Every day he takes one apple in his lunch box to school.

One day when he was emptying his school bag at home, he couldn't find his lunch-box.

He searched up and down and everywhere in his home and at school but wasn't able to find it.

Many days passed, Ahmed's mother got him a new lunch box and he forgot about his old one.

Three months later, Ahmed was cleaning his chest of toys to give away the old toys in the yard sale when he found his old lunch box buried deep under all the toys!

Ahmed scrunched up his nose and quickly went into the kitchen to empty the stale and probably very smelly apple inside into the dustbin.

But... when he opened up the lunch box, guess what's inside?

(Let the child guess)

It is the apple from three months ago but it is not stale! It is in the same condition as it was plucked from the tree! Now tell me how would you react to that?

- When Allah put the people of the cave to sleep for 309 years and they woke up as young as they were 309 years ago, even their clothes were in perfect condition, isn't that so amazing?
- It was a miracle of Allah, intended to amaze people and so won't a person be a fool if even after seeing this miraculous sign of Allah they don't believe?
- This particular sleep was very unique since it was for a very long duration and secondly it had no negative impact on the health of those sleeping.
- Can you think of an example of any of Allah's creatures alive today which go through an extended period of sleep similar to these believers and wake up months later alive and healthy having lived without food and drink?
- These animals include polar bears, snakes, bats, etc as they hibernate and surely in them is a sign for us to witness as Allah mentioned previously in the surah.
- Parents can discuss here a little about what hibernation is. Hibernation is a way that some animals deal with the harshness of winter. They curl up in a safe place and stay there until winter ends. Hibernating animals seem almost dead. They barely breathe, and their body temperature is near the freezing mark. In warmer weather they return to their regular activities.

Q4) In verse 14, why does Allah mention that they were 'young' in this particular ayah?

- Because young people have a lot of potential to achieve good things. Age should not be a restricting factor when it comes to fulfilling noble aims in one's life. Don't wait to grow older to follow the teachings of Islam but rather do whatever possible now.
- It is interesting that these people were 'young' yet they took full responsibility for their own actions and chose the right path. The surah does not mention anything about their parents who may not have been believers and they themselves took charge of their actions and followed the truth regardless of others.
- To Allah Swt good deeds of 'young' people are very dear because this is a time when many may be distracted with toys and friends and may forget about Allah swt.

Q5) We now know the whole story of what happened with the people of the cave and we learn that after a long time had passed, people were trying to guess how many young men they were exactly, Allah has even quoted in the Quran their guesses. Why do you think their number was so important to the people?

(Your child will have some guesses, let them think and participate, accept their answers and do not tell them if they have given the right or wrong answer, this is just sharing of ideas and thoughts to encourage them to ponder and engage with you.)

Okay, let me tell you a story about a young boy. Ahmed was at school in his favourite extracurricular class - gardening. The teacher, Mr. Aslam, was talking about how much patience and hard work it takes to grow crops and trees.

Mr. Aslam described , " The farmer digs and ploughs the soil to get it ready for sowing the seeds. He then organises and marks places for the plant beds and then sows the seeds harvested from various fruits. Then he has to make sure he waters the plant on time and in appropriate amounts, along with providing it with proper sunlight..."

When Mr. Aslam finished talking, a boy raised his hand and asked, "Teacher, how many seeds did this farmer sow exactly?"

The whole class started to laugh. It was a silly question as it didn't matter how many seeds there were! What mattered was the process and the patience and hard work that is required to grow plants .

- When we hear or read a story, the important thing is to understand it and learn from it.
- However, we sometimes get caught up in unnecessary details and argue about things that don't really matter.
- So you see when Allah mentions these people guessing the number of the people of the cave, what Allah highlights is that these are all silly questions! It doesn't matter how many there were, the lesson of their story is to have firm faith in Allah and to stand up against the wrong no matter how hard it is.

Verse no.33 - 44

Q6) Do you see anything wrong with the attitude of the rich owner of the two gardens?

So we know that the man who owned the beautiful gardens was very proud. Is being proud a good or bad thing?

(The child will most probably answer that it is a bad thing, the parent can follow up with the next question)

**Why is being proud such a bad thing? How does it harm us and others?
Can you think of an example when someone you know behaved proudly?
What did he/she say?**

Tell me if someone says the following statements , are they showing off and can these statements harm himself and others?

a) "Look at my new watch! It is a \$100 watch, my dad gifted it to me on my birthday!"

(This statement may not be an action of pride or showing off. Maybe your friend is excited and just wants to share his happiness)

b) "Look at my new watch, It is a \$100 watch, you might never see one like this again in your life!"

(This statement is a proud and boastful one. The person puts down someone else when he says this and thinks of himself superior than the other person).

c) "Look at my new watch, It is a \$100 watch, I always made Dua to get this one and Alhamdulillah Allah granted it to me"

(This statement is the best statement one can make. The person shared his happiness and then he also praised Allah, showing that Allah is the one who gives and is the most Superior)

When you show off you can hurt the feelings of others who don't have as much as you. The man hurt the feelings of his companion who was not wealthy. Instead of saying, 'I am greater than you in wealth,' he could have said, if he needed to, 'Allah has tested me more than He has tested you. I will have to be very careful with how I spend or what I do with all this wealth' or "Allah has given me so much and I want to share this with you as well" or "Alhamdulillah Allah has given me so many blessings".

Verse no.61 - 83

Q7) We learnt that Prophet Musa (as) was not able to remain patient. Can you recall some time when you were not able to wait for something or it was very hard to be patient?

- When the child relates his/her story, the parent can build upon this by saying that 'okay so you were not able to be patient because you really loved that particular thing' or 'you were really very tired'.
- It is usually hard for humans to be patient when they are really emotional and passionate about something or when they don't have complete information.
- The parent can also tell the kids about a time when they were not very patient.

Q7b) Why do you think it was so difficult for Prophet Musa to be patient, even though he was a Prophet?

Here the parent can narrate a short made-up story. This will allow the children to connect more with the feelings of Prophet Musa (As) as to why he couldn't be patient, also might help them to relate to the fact that prophets are also humans.

Ahmed has a big old apple tree in his garden. Every year when the tree grows juicy red apples, Ahmed picks up all of them with mum and his family really enjoy eating these sweet apples.

This year however, Ahmed noticed something strange, his mom would leave many apples hanging on the tree.

Quite a few times they ran out of apples at home and when Ahmed asked his mom if he can go and pluck some from the tree, his mother would give him excuses like. 'they are not yet ripe', 'not today, it's too late to go out right now'.

One day Ahmed lost all his patience and went out and plucked all the remaining apples from the garden.

He brought in the apples proudly but was confused when saw his mother was very disappointed.

That's when his mother told him that the family living next door had lost their father and they were going through hard times. His mother left the apples on the side of the tree which would probably fall in the neighbour's garden because she wanted to help them out in some way without them having to ask or feel embarrassed.

It was hard for Ahmed to be patient because he did not know his mother's intentions.

- Prophets are also humans, Prophet Musa(as) also did not have complete knowledge of the actions done by Khidr (as), hence he could not be patient.
- For example, Khidr (as) made a hole in the boat which belonged to someone else. So, Prophet Musa (as) thought this was very rude and unfair. But the wisdom behind this act was to save the boat from a cruel king who was seizing people's boats by force.
- This also shows that Prophet Musa (as), like other prophets and righteous people, had a great sense of fairness and justice. He always wanted to do the right thing.

Verse no.85 - 100

Q8) Why do you think Dhul-Qarnayn refused to take payment from these people?

- Allah had given plenty of power and wealth to Dhul-Qarnayn. So, he was not in need of any more money.
- Dhul-Qarnayn wanted to help the local people against the savage tribes of Gog and Magog that were destroying their things.
- However, Dhul-Qarnayn did not consider it right to receive payment. Because Allah had blessed Dhul-Qarnayn so much, he felt he should not burden these people with any sort of payment for his services.

- It is wise to help people without expecting anything in return from them because Allah always rewards us for doing good and repays us for every little deed.

Q9) Why did Dhul-Qarnayn ask the local people to help him build the barrier?

- Dhul-Qarnayn had a strong army of his own, so maybe he and his soldiers could have constructed the barrier without help from the local people.
- Because Dhul-Qarnayn was working for the benefit of these people, it was a good idea to get them involved in the task and make them work hard to attain their goal.
- Dhul-Qarnayn also wanted to show the people how to construct the barrier in order to make them more capable of defending themselves.
- The story also shows us that by working as a team, we can achieve much more than what we can do alone.
- Also, by working under the guidance of our parents or teachers, we can learn many new things to help us in life.

Verse no.104 - 106

Q8) Allah says that the people who do good actions but do not believe in Allah and the Day of Judgement, they will not have any reward. Why?

- We may know people from our neighbours and school who are not Muslims but they do good actions like they really sincerely want to help out other people, etc. So will they not be rewarded for their actions?
- We must always remember that Allah (SwT) is the most Just and Fair and he will reward and punish people justly according to their deeds.
- It may be that Allah (swt) gives the non-Muslims who are doing good actions their reward in this world only. Because they don't believe in Allah and the Judgement Day.

- If someone wants to be a doctor, they have to pass a minimum number of subjects, let's say five subjects. Even if they score high in 4 subjects but fail in one of the subjects, they will not be eligible to become a doctor.
- Similarly, if one wants to attain Jannah they have to fulfil the following minimum 4 criteria mentioned in Surah Asar:
 - 1) They have to believe in Allah
 - 2) They have to do righteous actions
 - 3) They call others to truth
 - 4) They advise others to be patient
- If one passes all the three criteria except the criteria of believing in Allah, then they are not eligible for Jannah. And Allah knows the best and he will judge people with utmost justice on the Day of Judgement.
- Some people claim that only doing good is important, and it does not matter what your beliefs are.
- However, Allah tells us over here that the people who do not believe in Allah, the Quran, and the Day of Judgement shall lose all their good deeds.
- So, such people shall not be rewarded in the hereafter because they denied Allah – the one who favoured them so much in this world.
- This shows us that both faith and deeds are important as one without the other is incomplete. We should do good while believing firmly in Allah

