



Character Building for the Muslim Youth

Lesson 8: *Being Truthful, Trustworthy & Honest*



Objective:

The student should reflect upon the meaning of the words “Truthful, Trustworthy, and Honest,” inshaAllah. By showing students real examples from the present about those who can be trusted to speak the truth even if it hurts themselves, they will be able to visually see its effect upon the individual, the community, and the recipient, may Allah make them successful ameen.

Allah (subhanahu wa ta’ala) have said:

“O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your Amanat (things entrusted to you, and all the duties which Allah has ordained for you).”

*The word Amanat means (all the duties which Allah has ordained, honesty, moral responsibility and trusts)



Hadith of the Prophet (salla allahu Alaihi wa salaam) Reported in Sahih Muslim

'Abdullah ibn Masood, May Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Messenger (May peace be upon him) said: “I order you to be truthful, for verily truthfulness leads to righteousness (al-birr), and verily righteousness leads to paradise. And a man continues to be truthful and strives for truthfulness until he has been written as a truthful person with Allah.”



Point of Benefit: From the book of Heart -Softening

Hudhayfah, May Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Apostle narrated to us two narrations, one of which I have seen (happening) and I am waiting for the other. He narrated that honesty was preserved in the roots of the hearts of men (in the beginning) and then they learnt it (honesty) from the Qur'an, and then they learnt it from the (Prophet's) Sunnah (tradition). He also told us about its disappearance, saying, "A man will go to sleep whereupon honesty will be taken away from his heart, and only its trace will remain, resembling the traces of fire. He then will sleep whereupon the remainder of the honesty will also be taken away (from his heart) and its trace will resemble a blister which is raised over the surface of skin, when an ember touches one's foot; and in fact, this blister does not contain anything.

So there will come a day when people will deal in business with each other but there will hardly be any **trustworthy** persons among them. Then it will be said that in such-and-such a tribe there is such-and-such person who is honest, and a man will be admired for his intelligence, good manners and strength, though indeed he will not have belief equal to a mustard seed in his heart."

The narrator added: There came upon me a time when I did not mind dealing with anyone of you, for if he was a Muslim, his religion would prevent him from cheating; and if he was a Christian, his Muslim ruler would prevent him from cheating; but today I cannot deal except with so-and-so and so-and-so. (See Hadith No. 208, Vol. 9, Sahih Bukhari)



Current Reflection: Reward for telling the truth

Allah will say: "This is a Day on which the **truthful** will profit from their truth: theirs are Gardens under which rivers flow (in Paradise) - they shall abide therein forever. Allah is pleased with them and they with Him. That is the great success (Paradise). (Al-Ma'idah 5:119)

1. Please write out the definition for the words truthful, trustworthy, and honest.

2. Create a sentence using the following words inshaAllah.

authentic, candid, conscientious, decent, direct, equitable, ethical, fair, genuine, honorable, straightforward, true, trustworthy, trusty, truthful, up front, upright, virtuous

3. In your own words, describe how you feel when you find out that someone close to you has taken something from you that you did not want to give away.

What does being trustworthy have to do with the quality of your character?

4. From the ayaat above, explain what thoughts you had when you read Allah's statement.

5. Class Discussion: You have a companion who is constantly telling lies to cover up his playing around. Do you think that this would be someone you could trust? Write down the conclusion.

6. Class Discussion: What happens when a person ceases to commit evil actions? Can you provide a proof that will establish that Allah is merciful to those who repent and do good deeds? Write down the conclusion.

7. Write an essay describing what this society might be like if nobody were trustworthy, if suspicion, dishonesty, and betrayal were the norm, if nobody could be counted on to keep commitments.



Point of Reflection: Hadith

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported:

Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) observed: Whoever fornicates is not a believer so long as he commits it and no thief who steals is a believer as long as he commits theft, and no drunkard who drinks wine is a believer as long as he drinks it.

1. Reflecting upon your own actions can help a person evaluate what they may be doing incorrectly, think about your actions just for today and answer the following questions:

- Have I told a lie today?
- Are my companions trustworthy?
- Do I have the ability to be honest with myself and others?
- Have I betrayed the trust of anyone?
- Have I repented for my actions both (knowingly and unknowingly) today?