

MODULE 1

Class Title: Green Deen

Aim of Lesson: To focus on how Islam is environmentally friendly.

Lesson Format: Power point presentation, discussion and practical demonstration

Materials needed:

- Small plastic tub
- Water in ½ litre water bottle
- 1 litre water bottle
- 5 gallon water bottle
- Plastic sheet
- Towel

(Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*
(*Taooz*) *Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*
(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*
(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today we are going to talk about **Green Deen**. What do you guys suppose this Green Deen is? Can anyone tell me?

(Discussion with students)

The color green is most often associated with Islam, and green is, coincidentally, also associated with the environment; hence Green Deen!

Slide 2:

We are going to talk about the environment. But what has Islam got to do with the environment? Isn't that strange? Don't you find it funny that Islam and the environment have a link? Isn't Islam about fasting and doing your *salah* {prayer}, and maybe good moral values like respecting your elders and speaking the truth? But what has the ozone layer got to do with Islam? What does picking up litter from the streets relate to Islam?

Student: Islam tells us to take care of the Earth.

Slide 3:

Teacher: You're absolutely right. Islam and the environment do have a vital link and a very strong one too.

Slide 4:

Islam is a complete code of life. What does that mean?

Student: Islam tells us how to live our lives.

Teacher: Islam has teachings for us that cover all aspects of our lives. For everything, we have been guided by Allah (swt): how to eat, sleep, dress, get married, basically everything. A complete code of life can't be complete without paying attention to where we live, our home, our physical environment and its resources.

Slides 5-7:

Allah (swt) is the Sovereign, Absolute and rightful Owner of this Earth and all that is in it.

He has made us the caretakers of the Earth.

The *Qur'an* tells us,

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً...

“(Remember) when your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am going to create a deputy on the earth!’”
(Al-Baqarah 2: Verse 30)

Do you realize the significance of the word Allah (swt) has used for us in this verse? It's *khalifah*, which can be transliterated as deputy or vicegerent. Who is a deputy? What does he do?

Student: He has to carry out the tasks given to him by his master.

Teacher: Similarly, we have been given guidelines by Allah (swt) and we have to fulfill our responsibilities accordingly. We, as caretakers, are responsible for this earth. When someone is given a responsibility or an *amaanah*, they are answerable for it. Allah (swt) has given us this planet and all that is in it- food, trees, water, animals etc - as an *amaanah*, so we will be answerable to Him for what we did with the resources He gave to us.

The *Qur'an* describes believing men and women as those who, “Walk on earth in humility.”

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا

(Surah Al-Furqan 25: verse 63)

Scholars have interpreted this verse to mean that Muslims are to protect nature's countless bounties, which have been given to us by the Almighty.

Slide 8:

Going green isn't only about being trendy and wearing cool green bracelets; it's much more than that. It's about respecting our environment and acting responsibly as caretakers.

Slide 9:

The Prophet (pbuh) was a great environmentalist. Fourteen hundred years ago, the Prophet (pbuh) talked about proper preservation and management of our natural resources. How do we know this? From various *ahadith* of the Prophet (pbuh).

The Prophet (pbuh) once said, "There is none amongst the believers who plants a tree or sows a seed, and then a bird or a person, or an animal eats thereof, but it is regarded as having given a charitable gift (for which there is great recompense)." [Bukhari]

The Messenger (pbuh) of Allah (swt) also said, "Whenever Muslims plant a tree, they will earn the reward of charity because of the food that comes from it, and likewise what is stolen from it; what the wild beasts eat out of it, what the birds eat out of it, and what people take from it, is charity for them." [Muslim]

But what have we done?

Slide 10:

Allah (swt) says the *Qur'an*,

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

"Corruption has appeared on the land and the sea because of what the hands of men have earned." (Surah Ar-Rum 30: verse 41)

We have totally messed up the amazing planet He gave us. When human beings neglected their role as caretakers of the earth and began to abuse the resources given to them by Allah (swt), the perfect and balanced system of the planet became disturbed.

Can you tell me how we have messed up our environment?

Student: By cutting down trees.

Student: By using fossil fuels which emit unhealthy gases.

Student: By using up all the resources that have been given to us, like water and minerals.

Teacher: Right.

Slide 11:

We have made a hole in the ozone layer and because of which we see so many unexpected Tsunamis and earthquakes happening these days. The winters have become very intense in places like America and the UK; they have severe blizzards which interfere with their daily routine. Even the summer heat has become so intense. Just ten to fifteen days ago it was quite chilly and look at the weather today; sweltering hot! It's getting crazy! This is what we have done. There are all sorts of problems with the environment now, like deforestation, global warming etc.

Slide 12:

Today we are just going to focus on one issue. Can anyone guess what it is?

Student: We are going to talk about conserving water.

Slides 13-16:

Teacher: Let's just get a few facts straight. Water is a blessing from Allah (swt) and we are water creatures. How do you know that?

Allah (swt) tells us in the *Qur'an*,

... وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ ...

“..We have made from water every living thing.” (Surah Al-Anbiya' 21: verse 30)

Slides 17-20:

Everything was initiated from water. Water makes up sixty percent of our bodies, seventy percent of our brains, and eighty percent of our blood.

Slide 21:

You can go for a month without food, but how long do you think you can live without water?

Student: Seven days.

Slide 22:

Teacher: Yes, hardly a week.

Slides 23-28:

This is the same water that existed since the creation of the Earth. It covers up most of our planet. Only three percent of it is fresh water; three percent of it is potable water and that too is

mostly ice! So ninety seven percent can't be used by us. From the available three percent, only one percent is readily accessible for use. Less than .007% of all the water on earth is available to drink.

Where do you think the clean water that enters your home goes?

Student: Wasted.

Slides 29-36:

Teacher: Yes, a quarter of the water that enters our homes is flushed away! Three gallons of water is used every time we flush! How much is that? This is a five gallon bottle; a little less than this goes down the drain with each flush. What about a ten minute shower? Fifty gallons! Exactly, ten of these! When we brush our teeth with the tap running? This is a one litre bottle; you use approximately, fifteen of these just to brush your teeth. If you turn off the tap, you end up using just 0.25 gallons. How much water is used while doing *wudu* {ablution} with the tap running? This much (referring to the five gallon bottle). Did you guys know we waste this much in our daily routine?

Student: No.

Slides 37-43:

Teacher: I read somewhere that the wars of the twentieth century were fought over oil and the wars of the twenty-first century will be fought over water. Millions of people live on less than three gallons a day and we waste that much every time we flush our toilets.

One in three people lack access to adequate sanitation. One in five don't have access to safe drinking water. According to the UN, a child dies of a water related disease every fifteen seconds!

Slide 44:

Have you seen this? Even when the water tanker comes to our homes and they connect the water pipes to the water tank, the connections in between have water spurting out of them! I'm sure you are all aware that water tankers come to your homes. How many of our homes have water that comes through the main line? *Alhamdulillah*.

Slide 45:

Have you people seen these water dispensers? Of course, we have them in our buildings; we have them in our homes. We should be grateful that we have easy access to potable water. We just need to make a phone call and a tanker comes to our doorstep; or you just need to call the people that deliver bottled drinking water and they come and change your bottles. We don't have

much to worry about. In fact we don't even to make the phone calls! Our moms or dads call them!

Slides 46-50:

But the majority of people don't even have proper cans to fill water in. I'm sure if you ask your maids, they'll tell you that they look around for cans or bottles to fill up water. Then they have to wait for hours in the scorching heat, being pushed around, with dust flying in their faces and to get some water.

We don't have to do any of that, *alhamdulillah*. We just turn on the tap and there we go; whoosh! Look at these kids; they are even younger than you. They too have to wait in lines and sometimes they go home empty handed, after a long wait. My maid was telling me that she lives on the sixth floor and she and her sister have to go daily to collect water from the public tank; they have to fill up the containers and drag them all the way up six flights of stairs! That's how they get safe drinking water. Even then they can't be sure if it's a hundred percent potable. This is very serious.

Slides 51-54:

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Any of you shall not urinate in dead water because they may do ablution with that water later." [Bukhari]

He has also forbidden us from wasting water.

Once, the Prophet (pbuh) passed by Sa'ad (ra) while he was performing ablution and said, "What is this extravagance, Sa'ad?"

He asked the Prophet (pbuh), "Is there extravagance in the use of water?"

The Prophet (pbuh) replied, "Yes, even if you are at a flowing river."

[Ahmad and Ibn Majah.]

Another *hadith* tells us that a Bedouin once came to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and asked him about the ablution. He showed him how to wash each part three times and said, "This is the ablution. Whoever does more than that has done wrong, transgressed and committed evil."

[Ahmad, Ibn Majah and Nasai.]

The Prophet (pbuh) did *wudu* with less than half a litre of water, which is around this much (teacher shows the ½ litre water bottle). The measurement units in those times were *madd* and *sa'a*. *Madd* is approximately .5 litres and the Prophet (pbuh) did *ghusl* {bathed} with one *sa'a* which is 2752 grams of water.

Today, *inshAllah* I'll teach you how to perform *wudu* with half a litre of water. Can my assistant please come forward?

Slide 55:

(Teacher does practical demonstration of *wudu*.)

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*