

MODULE 2

Class Title: Surah An-Naas (4th class of a 4 lesson series)

Aim of Lesson: to understand how Satan attacks man and how to protect oneself

Lesson Format: PowerPoint presentation and discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*
(*Ta'ooz*) *A'oodhu billahi min Ash Shaytaanir Rajeem*
(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*
(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul 'uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* [Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verses 25-28]

Slide 1:

Today *InshaAllah*, we will begin Surah An-Naas. We have talked about magic previously, about *Jinn* and fortune telling. All of us want to be protected from evil things in this world including the *Jinn* and *Shaytaan*; this *surah* is recited specifically for this purpose, so when we ask Allah (swt) for protection, shouldn't we know exactly what we are asking protection from?? Let's take a look at its meanings.

Slide 2:

(Recite Surah An-Naas *ayah* 1)

Translation: "Say; I seek refuge with the *Rabb* of Mankind"

(Recite *ayah* 2)

Translation: "King of Mankind"

(Recite *ayah* 3)

Translation: "God of Mankind"

(Recite *ayah* 4)

Translation: "From the evil of the whisperer (the one who withdraws after whispering)"

(Recite *ayah* 5)

Translation: "Who whispers in the chest of Mankind"

(Recite *ayah* 6)

Translation: "From the *Jinns* and from Mankind"

Today *InshaAllah*, we will understand what we are asking from Allah (swt) when we recite this *surah* for protection.

Slides 3- 4:

Both Surah An-Naas and Surah Al-Falaq were revealed together. They are called “*Mu’awwidhatayn*”(Bukhari, also in At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa’i)

Slides 5 – 10:

There are two types of attacks on a person from the outside, when people attack you and when we are hit by natural calamities e.g. earthquakes, hurricanes, cyclones, floods etc.

Then we have magic. That’s also an attack and then of course we have *Nazar*- that is, ‘evil eye’. These are attacks from the outside and protection against them is by reciting Surah Al-Falaq.

Slides 11 – 14:

Then, there are attacks from within; evil whisperings by *Shaytaan*, attack from your inner desires when they dominate you. Sometimes it’s not *Shaytaan* that’s working on us; it’s our *Nafs*, our inner desires that make us do sinful deeds. That’s attack from the inside too!

Also, we get influenced by other people’s evil ideas. They might not physically attack us, but their pressure is such that we are drawn towards their enticement. We should recite Surah An-Naas for protection from this.

Slides 15 – 16:

(Recite Surah An-Naas *ayah* 1)

We will leave ‘*Rabb*’ as ‘*Rabb*’ for now and ‘*Naas*’ is Mankind.

When we talk about Allah (swt) being a ‘*Rabb*’, what are we saying? We are saying that He takes care of all our needs and wants, even if we disobey Him, disbelieve or refuse to enter the fold of Islam, He still provides for us and takes care of us.

Slides 17 – 19:

(Recite *ayah* 2)

He is also the ‘King of the Mankind’ and this is the other side of Allah (swt), *Rabb* and then *Malik*. This quality of loving and nurturing can be seen to a great extent in parents too but as far as the other attribute of being The KING is concerned, that is quintessentially for Allah (swt) alone because our parents, despite loving their children endlessly, are sometimes helpless in certain situations; but this is not the case with Allah (swt). He loves us 70 times more than our

mothers but He does not have this weakness like human beings. He is not helpless at any time and does not lose control. He can do whatever He wants with us.

Slides 20 – 22:

(Recite *ayah* 3)

He is “*Ilaahin naas*” The God of Mankind.

It means that He has created everything that is on this Earth, which includes mountains, stars, animals, plants, etc. and all of them worship Allah (swt) and are obedient to Him. Only *Jinns* and human beings have been given the choice to either obey or disobey, the rest of His creation including the angels obey without questioning. When we talk about protection/ safety what comes to your mind? Parents, safety alarms, locks, dogs, child labour laws, seat belts, helmets, etc. all these things protect us, there is absolutely no doubt about it, but these things can help us or protect us only when Allah (swt) decides to protect us. All these are tools to protect us but who is behind these tools? Allah (swt)!! Yes through these tools, through our parents, through seat belts, through the helmet, it is in fact Allah (swt) Who protects us.

Slides 23 – 25:

Next, Allah (swt) says in *ayah* 4,

(Recite *ayah* 4)

“From the evil of the whisperer who withdraws.”

Every person has a companion *Jinn*.

(There is no one among you but he has with him a constant companion (qareen/the devil companion) from among the jinn and a constant companion from among the angels.” They said, “You too, O Messenger of Allah?” He said, “Me too, but Allah has helped me against him (the qareen/devil-companion) and he has become Muslim.” (Sahih Muslim, Book 39, Hadith No. 6759)

So what is his job? What is his motive? It is to divert us from the right path throughout our lives. There are times when he succeeds and there are times when he fails; but he is the whisperer. He puts wrong ideas in our minds. Sometimes he rejoices, “Yes! I have done it!” And there are times when he says, “Aaah! I failed!” but does he sit idle after failing?? No, he tries again and again and he does not give up until the day of our death. Such is his determination that he lets his struggle end only when we die...

Slide 26:

This means we have to be on high alert all our lives, because this *Jinn* is with us all the time. He is just looking for the right opportunity to misguide us. He does not go to school; he doesn't have any other activities, no sports, nothing. His only activity is to divert us from the right path and to whisper temptations in our ears.

Slides 27 – 30:

So, can you imagine how focused he is all the time? You know that the heart is the main organ in our body and *Shaytaan /Jinn* resides in the heart. Then he circulates in our whole body with the blood, (Bukhari), just like the bacteria. He is in our body, in our blood, in our heart; he is that close to us...

What would happen if you found out that there was a thief amongst the five or six servants you have in your house? Won't you be on high alert all the time because you are not sure where he is and who he is? And that's exactly the way we need to be with *Shaytaan*: on high alert! Who is the original ancestor of this *Shaytaan/ Jinn* with us? It is Iblees. He is the one who actually trained these *Shaytaans*. He is an expert. He knows when and what is the best time to attack us.

Slide 31:

What do you think the weapon this *Jinn* companion who is with you, uses at you? His weapon is evil thoughts! He puts evil thoughts, doubts and false promises in our mind (the meanings of this surah tell us). When I talk about evil thoughts, what comes to your mind? Jealousy, hurting someone. He misguides you by making you doubtful about doing a good deed, doubting Allah's (swt) existence, or even his own existence. And of course, the false promises.

Slides 32 – 33:

He puts doubt in your mind, he tells you that if you did this wrong thing in school you will be famous and popular amongst your peers. Scholars say that one of his most favorite ploys is to make you believe that *Shaytaan* does not exist!

Or he makes you believe that *Shaytaan* works only on people who are murderers, plan bomb blasts or those who are corrupt and cheat, certainly not on innocent pure hearted teenagers like you! And of course when you start thinking that *Shaytaan* doesn't exist, you become very relaxed, which in turn makes you an easy target for *Shaytaan*.

What are the other weapons that he uses against us? He makes us lazy in doing good things and we keep postponing our good deeds. E.g. you might plan to call or visit a sick friend but *Shaytaan* makes you delay it so much that you end up not doing it at all.

Your mom calls and asks you to lay the table and you say, “Yeah mom! I will, but I am so tired.” All these are the tactics of *Shaytaan*.

Another common occurrence is; “Oh! Getting up in the morning for *salah*, my God! It is so cold these days. The water is so cold and chilly. There is no way I can do *wudu*”being lazy.

You have to prepare for your examination, but you keep delaying it. Scholars say that procrastination is a weapon used by *Shaytaan*.

Slides 34 – 36:

It’s time for the *Maghreb salah*, and you say, ‘What is the rush? I can pray in the next one hour, let this T.V program finish.’ That is *Shaytaan* working on you. And then he tells you that Allah (swt) is very forgiving, He loves you 70 times more than your mom, how can He punish you? *Shaytaan* tricks you into believing that your sins are very small, so Allah (swt) will forgive you because of His infinite mercy.

He also says, “Oh! Just do it one more time.” Do you get this feeling sometimes when you are doing the wrong thing? Just one more time and you promise yourself that this is the last time you will do this and then you do it again and again. This is a tool used by *Shaytaan* on us. So the next time you get this feeling, beware, it’s your companion *Shaytaan* working on you.

Slides 37 – 38:

According to scholars, another thing he does is that he makes our incomplete deeds look very, very big. There are lots of things that we do, but we don’t do it completely and you say, “Well at least I am doing it. Look at other people; they don’t even offer their *salah*.” So he will make your incomplete good deeds seem very good and special and he will tell you that others are not doing them. He shows you other people who are worse than you in deeds and he makes you believe that you are better than them and that they have absolutely no control over their desires. He will make you do small sinful deeds, comforting you with the notion that at least you are not indulging in the bigger sins... eventually you start doing the big sinful deeds as well!

And then of course he tells you to make a joke of sins and their consequences such as the idea that hell will be filled with all celebrities, great and famous people, actresses and renowned models etc. So, why not join the gang!

He also puts doubts in your mind by making you think that when your teacher, parent or any other elder tells you not to listen to music, go to mixed gatherings etc., they are unaware of the real facts of Islam themselves so it’s o.k. not to listen to them. This is again a sign that *Shaytaan* is working on you.

Slide 39:

I feel this line is made by shaitan with a lot of deep thinking.

Does Allah say anywhere in Qur-an that do this and this but if you are not ready for it please take your time?

There is sense of urgency in Qur-an about doing good deeds because Allah (swt) knows that this is what shaitan wantstime!

Slide 40:

Again comparing to people who are worse than us in deeds. You might be better than them but what is your standing with Allah (swt)we must be concerned about that more than other people's deeds.

Slide 41:

What if my mom is wrongand the majority are right. We must remember that in the Qur-an Allah (swt) says:

If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of Allah. They follow only conjecture; they only guess. (Surah Al An'am 6: Verse 116)

Slides 42 – 45:

It is a fact that in every society, the majority of people despite being clever, successful and intelligent are not on the right path. A classic example of such a person is 'Abdullah Bin Ubai. He was a hypocrite but he was very intelligent and he spoke very well. He was very good looking, but what he did was wrong. So just because smart people around you are doing wrong things that does not justify any wrong doing.

The devil will go to any length to confuse you. We have discussed only a few of the tricks that he uses, there are countless others. When you have evil thoughts in your mind you must tell yourself that this is just the tip of the berg; there is a huge sinful action underneath the sea that you cannot see and if you don't nip this thought in the bud, it will lead to a big sinful deed.

Slides 46 – 47:

Allah (swt) says in *ayah* 4, "Who whispers in the breast of *An-Naas*."

Who is *An-Naas*? Human beings! The devil lives in the hearts of human beings and when we are not vigilant, he attacks; but he cannot force us to do any thing. He can only suggest wrong things to us but he can't push us into doing sinful deeds, so we can't blame *Shaytaan* for all the wrong deeds that we do in our lives. He only puts the ideas in our minds.

Slides 48 – 52:

And then he blows into the heart of man and he only relaxes or withdraws after two things; he relaxes and withdraws when we remember Allah (swt), or ask for His protection and the second thing after which he withdraws is when he is obeyed. When you do what he wants you to do, he immediately withdraws, but only temporarily and soon is back to tempt again.

Slides 53 – 56:

Allah (swt) has told us to seek refuge against *Shaytaan* because He knows that we are not strong enough to handle *Shaytaan* ourselves. We need Allah's (swt) protection. The Prophet (saw) said, "There is not a single one of you with whom a devil companion has not been assigned. The companion asked, "What about you O! Messenger of Allah?" he replied, "Yes, with me too, however Allah (swt) has helped me against him and he has accepted Islam and he only commands me to do good deeds." (Sahih Muslim)

So the Prophet (pbuh) was the only man whose companion *Jinn/Shaytaan* was actually a Muslim. (Muslim)

Slides 57 – 58:

(Recite *ayah 5*)

"From the *jinns* and from Mankind."

We have talked about the *Jinn* companion so far but what about the humans? It's not only the *Jinn* that attack us; *Iblees* has certain trained humans in his army also, so sometimes *Shaytaan* misguides us through his human friends.

Slides 59 – 61:

Who are these human friends? These are the people who might tempt us to do things that we may later regret. They are people around us. It could be your best friend, a person who is well-respected or a cousin of yours; it could be anyone. We cannot go around pinpointing who the human companions of *Shaytaan* are, but we need to focus on the fact that if there is a person in your life who tempts you to do bad things; you need to be careful around that person. E.g. someone might encourage you to disobey your parents; you say, "I want to have my own way and I am old enough to speak for myself." Familiar words? These aren't your lines. Often it's the media instigating you to be rebellious. In that case it's the media who is playing the role of *Shaytaan*.

Slides 62 – 65:

We are also tempted to go to places where we are not allowed to. Imagine yourself in Makkah,

are you really tempted to go to clubs, or theaters or any mixed gatherings there? You think anyone would say, “O! I am in Makkah, I have to go to one of these theaters.”? It doesn’t happen because you don’t have the type of people who would influence you in a negative manner there; so the company of people you hang out with influences you a lot too.

Then hanging around people we shouldn’t be friends with. If there is anyone who encourages you to be friends with people you shouldn’t associate with, that’s the *Shaytaan* in your life.

Another wrong thing is watching sinful things. Again if somebody encourages you to watch things that are sinful, he is a human *Shaytaan*. Therefore, it’s important to avoid that company because they might just be the *Shaytaans* in your life.

Slide 66:

Allah (swt) Himself has told us the way to protect ourselves; we must make a habit of reciting Surah Al-Ikhlaas, Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Naas three times each, then blowing on your hands, almost spitting into your hand without saliva and then you rub your hands all over your body. This is how the Prophet (pbuh) used to protect himself.

May Allah (swt) guide us to protect ourselves from the evil around us and also from the evil within. ameen

(Du’a for end of a gathering) Subhana Rabbika Rabbul ‘Izzati ‘amma yasifun wa salaamun ‘alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil ‘aalameen

(Parting salutation to students) Assalamu ‘alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh