

## MODULE 4

**Class Title:** Surah Al-Fatihah - Part 3: *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* (3<sup>rd</sup> part of a 4 lesson series)

**Aim of the lesson:** To understand the message of the *surah*

**Category:** Scripture

**Lesson Format:** Power point presentation with discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(*Ta'awwudh*) *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]

Slides 1-4:

“*Bismillah hir rahman nir raheem*” that is the first *ayah* of Surah Al-Fatihah.

The second *ayah* says, “*Alhamdulillah rabbil 'aalameen*”. In this *ayah* we first tried to understand the meaning of the word “*Al-Hamd*” and we also did “*Rabbil 'aalameen*”; so we’ve discussed these two terms. Then we did *ayah* number three which is “*Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem*”. We learned that Allah (swt) is called by these names and He likes being called by these names. These are very special names and they are unique to Allah (swt) only.

We also learned that He is the King of the Day of Judgement and that after we die we’ll be brought back to life and will stand in front of Him and He will judge us according to our deeds.

Slides 5-10:

Then we did *ayah* number five, half of it is “*iyyaaka na' budu*”, we learned about how we should worship Allah (swt), that He is the only One worthy of worship and we looked at the reasons behind it.

We also found out that a true worshipper is somebody who’s actually fearful of standing in front of Allah (swt) on the Day of Judgement. That is what his fear is.

We now know too, that whatever good deeds we do, will be accepted by Allah (swt) only if they are done for Him alone and not to please anybody else; not even ourselves – and done in the way of RasoolAllah (pbuh).

We talked about “*wa iyyaaka nasta'een*” as well; You alone we call for help. In this we discussed that there are certain situations in which we call to Allah (swt) only, when we are in really deep trouble. Otherwise, there are times when our parents, our friends, or somebody around us is there to help us out. That does happen and there’s nothing wrong with that but there are certain situations in which the heart calls out for Allah (swt) only, because there’s no one else who can take us out of that situation.

Slides 11-13:

Today we will *InshaAllah* cover the sixth *ayah* which says, “*ihdinas Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*”, guide us to the correct way.

“*Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*” is often translated as “the straight path”.

This is where our actual *du'a* is starting. In the verses before, we were talking about the characteristics of Allah (swt). We talked about Allah (swt), we were praising Him, we were saying that “You are Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem, You are the Owner of the Day of Judgement”, and now after praising Him, after saying all these things about Him, we are starting our *du'a*, we are asking for something.

Do you all remember what the prerequisites of a *du'a* are? We talked about it last time. We said that it is very important that you know what you are asking for, and that is exactly what we are trying to do right now. We are trying to understand this *du'a* that Allah (swt) has taught us, what it actually means, and we have to make sure that we really want it. We want it from the bottom of our hearts; because when we want it from the bottoms of our heart, only then will Allah grant us our wish. Whatever it is that we are asking of Him, we have to actually WANT it, not just SAY we want it. This is what we need to work on.

Slides 14-18:

So what is *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*?

*Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* is often translated as the straight path but is it just a straight path? Or is it the right path? When we say “Straight Path” what comes to your mind? It suggests of a path without hurdles, it is smooth. Such a path may or may not lead to Heaven because *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* is not exactly a straight path because Allah (swt) has designed a lot of tests for us.

There are hurdles in the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*. So, it is actually the right road. It might be straight in some areas then it will have some twists and turns and it just might be difficult to walk on. There might be some stones lying there so it might not be smooth.

Slides 19-20:

Walking on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* might also mean that you have to let go of things that you actually like doing, like maybe going to crazy parties; you might have to give them up because you want to walk on *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*.

This will include other things like listening to music, playing music, dancing perhaps, maybe going to fashion shows, or concerts or *mehendis* or *mayuns*. So there might be some things that we like doing but we might have to give them up because we want to go on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* and we might have to adopt things that we don't really like doing, like wearing the *hijab*, going to a girls' school, doing our *salah* on time, reading the Qur-an, these are things

which can become the pleasures of life once you get into the habit of doing them but when you are starting to do them they are difficult.

Slides 21-24:

So that is what we need to ask ourselves; are we ready to give up all that for the sake of Allah (swt)? While on *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* if we're going in our car we just might have to get out because the path is such that we cannot drive the car anymore; we have to get down and walk. So we have to be ready to give up our comforts for the sake of Allah (swt) when we ask Him (swt) to make us go on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*. That means that we should now be ready to give up our comforts and we have to realize that the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* might be steep. Has anybody been on a mountain? When you climb a mountain it is not easy; it is really tough because it isn't a straight smooth climb - so sometimes Allah (swt) wants us to do this kind of climbing on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* and that is what we should be prepared for.

Slides 25-27:

The reason being that Allah (swt) tests the people He chooses for *Jannah*. He wants to make us tough, He wants us to find our way to *Jannah*, He wants the path to become interesting and challenging for us. He does not want to make a smooth straight path for us so we can just run and go to *Jannah*; no, we must work for it, work hard for it, look for it, find it challenging and discover it, discover *Jannah* and realize that nothing in life is for free, not even *Jannah*, because it is very precious.

Slides 28-31:

So we have to decide if we are ready to pay the price for *Jannah*; and the price of *Jannah* is giving up our comforts and working hard for it.

The problem is that we are very short-sighted. We try to get the comforts of this world. We get very pleased by the insignificant stuff we get in this world. We're happy with that, but what we don't realize is that *Jannah* is far better than this world. Since we can't see it, we forget about it. We can't see *Jannah* so we just ignore it. Sometimes we doubt its existence.

Slides 32-34:

Having some sign around that said, "Just Ahead" would have helped, but these signs are not actually there our lives. Allah (swt) does not tell you, "If you go one more mile you'll find *Jannah* there", that doesn't happen. And that's the reason why we find it very tiring.

Life is an uphill climb. Things do get tough at times and we find it difficult and we get tired and sometimes we're even lonely because we're the only ones who're trying to do good deeds and there is nobody else with us. Sometimes we do have friends around us and sometimes we don't.

Slide 35:

But Satan is always there, he makes sure that we don't walk on *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*, he tries to divert us every time. He knows that we are trying to walk on it, so whenever we find a way to walk on *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* he's there to divert us. He puts different kinds of ideas in our minds.

He says, "You need a break, you have been doing this for too long, give yourself a break." and "Don't do this, people will not socialize with you anymore." and he will always say, "You have got all the time in your life, why such a rush? You can delay this good deed you can do it sometime else."

Slides 36-38:

We need to realize that obedience to Allah (swt) is for always, whether we are ten years old, twenty, fifty, whatever our age is, we are supposed to be obedient to Allah (swt) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This thought can be intimidating but we have to constantly be obedient to Allah (swt).

It is an intimidating thought because that means that we will be letting go of things that we like to do but we must realize that these hurdles must not stop us from the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*. These are hurdles that we have to overcome.

Slides 39-45:

Now let's look at the types of hurdles that may come our way; there are three kinds of hurdles,

- First are the people around us, peer pressure.
- Second are our own inner desires, things that we really want to do; we want to dress up and look gorgeous.
- Lastly of course, Satan; he's always around the corner.

So these three things are the hurdles on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* and sometimes we make the detour and we get confused. Sometimes we come to junctions and wonder which way leads to *Jannah*.

When you come to such a point when you can't decide what to do and which way will lead you to *Jannah*, then you take the safe way which is the way of *RasulAllah* (pbuh). You just do whatever *RasulAllah* (pbuh) has done. You follow the *sunnah* and that is the safe way; it will surely take you to *Jannah* and whenever somebody gets diverted, and that happens to the best of us, at some point in time you do get diverted, you do forget what was it that you had set out to do. That does happen, so when that happens you must realize that it's Satan working on you.

The first thing you must read is *ta'oodh* and you must strengthen yourself, and you must realize that you can't turn back, you can't go on doing the wrong things, you have to go straight back to the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*.

Slides 46-50:

You might get hurt in the process; that is a possibility, but if you turn back you will be confusing others as well and they will think, "She was on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* but now she has made a turn and is not on that road anymore; I wonder what the reason behind it is," and maybe they will also lose hope and they will also stop following the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*.

So don't be that person who misleads others; even if unknowingly. If you find that one path is closed for you, that is alright, you can always find another path because there are many roads to *Jannah*. However, always ask for Allah's guidance before you choose a road.

Slide 51:

Let's say perhaps somebody is having a bad day, and you sit down with them, you console them, or you go to a hospital to look after some sick people there since you have the time, or you're being sympathetic with some friends who are going through a rough patch, or smiling at everyone around, you're giving *sadaqah*, you're being kind to animals, but these are things that you can increase or decrease. You can choose between the optional ties but the compulsory deeds have to be done.

Slides 52-54:

No matter what you cannot miss your *salah*, you cannot miss your *zakah*, you cannot say that you're not going to fast a day in Ramadan just because you don't FEEL like it. No, the compulsory deeds have to be done. You have to fulfill the rights of your parents, your neighbors and your companions. You have to spread right and stop from wrong and you have to follow the footsteps of *RasulAllah* (pbuh).

In compulsory deeds there is no choice, so we have to know that when we go on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*, there is actually no choice. We can't say "it is a choice" because if we don't go on *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* where will we end up? We will end up in Hell. Is that really a choice?

Does anybody want to go to Hell? No one wants to go to Hell. Maybe there might be some people who think "I'm not too sure about how to go to *Jannah*, I don't know if I can do all that hard work but I'm pretty sure that I don't want to go to Hell." We know that Hell is extremely painful.

Slides 55-57:

Now, if I ask you to think of an extremely lucky person, somebody who you think is successful, can you think of somebody? It could even be a celebrity. If you don't want to share who, that's

alright but just have an image in your mind, can you? Do you have somebody in your mind now? Have you thought of someone very lucky?

Now let's see what Allah (swt) is saying:

He is saying “*Siraat alladheena an'amta alaihim*” the way of those whom you have blessed.

The problem is, we have different opinions about what makes someone lucky. We might think that somebody who has a lot of riches is a lucky person or we might think somebody who has a lot of knowledge is a lucky person. Everyone has a different concept about somebody who's lucky and somebody who's blessed.

So we are asking Allah (swt) in this *du'a* to put us on the path of people who HE thinks are blessed and lucky. *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* is the path which has been followed by the people whom He has blessed - they are actually the lucky ones.

Slides 58-60:

Now is it being lucky if you have a huge kingdom, a huge empire? Fir'aun had that. You all know who Fir'aun was? He had a huge kingdom, he had a lot of power, he was the king, but do we want to be like him? What happened to him in the end? He drowned and Allah (swt) was not happy with him at all. Allah (swt) drowned him so we don't want to end up like him.

Slides 61- 64:

We want to be on the path of the lucky ones in the eyes of Allah. Who are these people? What kind of blessing is it that makes them different from people like Fir'aun? Musa (as) led a tough life; he faced hardships but did he have any blessings? What was the true blessing that Musa (as) had? He had guidance; he understood “*Ihdinas Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*” we are asking Allah (swt) to guide us to the right path and the true *nay'mah*.

When you get guidance, you get the ability to live your life according to your manual, which is the Qur-an. That is a true blessing, that you get guided and are able to work according to the Book of Allah (swt). This was the blessing that Allah (swt) gave to all the people He wanted to reward.

Slide 65:

Allah (swt) says in Surah An-Nisa 4, verse 69:

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ  
وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَئِكَ رَفِيقًا

And whoever obeys Allah and the Apostle, these are with those upon whom Allah has bestowed favors from among the prophets and the truthful and the martyrs and the good, and a goodly company are they!

So the lucky ones in the eyes of Allah (swt) are the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs and the righteous.

Slide 66:

Now that we know what *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* is, when we ask Allah (swt) for *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*, we should be mentally prepared for it; we have to make sure that we really want it and we have to ask from the bottom of our hearts.

We have to be sure; do we actually want to be on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem*, because as we just discussed, being on the *Siraat Al-Mustaqeem* is not very simple. It is an uphill task but it is worth all the effort because it is the only way to *Jannah*.

(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*