

MODULE 5

Class Title: Story of Nuh (as) 2nd part of a 2 lesson series

Aim of the lesson: To understand important lessons from the story of Nuh (as)

Category: Scripture Stories

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Greeting to students) *AssalamalaikumwaRahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

(Ta'awwudh) Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanirRajeem

(Tasmiyah) BismillahirRahmanirRaheem

(Du'a) Rabbishrahlisadriwayassirliamriwahluluqdatummillisaniyafqahuqawli(Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Note to teacher: Slide 3 has not been included in the presentation.

Slide 1:

Teacher: Today we are going to talk about Nuh (as). Do all of you remember the last class? Did anybody reflect on the story of Nuh (as)? I asked everybody to think about it. Any thoughts to share? Nobody? Alright then, let's move on.

Slide 2:

What can we learn from Nuh (as)'s life? What lessons does history teach us?

Student 1: God can do anything he wants.

Teacher: God can do anything he wants! Very good, *masha Allah*. What else?

Student 2: You should not be proud.

Teacher: You should not be proud. Were those people proud?

Student 2: They were proud of their status in their societies and their money.

Teacher: Those people were proud of their status and their money. Did anyone miss the last lesson? We are going to do a quick recap for those who missed the last lecture. What were the main themes of the story of Nuh (as)?

Student 3: The flood.

Teacher: The flood and?

Student 4: The rich people of that time were very proud and refused to associate with the poor. These people refused to believe Nuh (as) and worshipped many idols.

Teacher: Anything else?

Student 5: Nuh (as) was commanded by Allah (swt) to build an ark and take the believers and a pair of each kind of animal and insect with him. There was a huge flood and the people who were disbelievers drowned.

Teacher: Excellent. Everybody seems to be familiar with the story of Nuh (as). Let's proceed to today's lesson: what can we learn from Nuh (as)'s life?

One of you said that these people were very proud of their status and wealth. Nuh (as)'s followers were mostly poor people. The well-off people did not want to be associated with the poor or with anything the poor did or believed in. Consequently, since some poor people were the first to follow Nuh (as)'s message, the majority reacted by negating, absolutely negating Nuh (as). When such blatant rejection and opposition failed to stop Nuh (as), they offered 'deals'. One example of such a deal was that if Nuh (as) got rid of all poor or lowly followers, then they would start joining or listening to him. This shows how status-conscious these people were.

Let's discuss what else we can learn from this story.

Slide 4:

Teacher: Allah (swt) is the most powerful. We all know that. Then what does it mean, do not underestimate the power of Allah (swt)? We all believe in Allah (swt), *alhamdulillah*, right? None of us is denying that Allah (swt) is the most powerful! Then, why this statement, 'do not underestimate the power of Allah (swt)'?

Student 1: This lesson is only for those people who don't believe in God.

Teacher: We are not teaching this class to non-Muslims. This lesson is just for us, you and I. I believe that Allah (swt) is the most supreme and the most powerful. I am sure that all of you agree. Then why this statement?

Student 2: We know that Allah (swt) is All-Powerful but we still don't stop ourselves from disobeying Him.

Teacher: You are correct, we don't. Why don't we do things that are right even though we know Allah (swt) is the most powerful? There has to be a reason for our behaving this way, right? What do you think the reason is?

Student 3: We forget.

Teacher: Okay, we forget. But what do we forget, exactly?

Student 3: We forget the magnitude of Allah (swt)'s power.

Teacher: Exactly! Isn't it interesting that when people want to justify doing something wrong, they will rationalize that it is alright, He is *Ar-Rahmaan Ar-Raheem*, (the All-Compassionate, the

All-Merciful). We conveniently forget that Allah (swt) has other qualities as well. He is undoubtedly *Ar-Rahmaan* and *Ar-Raheem*, but at the same time we forget that He is also All-Seeing and All-Knowing. Don't we forget that? We just assume that it's OK, I just missed one *salah* (ritual prayer), that's all; Allah (swt) understands. He knows that these things happen and He forgives.

We never forget that Allah (swt) is *Ar-Rahmaan* and *Ar-Raheem*, right? Why do we assume that if we sin, Allah (swt) will never catch us?

Student 4: We forget that He is All-knowing, All-seeing and All-hearing.

Student 5: Among His attributes is that He is the Creator, and the Destroyer.

Teacher: Precisely! We always remember things that make life convenient for us. It is true that Allah (swt)'s mercy is so immense that it overshadows everything. But, He is also just. If you keep on breaking Allah (swt)'s laws, do you think Allah (swt) will just keep quiet? No! He will punish us. You don't skip prayer thinking, "Allah (swt) understands that I am tired." Do you think Allah (swt) even needs us to pray? Who needs who? Do we need Allah (swt) or does Allah (swt) need us?

Students: We need Allah (swt) more.

Teacher: We do! We need Allah (swt)! It makes no difference to Allah (swt) whether everybody or nobody in this world prays to Him. He doesn't need our prayers or our obedience. He has innumerable angels in every inch of *Jannah* (paradise). It is said that above the *K'aaba*, there are 70,000 angels doing *tawaaf* (walking around the *K'aaba*). They never repeat once they have completed one *tawaaf*. So, imagine how many angels Allah (swt) has! He doesn't depend on us, we need Him. What else do we forget about the power of Allah (swt) that is highlighted in the story of Nuh (as)?

Student: All worldly things will be destroyed.

Teacher: Only Allah (swt) will remain. All other things will be destroyed. None of our worldly possessions will benefit us in the Hereafter. All we will have is our deeds. What else? Why was Nuh (as) sent to his people? What was the wrong with what they were doing?

Student: They were worshipping idols.

Teacher: Yes they were worshipping the idols. Last class, we, very briefly, covered idol worship. *Alhamdulillah* none of us are idol worshippers but there is something in our society that resembles idol worship. Can any of you think of what that is?

Student: People running after money.

Teacher: Desire for money does rule some people. What else?

Student 1: People praying to dead saints at their shrines.

Teacher: That is definitely something that some of us do. We all know ‘somebody’ who does. What is the similarity between us and the people of Nuh (as)? How did this practice of praying to these dead saints start?

Student 2: It started with the remembrance of people who had died.

Teacher: Who was the person who died and was remembered?

Student 3: A pious person.

Teacher: Right! A good person. Then what happened? First, the people just remembered him and his good deeds. Gradually that practice changed into making statues of those you wanted to remember and honor. Initially, they put these statues in some central place. Over time, these people evolved to idol worship. Latter generations didn’t even know who that person originally was. Which “idols” do we worship today?

Student 4: Saints, money and fashion.

Teacher: What do we say about what we do? Do we say they are our gods?

Student 4: No.

Teacher: That’s right. We behave as if these are gods but we don’t say it. So what is our mindset?

Take saints. Our rationale is that this saint, despite being dead, has more of a connection with Allah (swt) than us. Yet, what does Allah (swt) say in the *Qur-an*? **This is not the exact quote, this is just the gist of the *Qur-anic* sentence: Allah (swt) says to His Prophet (pbuh) that O Muhammad (pbuh) when my people ask you about Me, tell them that I am very close, closer than their jugular vein and I listen to the one who calls upon Me.** (reference? Incorrect wording)

How many times a day do we say, ‘*sami Allahhu liman hamida*’? What does it mean? It means that Allah (swt) hears the call of the one who calls upon Him. Direct connection. You don’t need a link or an intermediary to get in touch with Allah (swt)! Allah (swt) commands us in the *Qur-an* to remember Him. It is true that there are specific times when we should pray. However, aside from formal prayers we are free to call on Him wherever and whenever we like! If you look at the *Qur-an*, it emphasizes that the call has to be made by who?

Students (all together): You.

Teacher: You! He’s there to receive it. He is there! The call should be made with full what?

Student 6: Concentration?

Teacher: Call God with full conviction and faith that He is definitely listening to me. He is listening to me. That conviction needs to be there. If your *du'a* (invocations to Allah) is accepted by Allah (swt), *alhamdulillah*, the results are before you. If it is not accepted immediately, does that mean that Allah (swt) was not listening? No? Then what does it mean? It means that Allah (swt) holds onto that prayer and then what? Does it go to waste?

Student 2: You get reward.

Teacher : You get rewarded for having *sabr* (patience). You also get something else. Can anybody tell me, what is that something?

Student 3: A house in *Jannah* (paradise).

Teacher: I am not sure about that. Usually the prayers that are not answered are kept in something like a safe deposit vault with Allah (swt) and on the Day of Judgment these prayers will come in very handy. Like those TV game shows with 'lifelines'. Has anybody seen the show, "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?" That show has lifelines and don't they save you from getting knocked out of the game? One day, these unanswered *du'as* (invocations to Allah) will be our lifeline. They may be the one thing that saves us from the Hellfire.

Prayers for a believer are a win-win situation. You just can't lose. Either you get what you ask for or you get better than you asked for in the Hereafter. Allah (swt) is most merciful; He gives lots of leeway and multiple chances. He will forgive almost any sin if you sincerely repent.

However, when you start associating other people or things with Allah (swt), He does not like it. When Allah (swt), after giving them many chances to reform, destroys a community, He destroys it completely. In Surah Ash Shams Allah (swt) says, "This is for Saleh (as) when his people cut off the camel's legs Allah (swt) destroyed them" (reference exact ayat number and accuracy of translation missing). In this sentence, look at the phrase "*Wadamdamaeleihim*" i.e. "Allah (swt) destroyed them" and "*Wayakhaafuuqbaahaa*" i.e. "And He doesn't care." He didn't care! It makes no difference to Allah (swt) if He destroys a nation. As He says in the Qur-an, He can and will bring another nation in its place. Get it? It doesn't make any difference to Allah (swt). Allah (swt) is most powerful. He doesn't need us. We need Him.

We need Allah (swt) so make *du'a* (invocation to Allah) and do it with conviction and faith. Your belief should be strong. When things go wrong, as they do with all of us sooner or later, our first reaction is to blame somebody or something. Who or what are some of the things that people blame when things go wrong?

Student 7: Someone has cast a black magic spell or curse on me.

Teacher: That is a good example and it shows how weak their faith is. Your faith has to be strong. Always remember that if Allah (swt) wants a harm to come to me, there is nothing in this universe that can stop Him. The harm may be through black magic or another person or an act of

nature, the point is, it occurred only because Allah (swt) allowed it. I mentioned this during our previous class; this conviction has to be bedrock strong. Do not underestimate the power of Allah (swt).

This conviction has to be as strong as breathing is for life. You are breathing right now and are alive only because Allah (swt) wants you to be alive. If Allah (swt) wants to cause harm to me there is nothing in this world that can save me and if Allah (swt) wants everything to be good for me, then there is no one and nothing that can cause me any harm!

Slides 5 - 6:

If you read the translation of our morning and evening *du'as* (invocations to Allah), a significant part is about seeking Allah (swt)'s protection. Can you see this? Are these normal waves?

Student 1: Tsunami.

Teacher: Yes, it's a tsunami. This picture was taken on the banks of Sumatra Island. The height of the waves is approximately 32 meters or 105 feet. The picture was found saved in a digital camera one and a half year after the disaster. Look at that wave and imagine facing it. Just the thought is spine-chilling. Who caused this disaster?

Student 2: Allah (swt).

Teacher: Allah (swt). Nobody has digital pictures for what happened in Nuh (as)'s time but we can imagine. Allah (swt) can do this, yes or no?

Students: Yes.

Teacher: How did people respond to this disaster? Scientists with all their techniques, theories and gadgets studied it and are still studying the phenomenon. People are rebuilding what was broken. Did any of them manage to save anybody? No. It happened too quickly.

Slide 7:

Teacher: This is a hotel resort with a big swimming pool next to the beach. Where did the tsunami hit?

Student 1: Everything near the beach.

Teacher: Most of the damage was to ocean-side cities and beach resorts. Places like Phuket and Ko Samui in Thailand and other exotic resorts.

Slides 8 and 9:

Teacher: Allah (swt) is the Most Powerful. Do not underestimate the power of Allah (swt). Oh God! Look at this!

Student 2: The waves are like claws.

Teacher: They are exactly like claws! When I first saw it, I thought the same. It reminded me of how, in the *Qur-an*, Allah (swt)'s punishment has been mentioned in many places. Can you see the rage in that water? Keep in mind Allah (swt) is the most powerful.

Can you see this chart? It tells you the magnitude of the tsunami waves. Look, it says here on the chart that they are 100 feet high once the waves hit the coast! Imagine that!

Slides 10 - 12:

Teacher: Where is this volcano erupting?

Student 3: Iceland.

Teacher: Who caused this in Iceland? Do you remember what happened when this volcano erupted? A good part of Europe came to a standstill. There was volcanic ash everywhere. Look at the size of the ash and dust cloud formed by the volcano. It is dwarfing the gigantic, ice-covered mountains.

Flights were cancelled. Thousands of passengers were stranded; most of them had probably planned extensively for their trips. People plan and it's not wrong to plan. It's good to plan but what do we need to remember while making plans?

Student 4: We should remember to say *insha'Allah* (If Allah wills).

Teacher: We should say *insha'Allah* (If Allah wills) and always remember that the final outcome rests in Allah (swt)'s hands.

Slide 13:

Have the recent floods affected us personally? Or haven't they?

Student 1: They have.

Teacher: How?

Student 2: Fruits and vegetables have become more expensive.

Teacher: What else?

Student 3: It's affected the overall economy of Pakistan which in turn affects all our families. Businesses are going down. All of Pakistan is trying to help somebody else. We are all in a difficult state.

Teacher: True. In what other ways has the flood affected you and me? Maybe not directly but indirectly? One of you mentioned that the prices of food items are increasing. What other ways has it affected us?

Student 3: The crime rate is going up too.

Teacher: Why is the crime rate rising? If a person is hungry, what is he going to do? He is more likely to get involved in crime to make ends meet. We will have to bear the consequences of these floods for a very long time. Our homes were not under water but indirectly we are all being harmed.

Slides 14 - 16:

Look at that poor baby. We don't even know if the child's mother is there or not. I hope this is her family. Allah (swt) is the most powerful. In the blink of an eye, He can destroy anything. Look, these are their belongings. What is he trying to save? Observe how he is trying to save his stuff.

Student 1: Are those ropes?

Teacher: Yes, these are ropes.

Slides 17 - 18:

That ends the first point. The second point that we are going to learn is planning ahead. Did Nuh (as) plan ahead?

Student 2: Yes.

Teacher: How?

Student 2: He made the ark.

Teacher: He made the ark! Was it raining or flooding when he started? Did he know there was going to be a huge flood?

Student 2: No.

Teacher: Exactly, he didn't know. It was Allah (swt) who guided him but all the planning and organizing was Nuh (as). Building an enormous ark takes a lot of planning and organizing especially when you have no power tools or machinery: Collecting or purchasing wood and other materials, organizing people to build, feeding those working on it, the list goes on and on. We are not facing that sort of disaster nevertheless planning can make an enormous difference.

Slide 19:

Is it important to plan ahead of time?

Student 3: Yes.

Teacher: How do you plan ahead of time?

Student 2: When we study.

Teacher: Do you know ahead of time that you are going to have a test? We all have tests some time or the other: 'O' levels, 'A' levels and midterms. We all go to school and this is just a part of academic life. How often do we do last minute preparations for our exams? Do you think that is a good idea?

Student 3: Not that good.

Teacher: Why not?

Student 3: We get confused.

Teacher: If you try to learn everything at the last minute, it is very confusing! Cramming at the last moment is also very stressful. There are chemical changes that occur in our bodies when we are stressed. Hormones and other chemicals are released into our blood so that whatever we want to remember, we cannot focus on it. We are more likely to end up forgetting even those things that we had learnt earlier for the exam. What else happens?

Student 4: You go blank in the middle of the test.

Teacher: Right, you go blank and then you blame who?

Students: The teacher!

Teacher: Precisely, we criticize, "She didn't teach me properly. I tried so hard!" Only you know whether you tried hard or not. We have a tendency to make excuses on a daily basis. I once took a course called "Time Lenders". During a presentation, the caption on the screen was "being on time is late". It means that if I have to be here at 3.10, if that's my reporting time and I am here at 3.10, I am late. Does that make sense? It means that you really need to be 2-3 minutes ahead to give something your best.

Student 5: My dad's watch is 35 minutes ahead.

Teacher: 35 minutes?! Wow!

Student 5: All the time.

Teacher: He probably needs to keep a buffer time zone to deal with traffic in Karachi. What about being ahead on a daily basis? Getting ready for school every morning requires planning

ahead. Everyday my son forgets a book, every single day. Since he doesn't plan and does everything at the last minute, either a book gets left at home or he forgets to wear his badge or his tie.

Student 2: Or you forget your assignment.

Teacher: You forget your assignment that you were up late finishing and on top of that, you forget to take your school ID card.

Student 2: I always forget my ID card.

Teacher: We are not planning ahead of time. Do you remember the class Kulsoom aunty taught you in the beginning of *Ramadaan* (month of fasting)? Do you remember it was related to *Ramadaan*? What was it about?

Student 3: Planning and the heart wheel journal.

Teacher: What is the heart wheel journal and preparing for *Ramadaan*? It is all about planning ahead. When *Sha'baan* (lunar month before the month of fasting) starts, we know *Ramadaan* is coming. So, we need to get into the planning ahead mode so that we can make the best use of *Ramadaan*. When *Ramadaan* ends, what's next? *Eid* (annual Muslim celebration)! We know it is coming. It doesn't happen out of the blue. What planning and organizing ahead of time can you do for *Eid*?

Student 1: Making new clothes for *Eid*.

Teacher: How many of us make our clothes in advance? Most of us rush to the tailors at the last moment! Then there are electricity blackouts. The power failures lead to stressed and behind schedule tailors. The tailor ends up not making your clothes on time and you end up going to the market when the prices are at a peak due to high seasonal demand and all the best stuff is sold out! Isn't that a familiar scenario? So, plan ahead! *Eid* is coming. Allah (swt) wants you to wear good clothes and look nice. He is not saying that you shouldn't wear beautiful or fashionable things. Plan ahead, decide what you want a month in advance and have it ready beforehand. Is the fashion is going to change in one month?

Student 4: No.

Teacher: *Ramadaan* is the time when the *Qur-an* was revealed. During that month, we not only fast, we also have school and our regular work. After that, the little time you have left, do you really want to spend it visiting the tailor again and again to have your *eid* clothes stitched? Try to do this earlier. You get good things in stores before *Ramadaan* too and at a better price.

Slides 20 - 21:

Look at the example of Nuh (as) and how he planned ahead of time. What else do we need to plan for? There is more to planning in school than just passing tests. In 'O' and 'A' levels, like in everything else in life, everything that you put in contributes towards your final result. There is no gain without pain. Have you heard that saying? You cannot expect to get all 'A' grades without studying, can you? You go to tuitions for this subject and that subject while mom and dad spend through their noses for the tuitions not to mention for the car and driver to take you to all these places. Yet if you do not put any effort into studying for your exams, is all the money spent and time wasted at school and in tuitions going to be enough? No. Even your study sessions need to be planned.

Now, what about *Aakhirah* (the hereafter)?

Student 3: Planning.

Teacher: What planning? What do we need to plan about for the *Aakhirah* (the hereafter)?

Student 3: We have to plan and do all the good deeds.

Teacher: You are so young; do you need to plan now?

Student 4: You could die any moment.

Teacher: How many of you agree with this? That you could die anytime? Okay, are any of you prepared to die right now?

Student 5: I am not prepared.

Teacher: The *Aakhirah* (the hereafter) is so important. We do so much for this world. We go to school for more than twenty years simply so we can have a career of our choice and earn well. The rest of our lives, we work hard day in and day out to earn lots of money and live comfortably and even luxuriously. So much work for things that will be lost completely when we die and so little work for the *Aakhirah* (the hereafter). No, we are not prepared to die.

This world is an examination hall and the clock is ticking. We don't have much time! In fact, when you are sitting in an examination hall, you at least know you have 60, 90, 20 or 30 minutes. In the real world, we absolutely don't know! Planning means organizing your time and dividing your time and tasks into categories, like urgent or not urgent, important or not important. So much of our time is wasted on computers, ipads or smart phones. We send messages, exchange emails, chat online and update our 'status' on Facebook, etc. We enjoy them but most of these activities are a waste of time.

Slide 22:

Do you agree with this statement: each one of us is responsible for our own deeds? Will the Holy Prophet (pbuh)'s household be saved simply because they were related to the Holy Prophet (pbuh)?

I'd like to read a *hadith* (saying of the Holy Prophet) to you. Abu Hurayrah (ra) narrated:

When Allah (swt) revealed the verse, "Warn your nearest kinsmen...", Allah's apostle (pbuh) got up and said, "'O' people of Quraish! Save yourselves from the hellfire as I cannot save you from Allah (swt)'s punishment. 'O' Bani AbdulMunaaf, I can't save you from Allah (swt)'s punishment, O Safiyyah (ra)..." (reference?) Who was Safiyyah (ra)?

Student 8: His aunt.

Teacher: The aunt of Allah (swt)'s prophet (pbuh). The *hadith* (saying of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)) continues, "... I cannot save you from Allah (swt)'s punishment, 'O' Fatimah bint e Muhammad, I can't save you from Allah (swt)'s punishment .." (reference?) Who is Fatimah (ra)?

Student 9: His daughter.

Teacher: His daughter! What has been said about her?

Student 1: She is a lady of Paradise.

Teacher: A lady of Paradise. Do you think she is the lady of paradise just because she was Muhammad (pbuh)'s daughter? She didn't need to do anything?

Student 1: She is the lady of Paradise because of her deeds.

Teacher: She is the lady of Paradise because of her deeds. Each one of us is accountable for our own deeds. Who are we talking about? This statement includes everyone, even the youngest and most beloved daughter of the Prophet (pbuh)! Our Prophet (pbuh) said, "O Fatima bint e Muhammad (ra), ask me anything from my wealth but I cannot save you from Allah's (swt) punishment. This is book no 51 and hadith no 16. (which hadith book and is this the whole hadith? If it is a part dots need to be put in to show that.)

In the *Qur-an*, Allah (swt) says that: "That Day shall a man flee from his own brother. And from his mother and his father. And from his wife and his children. Everyman, that day, will have enough to make him careless of others," (Surah 'Abas: 34 – 37)

This is going to happen on the Day of Judgment.

What happened to Abu Talib, the Prophet (pbuh)'s uncle who raised him? Did Abu Talib's kindness and relationship to the Prophet (pbuh) save him? No.

Slides 23 - 24:

Teacher: Tell me, do you think this is true? Do you think this is going to happen? Will your parents be holding your hand on the Day of Judgment? Will your mother, who probably loves you enough to risk her life to save you, lend you some of her good deeds on the Day of Judgment?

Student 1: Everyone is accountable for their own deeds.

Teacher: Correct. On the Last Day, even if people could help each other, they won't due to their fear of the Hellfire. Everyone will only be concerned with saving themselves. Everybody will try to blame someone else, "He told me to do it..." Even **shaytaan** (satan) will say that, "I only suggested that he do that." Remember Hazrat Ibraheem (as) whose father was an idol maker? Ibraheem (as) earned the title '*khaleel ullah*' or best friend of Allah (swt).

Despite being Allah (swt)'s friend he will have no power to ask favors of Allah (swt) on the Last Day! Allah (swt), since you are my best friend and I am your friend, could you save my father from the fire of Hell? No friendship will help that day. Take another father and son, Nuh (as) and his son. What happened to Nuh (as)'s son? Muhammad (pbuh) was looked after by Abu Talib who protected the Prophet (pbuh) till his own death. Unlike Nuh (as)'s son who was disobedient and Ibraheem (as)'s father who was an idol maker, Abu Talib actually helped Muhammad (pbuh) for years and years and went out of his way to protect Muhammad (pbuh). What did Abu Talib lack?

Student 1: He did not embrace Islam.

Teacher: He did not embrace Islam. He did not believe in only one God, one Allah (swt). Will his support of the Prophet (pbuh) take him to *Jannah* (paradise)? What I want to point out is that he was the uncle of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and he supported the Holy Prophet (pbuh) throughout. Do you remember the year of sorrow?

Student 2: Yes!

Teacher: It is the year in which Hazrat Khadijah (ra) and Abu Talib passed away. Will Hazrat Khadijah (ra) go to *Jannah* (paradise)? Yes! Why?

Student 2: She believed. She was the first person to accept the Prophet (pbuh)'s call to Islam.

Slides 25 – 26:

Teacher: Exactly, she believed and it is her own belief and deeds that earned her a place in Heaven. Can you see the label on the perfume? Who is she? These two boys, who are they?

Student 3: Prince Harry and Prince William.

Teacher: Are they princes because they have done something? Is their status their personal achievement?

Slides 27 - 28:

Are we what we are because of what we inherit or what we do? Just because I am Shabnam Ghareeb and Allah (swt) really likes my family, will that get me into *Jannah* (paradise)? Or just because some person in my family is very holy or a great Islamic scholar, will that get me into *Jannah* (paradise)? Is it going to be like that?

Student 3: No.

Teacher: This is the fundamental principle: each one of us is accountable for his or her own deeds and nobody on that Day is going to bear another's burden. In Surah Al-Kahf Allah (swt) states, "So, you have come back to me, have you come back to me exactly like the way I had created you?" (reference – ayat #?) Focus on the fact that you are accountable for your actions, work hard to do what is right and let people laugh. Did people laugh at Nuh (as)?

Students: Yes!

Slides 29 - 30:

Teacher: They laughed and jeered. What did he do? Didn't he ignore them? The majority is not always right. How many people did Nuh (as) save?

Student 4: 82.

Teacher: Approximately 82 or 84. How many years did Nuh (as) call people to Allah (swt)?

Student 5: 900.

Teacher: The majority of the people opposed and laughed at him. Majority is not necessarily the authority! The *Qur-an* mentions that the people who are following the right path will be few in number. Majority is not always right and they could all be wrong. In fact, they are frequently wrong!

Let us reiterate. It's not who we are or which family we are born into, it is what we do on our own that counts. Being born into any particular family is from Allah (swt) and not out of choice. Consider Prince William and Prince Harry, do you think they belong to the royal family because of their choice or their actions? Connect this to Nuh (as). Among his people, those of high status thought, "Our status will save us." Nuh (as)'s son thought that the big mountain would save him. His father called out to him to board the ark but he refused and went up the mountain instead.

The elite among Nuh (as)'s people demanded, "Get rid of these poor people, these stinky people for they have no brains. We have higher status and more wealth than you so why should we

believe you?” It’s not always the high society people who are correct. The elite, the high society people in any community are the trend setters – for good and for bad trends. For example, if you wear a short shirt, you set the trend and your maid will copy you. Yes or no?

Student 1: Yes.

Teacher: What does she know about fashion? Does she make the fashion or follow it? If we are one of the elite and we are blessed *alhamdulillah*, there is nothing wrong with that. However, we can use our position to encourage positive trends in the society. Let us do good deeds and make our deeds attractive and teach others, tactfully and kindly so that others follow. Can we all resolve to do that, as much as we can? Can we end our lesson on this good thought?

Students: Yes.

Teacher: Let us reiterate all these points: Allah (swt) is the most powerful, He can do anything, each person is answerable for her own deeds, anybody can die at any moment so be prepared for death, and plan ahead of time for today and tomorrow so you can achieve your maximum potential!

(Du’a for end of a gathering) *SubhanaRabbikaRabbulIzzati ‘ammayasifunwasalamun ‘alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahilahiRabbil ‘alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*