**MODULE 5**

**Class Title**: Homosexuality

**Aim of the lesson**: To understand the Islamic viewpoint on homosexuality, and how one must respond to the growing homosexuality in society

**Category**: Aqeedah

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

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu ‘alaikumwaRahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

*(Ta’awwudh) A’oodhubillahi min Ash ShaytaanirRajeem*

*(Tasmiyah) BismillahirRahmanir Raheem*

*(Du’a) Rabbishrahlisadriwayassirliamriwahlul ‘uqdatummillisaniyafqahuqawli*[Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verses 25-28]

Slide 1:

Today, *inshaAllah,* we are going to talk about a topic that is something you might not be expecting, but it is the elephant in the room so to say, and we as Muslims need to address it. But before we launch into that, we need to establish a common ground, to see if we are on the same starting line.

Slide 2:

What do you understand by the term **Truth**?

Yes, truth is not telling lies, or telling what is right. But what I mean when I say truth in the context, we are discussing is the absolute truth. The basis by which we derive all other “truths” or standards in our lives. You see, we need to have a source from which we derive our “truths” or our standards. All of us can not define our own rights and wrongs, and our own standards, otherwise the world will be in chaos. We all have our own opinions, but as a society and as the human race, there needs to be ONE constant. So, Truth in essence is the source from which we derive our standards.

Slide 3:

Now the base constant or truth is different for different things. Let us take fashion as an example. What is considered fashionable these days? Long lengths or short? *Shalwars* or pants?

What is the truth? i.e. what is in fashion?

{Wait for responses from students}

Now how do you know this? Why are all your answers the same? Who dictates this truth? Yes, the TRUTH about the current fashion comes from the SOURCE i.e. the Fashion designers, or the Fashion Council.

Can you go against this truth? What if you don’t like this and you want to wear a *dhoti.* You may of course, but what is the consequence? You will be an outcast, laughed at, fashion disaster, dork etc.

Slide 4:

In the same way, the TRUTH for everything comes from a source. Let us take more examples:

Teacher: is stealing right or wrong?

Students: Wrong

Teacher: How do you know this?

Students: Allah (swt) said so, it’s in the Quran

Teacher: Okay, so what about an atheist? They also agree that stealing is cheating and wrong. So maybe it is not only religion that dictates it. Okay, so maybe the truth for it is that it is the right thing to do!

What about a man whose kids are hungry, starving, crying? He decides to steal to feed them. Is that okay?

Student: It is okay; the poor kids are starving, they will die

Teacher: But what if he stole from a man who was going to the hospital to pay for his wife’s treatment and she dies because he cannot now! Or a man who worked hard all month to earn this money to get his ailing old mother a mattress to sleep on. Or maybe to feed his own kids who are now hungry!

Is it hard to define the truth sometimes? Yes, it is.

Slide 5:

These are called ethical dilemmas. Sometimes, we think one thing is correct, sometimes in another situation we feel the same rule doesn’t apply. But if each of us became the judge and jury, the world would be in chaos. We need a constant. We need a SOURCE. Do you agree? And even if you don’t agree with the source at times, you need to know that this is the truth you need to accept.

For humans, it is easy Alhamdulillah. Our Creator has given us our source through His *kalaam* (Quran) and His prophets since the time humanity began. For our times, it is the QURAN AND SUNNAH and like all truths, you may or may not like it. You may not think it is right. You may think it shouldn’t be that way. Maybe you don’t think women should cover. Maybe men should cover their eyes? We all have our opinions. But we need to submit to the source of absolute truth. We need to establish to ourselves and to others that it is a constant. And *SubhanAllah*, not a constant made by man like fashion, but one made by the Supreme God. So put complete trust in it.

Slide 6

This is what Islam means. Islam means ‘Submission’. This is what it is, to accept and submit and KNOW that Islam is right! And as a result of this submission, be in peace.

Slide 7:

Now that we have established the source of all truths, we will begin with the topic on hand.

Do you like boys?

(murmur and giggles)

If you don’t like boys, I’ll be more worried, guys! This is a natural thing. This attraction between men and women. It has been placed there by Allah (swt). You don’t have to act upon it and go out with who you like or send love notes, but what you feel is something you cannot deny.

The two sexes have a natural attraction towards each other. Some get attracted by looks, others by intelligence, someone by a shared passion and so on. Since time immemorial, there has been love, courtship, marriage. The opposite sexes have always been attracted to each other. Of course, there are guidelines for that too, but that is not what I want to talk about today.

Slide 8:

I want to talk about a new thing that has plagued our current society and that is homosexuality. Let us just take a look at the different kinds of sexual orientations and behaviors that have sadly come about in today's day, to understand what it is.

(Discuss the following terms with the girls)

**Homosexuals** are people who are sexually attracted to one’s own sex. Gays are men who are homosexual and lesbians are women who are homosexual.

**LGBT**: stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered. There was a whole movement on Facebook, prompting people to put rainbow colors on their profile picture if they supported this movement.

**Gay Pride** is a strong sense of self-esteem, associated with a person’s public acknowledgement of their homosexuality.

**Same Sex marriage** was recently legalized in several states of the US.

**Transgender** are people whose sense of identity or gender does not correspond with their own gender.

**Transvestite** is a person particularly a man who derives pleasure from dressing as the opposite gender.

**Bisexuals** are people who are attracted sexually to men and women

Slide 9:

Now the fact is that one is either born a man or a woman. Though research establishes that sexuality is determined biologically (that is by birth you are either a man or a woman), but one’s gender orientation can be affected by society and learned behavior. Homosexuality is something that is on the rise because of the acceptance that today’s media and society has given to it. People are going out to explore! They are shown a very glorified image of it in the media. It is literally being promoted. Homosexuality was never so widely spread because of the fact that it was considered immoral and hence it was an idea that did not cross people’s mind. But now with the impact that the media has on people, people are learning this behavior and changing their gender orientation

Slide 10:

Now we come to the dilemma. Is it right or wrong?

Before we look towards Islam for guidance, let’s see if homosexuality even makes sense!

1- Since time immemorial, men and women have been attracted to each other. It is the natural law. The same is for all animals. There is no homosexuality in animals. That tells us something about natural law.

2- Two men or two women cannot procreate. Doesn’t that show that it isn't meant to be this way? You may argue that not all couples are able to bear children but that does not alter the innate character of marriage.

3- Homosexuality has led to children (who have been adopted) to not have either a mother or a father. The balance that a family gets from both a man and a woman is destroyed. Yes, in some families the children lose their mother or father at an early age but that is part of the *qadr* (predestination) of Allah (swt) and certainly a natural trial for the family. Not a situation that the choices of the partners have brought about for the whole family.

4- Marriage is defined as a way to create a family. How is it then that a marriage of people of the same sex make a family?

5- Research states that microwaves have been causing the rise in cancer. The day it gets proven, we’ll stop using it right and in fact, a lot of people have already restricted their use of it. AIDS is established as a disease that afflicts the homosexuals much more compared to heterosexuals. Since reports of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) began to emerge in the United States in the 1980s, the HIV epidemic has frequently been linked to gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) by epidemiologists and medical professionals. By 1982, the condition was referred to in the medical community as Gay-related immune deficiency (GRID), "gay cancer," and "gay compromise syndrome." It was not until July 1982 that the term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was suggested to replace GRID, and even then, it was not until September that the CDC first used the AIDS acronym in an official report. MSM are consistently the population group most affected by the HIV/AIDS virus and are the largest proportion of American citizens with an AIDS diagnosis who have died. The United Nations estimates that 2% to 20% of MSM are infected with HIV, depending on the region they live in. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV\_and\_men\_who\_have physical relationship\_with\_men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV_and_men_who_have%20physical%20relationship_with_men)]

Slide 11:

6- What is Islam’s perspective?

To understand Islam’s perspective, let us listen to a story from the Quran. Prophet Abraham (as) left Egypt accompanied by his nephew Lut (as), who then went to the city of Sodom (Sadum), which was on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

This city was filled with evil. Its residents waylaid, robbed and killed travelers. Another common evil among them was that men had intimate physical relationship with men instead of with women. This unnatural act later became known as sodomy (after the city of Sodom). It was practiced openly and unashamedly.

It was at the height of these crimes and sins that Allah (swt) revealed to Prophet Lut *(*as) that he should summon the people to give up their indecent behavior, but they were so deeply sunk in their immoral habits that they were deaf to Lut's preaching. Swamped in their unnatural desires, they refused to listen, even when Lut (as) warned them of Allah's punishment. Instead, they threatened to drive him out of the city if he kept on preaching.

As the years passed, Lut (as) persisted in his mission but to no avail. No one responded to his call except for the members of his family, and even in his household, not all the members believed. Lut’s (as) wife was a disbeliever.

If home is the place of comfort and rest, then Lut (as) found none, for he was tormented both inside and outside his home. His life was continuous torture and he suffered greatly, but he remained patient and steadfast with his people.

Overwhelmed with despair, Lut (as) prayed to Allah to grant him victory and destroy the corrupt. Therefore, the angels left Abraham (as) and headed for Sodom the town of Lut (as). They reached the walls of the town in the afternoon. The first person who caught sight of them was Lut's (as) daughter, who was sitting beside the river, filling her jug with water. When she lifted her face and saw them, she was stunned that there could be men of such magnificent beauty on earth.

One of the three men (angels) asked her, "O maiden, is there a place to rest?"

Remembering the character of her people she replied, "Stay here and do not enter until I inform my father and return." Leaving her jug by the river, she swiftly ran home.

"O father," she cried, "you are wanted by young men at the town gate and I have never before seen the like of their faces!"

Lut (as) felt distressed as he quickly ran to his guests. He asked them where they came from and where they were going.

They did not answer his questions. Instead they asked if he could host them. He started talking with them and impressed upon them the subject of his people's nature. Lut (as) was filled with turmoil; he wanted to convince his guests without offending them, not to spend the night there, yet at the same time he wanted to extend to them the expected hospitality normally accorded to guests. In vain he tried to make them understand the perilous situation. At last, therefore, he requested them to wait until the night fell, for then no one would see them.

When darkness fell on the town, Lut (as) escorted his guest to his home. No one was aware of their presence. However, as soon as Lut's (as) wife saw them, she slipped out of the house quietly so that no one noticed her. Quickly, she ran to her people with the news and it spread to all the inhabitants like wildfire. The people rushed towards Lut (as) quickly and excitedly. Lut (as) was surprised by their discovery of his guests. and he wondered who could have informed them. The matter became clear, however, when he could not find his wife, anywhere, thus adding grief to his sorrow.

When Lut (as) saw the mob approaching his house, he shut the door, but they kept on banging on it. He pleaded with them to leave the visitors alone and fear Allah's punishment. He urged them to seek sexual fulfillment with their wives, for that is what Allah had made lawful.

Lut's (as) people waited until he had finished his short sermon, and then they roared with laughter. At that terrible moment, he wished he had the power to push them away from his guests. Seeing him in a state of helplessness, and grief the guests said, "Do not be anxious or frightened Lut for we are angels, and these people will not harm you."

The angels warned Prophet Lut (as) to leave his house before sunrise, taking with him all his family except his wife.

Allah (swt) had decreed that the city of Sodom should perish. An earthquake rocked the town. It was as if a mighty power had lifted the entire city and flung it down in one jolt. A storm of stones rained on the city. Everyone and everything were destroyed, including Lut's (as) wife.

Slide 12:

Now let’s see what the Sahaba (ra) had to say about homosexuality.

* The Sahaba unanimously agreed on the execution of homosexuals, but they differed as to how they were to be executed.
* Some of them were of the view that they should be burned with fire, which was the view of ‘Ali (ra) and of Abu Bakr (ra).
* Some of them thought that they should be thrown down from a high place then have stones thrown at them. This was the view of Ibn ‘Abbas (ra).
* Some of them thought that they should be stoned to death, which was narrated from both ‘Ali and Ibn ‘Abbas (ra).

It is because the evil consequences of homosexuality are amongst the worst of all sins, so its punishment is one of the most severe of punishments in this world and in the Hereafter.

[Children will express shock at the severity. Will say this is excessive.]

Teacher: What's the worst threat your mom has given you?

Students: *pankhay say ulta latka doongi* (I will hang you upside down from the fan), I will cut your tongue out if you talk back to me, If you ever do this again, and I’ll throw you out of the house and so on]

Teacher: Some moms can be very creative right? Do your moms mean it? No? Then why are they saying it? Are they lying? No?

Yes, it is a DETERRANT. They are trying to deter you from doing something that is seriously bad for you. They do not want to hurt you. They want to save you.

Allah swt loves us more than 70 moms. This extreme punishment shows us how serious Allah (swt) is. He hates it, abhors it! He wants you to stay away from it. And then if you are adamant and foolhardy enough to indulge in it, then don’t say you weren't warned!

Slide 13:

Now let’s get on to some questions that I know are in your mind:

**What if the gays cannot help it?**

Yes, we cannot define their feelings. We can’t say that they should stop feeling like this. They truly feel this and we are not denying that. But just because you feel something doesn’t mean you have to do it.

What about a man who likes to have physical relationship with young girls?

(Collective disgust in class)

Why is it not okay? He can’t help it, you see!

Exactly, media has desensitized us so much; we cannot see how hateful homosexuality is. Maybe some years from now pedophilia will seem okay too when the media glorifies it! May Allah (swt) protect us!

Slide 14:

**What if a person is born with homosexual genes?**

To this day there is no confirmed research or statistics that proves that homosexuality can be found in the genes or the DNA. Scientists have been found to give statements on both sides even without any tangible proofs. A research published on ScientificAmerican.com states clearly that there is no genetic cause for same-sex behaviour. While another study published in Forbes proclaims that the ‘Gay-gene’ is a myth but goes on to claim that it is natural to be gay! Now how can it be natural when it’s not even part of your genes?

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/massive-study-finds-no-single-genetic-cause-of-same-sex-sexual-behavior/

Slide 15:

**They are old enough to make their own decisions**

Why is it our problem right? They are adults; they can make their own decisions!

But no, just because you are an adult, does not mean you can take a stand against Allah swt We are always, always His slaves. Being adults does not absolve us of His supremacy. I know we get away with this with our parents saying ‘we are old enough now, please do not interfere’ but this does not work with Allah (swt) When He says no, the order stands.

Slide 16:

**They can do what they like, Live and Let Live!!**

## In surah Al-Asr, (Chapter 103 of the Holy Quran),

## Allah (swt) says that:

## “By time, indeed, mankind is in loss, Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.”

In this Surah, Allah swt is teaching us that all mankind is in a state of loss except those who have faith and they do righteous deeds themselves and also tell others to follow the truth and be steadfast on it. So, it is compulsory for us to help others see the truth and follow it.

## This is what we need to be like. We should not want to just go to Jannah alone; we should want to take others with us. Watch out for others, help them to be their best. Live and let live in my opinion is highly selfish!

Slide 17:

**Should I hate them? Why?**

So, should we hate them? The gays and the homos?

NO! Hate the act. Hate it from the depth of your heart because Allah (swt) hates it. Hate is so much that it is something you would never indulge in, however much the temptation is.

Let us put it this way... Your mom dislikes someone a lot. That person has hurt her, stolen from her, cheated her. Would you automatically dislike this person who has caused your mom to cry, caused her pain and distress and she lays in bed sleepless and hurt at nights?

Now here is your God, your Creator! And he hates homosexuality! He has said it very clearly. What’s your response?

Slide 18:

**What should I do then?**

You see a man walking and there is a pit in the way covered flimsily with leaves but inside the pit is a raging fire. What will you do? Won’t you scream, “STOPPPPP!” at the top of your lungs and yank that person out of the way? Then why are we not like this for our brothers and sisters who have fallen in this trap of homosexuality? Why are we okay with them walking into that pit!

Help does not mean telling them off, quoting the Quran! That might have the opposite effect! They’ll do it more! That’s human nature, right?

Help is relative. I cannot define this. It is different for everyone. But basically, do that which will help them to see the right way. Maybe just gain their trust. Prove that you are looking out for them. If actually telling them what the punishments are etc will further move them away from Islam, then you're not helping! In fact, you're doing the opposite. So, use *Hikmah* (wisdom), be wise, judge the situation and be there for them. And always renew your intention that you want to save them, and you want your friend to be in *Jannah* with you!

Slide 21:

**What if I am attracted to another woman?**

I'm not asking who is and who isn't. But if you feel that way, that is okay. What is not okay is to act upon it.

I love chocolate cake. I want to eat one whole cake every day! But I don’t! Why? Because it’s not good for me. I’ll get fat, die of diabetes and so on!

Also, do some thinking. Why is homosexuality becoming so common? Why do we all know one person who is gay? Why have people started exploring this option? Could it be less biological and more exposure and media? At this moment today, none of you will say you are attracted to small children, but if one day it was deemed okay, is it possible that more people will start feeling this way?

Protect yourselves from *Shaytan* (devil) whose biggest attack has been on the institution of family. He gives his crown to the disciple who makes a man fight with his wife. He has now gone a step further and destroyed families by making us accept same sex marriages. Fight him by protecting yourself from his *fitna* (trial), holding fast to the Quran and to gain knowledge. May Allah (swt) protect us all, Ameen.

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

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

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