**MODULE 1**

**Class Title**: Abundance

**Aim of the lesson**: To understand that nature is based on abundance and that Allah (swt) has enough for everyone.

**Category**: Aqeedah

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

**Materials Needed:**

A ball of string (should be atleast 5m long)

A basket of questions- make 10 questions more than the number of students in your class. The questions should be trivia questions about Islamic figures and incidents.

**Abundance: (questions and answers for the activity)**

1. What is the meaning of ‘Tawheed’?

Ans: The Oneness or Unity of Allah

1. Who brought the revelation to the Prophet Mohammad (s.a.w)?

Ans: Angel Jibrael (as) (2:98)

1. Who were called the Ashab al-Kahf?

Ans: The Companions of the Cave whom Allah Caused to sleep for a number of years (Al-Kahf: 18)

1. Name the sea in which Firawn and his army drowned.

Ans: The Red Sea in Egypt

1. During what part of the day the believers are allowed to eat during Ramadan?

Ans: From Sunset till dawn (2:187)

1. What is the meaning of the attribute of Allah, ‘As-Sami’?

Ans: The All Hearing

1. What is the other name of Prophet Yunus (as)?

Ans: Dhun Nun or the Companion of the Fish (21: 87-88)

1. On which mount did the ark of Prophet Nuh (as) come to rest?

Ans: Mount of Judi, Turkey

1. Can slumber or sleep seize Allah (swt)?

Ans: No (2:255)

1. What attribute does Allah’s beautiful name ‘Al-Wahid’ describe?

Ans: The One

1. Which surah is recited in every prayer?

Ans: Surah Al-Fatiha

1. How many nights did Prophet Musa spend in Communion with Allah?

Ans: 40 (7:142)

1. What did the step-brothers of Prophet Yusuf (as) tell Prophet Yaqoob (as) after throwing Prophet Yusuf in a well?

Ans: That he had been devoured by a wolf (12:17)

1. How did Prophet Yusuf come out of prison?

Ans: By interpreting the dream of the king of Egypt

1. The Quran is also called “Burhan”. What is its meaning?

Ans: Proof

1. Name the prophet whom the Jinn used to obey.

Ans: Suleman (as) (34:12-13)

1. Did Prophet Nuh’s son get on the ark?

Ans: No

1. What punishment was given to Prophet Yusuf by Aziz’s wife?

Ans: She sent him to jail (12;32)

1. What characteristic of Satan made him disobey Allah (swt)?

Ans: Arrogance

1. Who is Iblis? An angel or Jinn?

Ans: Jinn (18:50)

1. Where was Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) when the the first ayaat of Quran were revealed to him?

Ans: In the Cave of Hira

1. How does Allah want us to spend our wealth?

Ans: We should neither be misers nor spendthrifts

1. Which surah of the Quran has the repeated phrase: ‘Then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny’?

Ans: Surah Ar-Rahman

1. Who were Habil and Qabil?

Ans: Two sons of Adam (as)

1. Who are called ‘Ashabul-Fil’ or people of the Elephant?

Ans: Abraha and his army

**What you will do during class:**

**Step 1:**

Ask the students to stand in a circle. Explain the rules of the game.

**Step 2:**

The teacher should start the game and throw the string ball towards the students. Whoever catches the ball first should pick a chit from the basket and give it to the teacher. The teacher should read out the question. When the student has answered, he/she should throw the ball towards the right if their answer was correct or towards their left if it was wrong. In this way let the game continue until all students have had a turn.

**Step 3:**

Ask the students to sit down without moving from their spot and keep holding on to their string. Now explain the lessons learnt from the game with the help of slides.

**Lecture:**

(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]

Slide 1:

Today,*inshaAllah,* we’ll start by playing a game. I want you all to get up and form a circle.

Like all games, this game also has rules: I’m going to throw this ball of string that I have, at one of you, and that person will have to catch it. Whoever catches it must pick out a chit from this basket; each piece of paper has a question written on it. If you answer the question correctly, you must hold one end of the string in your hand, and throw the rest of the ball to someone else. That person should then try to catch it. Remember, everyone who catches the ball must hold one end of the string and throw the rest of the ball to another person; if you answer the question correctly, then throw the ball to your right, but if your answer is incorrect, then throw it to your left. Please don’t let go of the part of the string that you’re holding, at any point of the game. This is very important. Okay, let’s start*.*

(Game begins and student catches the ball)

Teacher: Do you know the first child to convert to Islam was?

Ok, you don’t know. Since you answered incorrectly, throw the ball to your left. Hold on to one end of the string, though.

What is *zakat?*

Student: Charity.

Teacher: Yes, but what kind of charity? Isn’t it the obligatory charity one has to give, if he has enough wealth to do so? Go on, hold the string and throw it towards your right.

(In this way, the game continues till all the students have had a turn)

*Alhamdulillah,* we’re finished with our game. Now, I want you all sit down wherever you are, while still holding on to the string.

Now, let’s analyze what we’ve just done. Let’s see what we can learn from this game.

Slide 2:

Firstly, can you all see that we’ve managed to create a web, a pattern, by throwing the string around? Each and every one of us played a part in creating this web. If even one of you hadn’t been here, the pattern would have been different; the importance of each person in this web is crucial for us to understand because it shows us that each and every one of us is a unique creation of Allah (swt). Each one’s presence in this world gives a unique meaning to it.

There are no extra, unnecessary pieces in Allah’s (swt) universe. Everyone is here because they have a place to fill; each person fits into the big jigsaw puzzle. And that is what life on Earth is all about. Every one of us has a unique role and we need to fulfill it.

Slide 3:

Secondly, the ball of string which was tossed around was free to be caught by anyone. That’s the case with life as well; Allah (swt) throws opportunities at us all; they’re there for anyone to reach out and grab. It’s up to each and every one of us whether we grab them, or not. Allah (swt) merely sees who does what, in a given situation. In this game, you were told that you can catch the ball only once because of the restraint of time, and also because we wanted to give everyone a chance. But that’s not how it is with Allah (swt); He gives opportunities to everyone all the time. It’s not like we won’t get an opportunity if we’ve already gotten it once. Every now and then, Allah (swt) gives us opportunities. And it’s up to us how we use them. How would you know if you’ve been given an opportunity?

The way we can recognize an opportunity is by remembering this quote, which sums it up very nicely, “In the midst of every difficulty, lies opportunity.”

Whenever we face a difficult situation, all we have to do is change our perception. We can recognize that something is difficult, but still try to get through it, meet the challenge head on, and then shine through by doing our best. Or, we can run away from opportunities and bury our head in the sand. For example, if one of our parents is sick, we can stay with them, nurse and comfort them, or we can leave them be and carry on with our own activities without bothering to help them get better. We can either choose to gain our parent’s love and Allah’s (swt) *thawab* (rewards), or we can lose them both.

Slide 4:

Thirdly, the answers that you gave determined which direction the ball was to be tossed. In our lives, the choices that we make will determine the direction we’re to take. Thus, whenever a situation arises in which we have to make a choice, we need to make our choices keeping in mind the effect they’ll have on us, the people around us, as well as on our environment. I’ll give you a simple example: let’s say you’re sitting in this room, eating a banana. After eating it, you have two choices: you can either throw the peel on the floor, or throw it in the dustbin. If you throw it in the room what will happen?

Student: Somebody might slip on it, or it’ll rot and give off a foul smell.

Teacher: So clearly, if you throw it in the dustbin, you’ll make the right choice. By doing the right thing, you won’t hurt anyone, nor harm the environment. Similarly, in our everyday lives, we should always try to make well thought out, wise choices.

So, to sum up, every creature of Allah (swt) has a special place and is here because he has a purpose to fulfill and Allah (swt) gives all of us many opportunities during our lifetimes.

Slide 5:

Very early in life we are taught that competition is good and makes you strive to achieve and fulfill your greatest potential. It sounds great but what is absent from that theory is that sometimes getting wrapped up in competing never allows you to get to know yourself. If you are always consumed with doing better than someone else how can you discover your own goals and dreams?

It seems that there is so much emphasis on winning that society puts on you, and having more than everyone else is somehow analogous to success. Whether it is more success, more money, or more material possessions, even the race to look younger has become a competition. Teenagers are joining the millions of adults getting injected with Botox and Restylane. Nowhere is this more evident than television. You can't turn on the TV without seeing both adults and children competing against one another. It would be fine if it wasn’t filled with such anger and determination to win at any cost. The message is clearly that winning is everything when in fact there is so much to learn from not winning, mainly humility, and that the reality is that we all can’t win all the time - and it’s ok. The desire to always be number one brings stress and frustration. What about being a good sport and being happy for the winner?

Slide 6:

If we make the right choices, we can partake in the blessings of Allah (swt); Allah (swt) has enough for everyone; no one has to be a loser. We are all unique and special creations of Allah (swt), and all of us have an equal chance of winning this game of life.

Slide 7:

There is a feeling of abundance, a feeling of vastness in Allah’s (swt) creation. Do you ever have to worry about whether you’ll be able to get as much oxygen as you need in your everyday life? In nature there is a feeling of abundance; there is enough for everyone, and all we need to worry about is doing our best and making the right choices. And the good we do will come back to us, multiplied many times. That is the message for us in nature.

Slide 8:

Allah (swt) says:

“Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit, and whoever brings an evil deed shall have only the recompense of the like thereof, and they will not be wronged.” (Al-Anam: 160)

This Hadith tells us about the Rahma (mercy) of Allah (swt) in recording our deeds:

"Allah Ordered (the appointed angels over you) that the good and the bad deeds be written, and He then showed (the way) how (to write). If someone intends to do a good deed and he does not do it, then Allah will write for him a full good deed; and if he intends to do a good deed and actually did it, then Allah will write for him (its reward equal) from ten to seven hundred times to many more times. And If someone intends to do a bad deed and he does not do it, then Allah will write for him a full good deed (in his account) with Him, and if he intends to do a bad deed and actually did it, then Allah will write for him one bad deed.“ (Bukhari and Muslim)

Do you see how vast and abundant His Mercy and Kindness is towards us!

Slide 9:

Clearly competition is present in life and can build character if it is handled in a way that is fair and sends a message that it’s ok not to always come out on top.

There are some benefits in competition; Allah (swt) tells us to compete with each other in doing good deeds, but competition in worldly matters stresses us out for no reason.

Slide 10:

Give to others what you expect from them- be it love, respect, appreciation and recognition- and focus on the blessings that Allah (swt) has bestowed upon you. When you start giving, you will start receiving; you cannot receive what you don’t give. Outflow determines the inflow; give and it will be given to you.

Slide 11:

Start by acknowledging the abundance around you. Focus on the fullness of life around you, the warmth of the sun on your skin, the display of beautiful stars in the night sky or the pleasure of biting into a succulent fruit. Remember that Allah (swt) has made these things available for everyone. That is His *rahmah*{mercy} and generosity. This acknowledgment of the abundance in nature, awakens the dormant abundance within. Become a giver.

Ask yourself often, “What can I give here; how can I be of service to this person, this situation?”

You don’t need to own anything to feel abundant, and if you feel abundant consistently things will come to you.

It is said that ‘Isa (as) once said, “For the one who has more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Slide 12:

We should remember that with Allah (swt) everything is possible. If you really want to do something, don’t look to the people around you; focus on Allah (swt) because humans have limitation while Allah (swt) has no limitations. He will help and guide you.

Nature is based on abundance; that Allah (swt) has enough blessings to bestow on everyone.

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

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

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