

MODULE 3

Class Title: Story of Yusuf (as) part 2
(2nd part of a 3 lesson series).

Aim of Lesson : To draw lessons for ourselves from Yusuf(as)'s story

Category : Scripture Stories

Class format : Power point presentation & discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalamalaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*
(*Ta'awwudh*) *Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*
(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*
(*Du'a*) *Rabbishrahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli*
(Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slides 1-2:

Lets have a recap of the story of Yusuf (as).

Teacher: What was the dream that Yusuf (as) had in his childhood?

Student: The sun, moon and the eleven stars prostrating before him.

Teacher: Who was Yusuf (as)'s father?

Student: Ya'qub (as). He was a prophet and could also interpret dreams.

Teacher: What happened when he told his dream to his father? Did he give Yusuf (as) the interpretation of the dream?

Student: He didn't exactly tell him what it was but he told him not to mention to his brothers because they would be jealous of him.

Teacher: And why was that? Why did he feel that his brothers would be jealous of him?

Student: It's because his father liked him the most and his brothers were really mean to him.

Well he was younger than the others and sometimes if a child is very obedient to his/her parents; it is but natural that the parents are more inclined towards that child. It is also quite likely that maybe Ya'qub (as) being a Prophet himself saw some qualities of Prophethood in Yusuf (as).

Thus, Yusuf (as) did not mention the dream to his brothers, yet his brothers were jealous and somehow they managed to throw him in a dead well. A caravan was passing by; he was rescued and was sold in Egypt as a slave. When he was sold an Egyptian man Aziz bought him, took him in his house and he got so fond of him that he told his wife that we might adopt him as our son. He grew up over there into a very handsome young man.

Teacher: And who was attracted to him?

Student: Aziz's wife.

Teacher: Can you recall what did Aziz told his wife when he brought him home?

Student: That they may adopt him as a son.

Teacher: She is a mother figure but she is getting attracted towards him and then what does she do?

Student: She tries to invite him into an illicit relationship but he refuses and tries to leave but she grabs him from the back of his shirt and the shirt gets torn.

Teacher: And then what happens?

Student: He opens the door and there is Aziz standing there.

Teacher: How does Aziz realize that his wife was the culprit and not Yusuf (as)?

Student: because his shirt is torn from the back.

Teacher: what is the statement that he Aziz's wife passes when she finds her husband standing there?

Student: she says that Yusuf (as) was trying to seduce her.

Teacher: So not only her character is so bad, she is even a liar. What happens in the prison?

Student: He interprets a dream of his fellow prisoner saying that one fellow prisoner is going to die and the other one will be released.

Eventually, as interpreted, one prisoner was executed and the person who was released goes back to the Pharaoh's palace. Yusuf (as) had requested him to mention him to the king but he forgets completely until Pharaoh has a dream and requires interpretation.

This is when he mentions to the Pharaoh that there was a prisoner with me who could interpret dreams. Yusuf (as) is called to the palace, he interprets the dream that you all are going to have seven years of good harvest and seven years of famine. And if you save enough for seven years, you will not suffer badly from famine. Pharaoh liked his plan so much that he gave him a prominent position in Egypt.

Teacher: What happens at the time of the famine?

Student: He meets his brothers

Teacher: Due to Yusuf's (as) planning, when the famine hit, people of Egypt had enough food in their granaries to barter with the surrounding people who had

inadequate food supply. This is how he met his brothers and parents and then revealed his true identity. This was the interpretation of the dream that Yaqoob (as) did many years ago.

Slides 3-7:

Teacher: what characteristics of Yusuf (as) can you identify through out his eventful life?

Student: he was really patient, honest and forgiving.

Student: He could resist temptation and had faith in Allah (swt)

Teacher: His faith in Allah (swt) was profound. His life was like a roller coaster ride. There were many ups and downs. Let's assess.

Born in a prophet family? Very good.

Jealous brothers? Very bad.

Thrown in the well? Very bad.

Sold as a slave? Good or bad?

Student: bad.

Teacher: back to Aziz's house? Good owner or bad?

Student: good.

Teacher: Did Aziz treat him like a slave?

Student: no

Teacher: But what happened when he reached his youth? Seduced, thrown in to jail, good or bad?

Student: bad.

Teacher: Spends his youth in prison until adulthood and finally reaches the Pharaoh's palace. So what do we learn from this? That life is full of surprises and there are many experiences, good as well as bad. Does it happen to all of us? Do we have highs and lows in our lives?

Student: yes.

Teacher: The first lesson that we draw from Yusuf (as)'s story is that faith in the presence of Allah (swt). Do we all say we believe in the presence of Allah (swt)?

Student: yes.

Teacher: Yes, we do but do we trust Him actually? What happens when we go through a difficult time like losing someone very precious, death of a close friend? A

Sudden loss or perhaps you desperately prayed to get something but did not get it??
What do we say?

Do we say, Oh its ok. maybe Allah (swt) has something good in store for us? What do we do? We complain, we say *'I had prayed so hard to Allah (swt) but He didn't listen to me!'* we do that right?

What happens when you have faith in Allah (swt)? What does it do? It makes our trouble easy to bear. You know, Allah (swt) has sent the Qur`an as guidance for us or is it that the stories of the Prophets are for the purpose of recreation? Every time we read a story of a Prophet, we realize that most of them were put through trials. Take for instance, Ibrahim (as), what was his trial?

Student: he had to sacrifice his son.

Teacher: What else? You know he was born at a time when idol worship was at its peak and his father was one of the head idol makers. In that society he recognized who Allah (swt) was and he went against the whole society. Who do you think he placed his trust in? He had faith in Allah (swt) and his faith was so profound as if he had seen Allah (swt) with his own eyes?

When he was made the Prophet and put through trials like he was asked to sacrifice his son, a son whom he got after many many years. At that time Allah (swt) told him to leave his baby son and wife in a valley? Do you think that valley was a valley of paradise?? It was a desert; there was no water over there.

Teacher: what do you think made Ibrahim (as) take such a strong step?

Student: his faith.

Is Allah (swt) asking us to do something like this? Is Allah (swt) saying please go to the Sahara desert and just start living there. He is not asking us to do this. Allah (swt) asks us to do simpler, easier things like getting up for fajr, not lying, cheating, being modest etc.

Its winters nowadays and I know for some of us its an ordeal to get up at fajr time and pray but tell me honestly, is getting up in the morning and doing wudhu with warm water running in your taps as difficult as Ibrahim (as)'s task? Is it? It's not. It's certainly not!!

Slides 8-13:

Now let's come to Musa (as), most of you know Musa (as)'s story right? What happened? The Pharaoh decided to kill all the male children right? And Musa (as) was born at that time when all the male children were asked by the Pharaoh's orders to be killed.

Musa (as)'s mom was told by Allah (swt) to be put him in a basket and let the basket flow down the river Nile. Is it difficult or easy for a mother to put her new born child in a basket and let him go? Is it easy or difficult?

Student: difficult.

Teacher: Did she do it?

Student: yes

Teacher: Was she a Prophetess? What made her do this?

Student: faith in Allah (swt).

Teacher: Strong faith in Allah (swt). She knew that when she has reposed her trust in Allah (swt), Allah (swt) will take care of her son.

Also when Musa (as) became the prophet and Allah (swt) spoke to him, he was given the simple task of going to the Pharaoh to deliver the message of Tawheed. Musa (as) found the task rather daunting and made supplication so that it would become easier upon him to carry Allah's command. What is the dua? I just read it before my lesson.

(Du'a) Rabbish rahli sadri wayassi rli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli
(Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Right, he read this du'a but you can't just recite it during exams or while having dispute with someone without knowing what this du'a means. It will simply not have the effect. You have to know what you are asking for.

Teacher: What do you need to do after saying the du'a?

Student: believe.

You know when we come here to teach you, we are also scared of sitting here but if every person would think I can't do this, I am scared. Do you think our *deen* will ever spread? Do you think we would be able to take on the task that has been put on our shoulders by the Prophet (pbuh) to spread Islam?

Student: no.

We pray to Allah (swt) and then we believe that Allah (swt) will make the task easier for us. We pray that the tongue is mine but let the right words come out and let my words bring about a positive change in somebody. We have to try, each one of us, to spread the message of Allah (swt) in our own capacity.

What happens when you put your trust in God in dark and uncertain times? Long time back, I got an email which inspired me. There was a mountain hiker who got separated from his group. It was pitch dark and his rope broke and many other mishaps happened to him.

He was hanging on a cliff with just a rope and it was so dark that he could see nothing and he really with his true heart started calling out to Allah (swt) that 'Allah (swt) please save me!'.

Allah (swt) responded and asked him that do you really trust in me? He said that yes I do then the voice said ok will you do as I say? He agreed that yes I will do as you say. What did that voice ask him to do?

That voice said let go of the rope. What do you think that the man did? He let go of the rope? He didn't. Why wouldn't he? He said he trusted Allah (swt)??

What happened in the end? His body was found frozen and he was only a few six feet away from the ground!! Just a jump away literally... We all say we believe in Allah (swt) and when Allah (swt) says let go, we are not ready to do that.

Even the people who don't believe in a God, deep inside they all know there is a God and they seek Allah (swt)'s protection. Remember the earthquake, remember the flood. We are still facing the after effects of these.

All of the Prophets' dua's reflect how much we need to trust Allah (swt) so that when we are put through trials we are guided by that firm belief that Allah (swt) will not waste us. We have to judge ourselves that is it lip service only or do we really trust Him.

What happened to Yusuf (as)? He trusted in Allah (swt) at all times. When he was put into the well, what did he do? Did he create a big scene? In all the highs and low of his life he thanked Allah (swt) and prayed for his help with patience and perseverance.

Do we have patience in our life?

You want to go meet a friend but your mom has said no. Equivalent to an earthquake or a calamity! Right.

You want to eat pizza today means you want to eat a pizza today only, no other option!! You will never have that *dal chawal* that your mother has made. If you had to have it you will make that poor woman go through as much guilt as possible, do we do that?

I am talking about these little things because no body is putting us in a well like Yusuf (as). Are we being thrown in a well? Are we being sold in the market of Egypt as a slave? Do you know what slavery was?

Student: You become personal property of that owner and you can't runaway.

Teacher: They own you. Nobody is doing that to us so all we have to do is bear our small problems with patience. Do we bear our small problems with patience? We don't. With every little problem, everything is blown out of proportion. Can you see how there is a connection between faith in Allah (swt) and patience?

Let's say you wanted to go to a very important party, you got dressed up, your dress came on time, you got ready but your car didn't reach or you got stuck in traffic. Let's say you are in Defence and you have to reach all the way to KDA, everything is

working out perfectly but now you are stuck in traffic and are unable to make it to the party... How will you react?

Student: I will get very angry.

Teacher: And then you had to turn back and come home. Now what will happen at home?

Student: Make a fuss, throw a fit.

Yah, put the blame on somebody else. "you sent the car at the last minute. Had I gone 15 minutes earlier this would not have happened. Had you given me the permission to go to my friend's house in the morning this would have never had happened. Why me? Why me?"

Do we do that? Self pity???

Slide 14:

Let's get back to Yusuf (as), did he do that? Why me? I had eleven bothers. Why not them? Why was I put in the well? Why did I have to be sold? Why did that woman seduce me? Why me? We do that, he didn't!

You know we never think that "*what is the Khayr (good) that Allah (swt) has in this problem/hardship for me?*"

We never think that. You know that plane that crashed, the air blue one?? I know a person who did not make it to that flight and got stuck in traffic and apparently, he came home and told his wife that *is mei Allah (swt) Nai meray liye koi behtari sochi hogi* (Allah swt must have some good in this for me) that is in his missing his flight.. How relieved he and his family must have been when they saw the news later.

When things don't go our way even when we have tried our level best then we should understand that there is some goodness in it but does this actually mean that we should not study for our exams and say oh I trust in Allah (swt), He will make my paper easy, Oh I am gonna chill and do my *salah* and I am gonna read my Qur'an because I have faith in Allah (swt). Will that work?

Student: no

Teacher: Why? Allah (swt) says trust in me, profound trust. Why will it not work then?

Student: because you have to work your hardest and then put your trust in Allah (swt) \

Teacher: You have to work to gain that. If Allah (swt) wanted wouldn't the Pharaoh become a Muslim? Would it take Allah (swt) long to change his heart? No, Allah (swt) sent a person and made him go through all those hardships. Remember the way to jannah is not easy, it's difficult.

Teacher: That the path to jannah is very difficult. It's like going up and down the hill. What will happen if you have too much luggage with you and you are going up and down the hill?

So now we have made a connection, that being patient and trusting in Allah (swt) 's infinite wisdom, go hand in hand.

So *inshaAllah* from today we are going to strive to strengthen our trust in Allah (swt) and not just leave it to lip service? Are we going to do that? We all are human beings, a lot of times, I also say I trust Allah (swt) but when difficult times come, I start to panic but what we need to understand is that nothing is in our control.

Is anything in our control? We all breathing here now, is it our doing? No It s not. We can't even control our breathing so we all need to have faith in Allah (swt) that even if things are not going my way, I trust in Allah (swt) that it is the right way.

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

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum warahmatullahi waBarakatuh*