

Lajna Ta'leem Lesson Plan Outline

Month: February 2015

Learning Objectives:

- To develop a better understanding of the verse 287 of Al Baqarah and the theme of forgiveness through purification
- To develop an understanding of the message of the Promised Messiah(as) in his poem.

Time	Activity and Comments	Resource
10 min	Start with the recitation of these verses of the Holy Quran. Then ask another member to read out the translation.	Holy Quran: Al Baqarah 287 & Syllabus
40min	<p>Then remind members that in the previous two verses of Al Baraqah, i.e. 285 &286, the subject of attaining purification has been dealt with.</p> <p>Verse 287 is the continuation of the same theme of attaining purification by beseeching forgiveness and help from Allah the Almighty. Highlight the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the clause, "Allah burdens not any soul beyond its capacity", is a powerful refutation of the doctrine of Atonement. It embodies two important principles- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the commandments of God are always given with due regard for human capacities and weaknesses. 2)purification in this world does not signify complete freedom from all kinds of failings and shortcomings. • all that man is required to do is to sincerely strive after good and avoid sin to the best of his power. As long as he does this he will be forgiven by the Merciful God, so Atonement is not needed. • man will be rewarded for good deeds even if they are done casually and without concentrated effort, while he will be punished for his evil deeds only if they are committed deliberately with concerted effort. However, if due care is exercised then it is possible to overcome error and forgetfulness which can lead to sin. • Muslims are taught to pray that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) impose not on us a sin, i.e. enable us to avoid sin and prevent us from doing deeds which might make us stumble b) do not punish us if we commit some sin or break some covenant c)do not make a responsibility or a responsibility mount on us as Thou didst mount it on those before us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the phrase, "lay not on us a responsibility as thou didst lay upon those before us", means that may 	

<p>10min</p>	<p>God help Muslims to fulfill their responsibilities and avoid sins as well as the consequences thereof. The previous people were entrusted with some responsibilities and given certain commandments which was for their own good, but many of them failed to fulfill them and rejected Islam and thus turned a blissful guidance into a veritable means of incurring God's displeasure. Muslims being the bearer of the final Shariát, have been exhorted to set a better example and to pray to God for their success in their great task and in fulfillment of heavenly responsibilities. The clause may also refer to Christians particularly who by declaring the Law to be a curse converted a divine mercy into i.e. a burden and a punishment. Muslims are thus taught to pray that for them the Shariát may always remain a mercy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the clause, "and efface our sins and grant us forgiveness and have mercy on us", comprises of three important invocations placed in perfect order. They not only correspond to the preceding three prayers but also constitute a perfect manifestation of a perfect treatment on the part of a Perfect Master; 1) that God may efface our sins and leave out no trace of them to be seen by men; 2) that he may not only efface our sins but also grant us forgiveness so that He Himself may treat them as non - existent and 3) that God may not only efface our sins and forgive us but also show positive mercy on us. • The concluding clause, "help us Thou against the disbelieving people", provides a fitting ending to the sura that God did come to their help although the entire world of disbelief is arrayed against them. <p>Ask a member to read out a poem given for this term and explain the meaning.</p> <p>Home work: Read the section prescribed for the History of Islam and memorise the Prayer for Migration or Spiritual Journey.</p>	
--------------	--	--

