



In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Lajna Ta'leem Lesson Plan Outline

Month: December 2016

Learning Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the background and early life of the Promised Messiah ^{as}

Time	Activity and Comments	Resource
30 minutes	<p>Introduce the book “The Renaissance of Islam”, and then highlight the following points from chapters 1 and 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The forefather of the Promised Messiah ^{as} Mirza Hadi Beg, who was a chieftain of Persian descent, moved out of Samarkand in 1530 and settled in the Gurdaspur district of Punjab.• He was granted a jagir (land) of several hundred villages by the emperor and was appointed the Qazi of the surrounding dist.• Due to the treachery of the Sikh rulers, in 1802, Mirza Ata Muhammad and his family were made prisoners and Qadian was looted, mosques and other buildings were pulled down. Many Muslims were killed but members of the family were spared and expelled from Qadian. They moved from place to place in adversity until Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluvalia of Kapurthala , treated them with kindness and the family settled there. Mirza Ata Muhammad died after been poisoned by the enemy and his son Mirza Ghulam Murtaza brought his father’s body to Qadian to be buried.• In about 1818, at the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Mirza Ghulam Murtaza and members of his family were permitted to return to Qadian.• In 1834, the maharaja being impressed by his goodness and loyalty, restored to him five villages out of his ancestral estate. This was about the time when he was blessed by the birth of a second son whom he named Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.• Mirza Ghulam Murtaza was an expert physician and treated people freely. He was very generous and had a literary aptitude. Towards the end of his life he built Masjide Aqsa in Qadian. His wife, Chirag Bibi, belonged to a respectable Mughal family. She was known to be generous, hospitable, cheerful and a good hearted women of exemplary piety.• She was supportive of her son, in his being withdrawn from worldly matters and being inclined towards religion. She	The Renaissance of Islam, Chapters 1 & 2



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	<p>passed away in 1868 and was buried in the family graveyard to the west of Qadian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Promised Messiah^{as} cherished her memory tenderly. Whenever he spoke of her, his eyes would fill with tears. He^{as} often visited her grave and prayed for her.● Mirza Gulam Ahmad^{as} was born as a twin. His twin sister passed away few days after their birth. A famous saint and scholar, Hazrat Muhyuddin Ibn Arabi had predicted that the Promised Messiah would be born a twin.● The elementary education was arranged at home. His first tutor was Fazal Illahi then subsequently Maulvi Fazal Ahmad and the Gul Ali shah sahib. He was taught the then current syllabus and also read some books in medicine from his father. His father continuously admonished him to reduce his reading and to take interest in other matters but the Promised Messiah^{as} was not interested in worldly matters. He engrossed himself in the study of the Holy Quran. He also took an interest in the study of other religions such as Christianity and was perturbed by the aggressive and offensive Christian polemics directed against Islam and the Holy Prophet^{saw}.● The Promised Messiah^{as} first got married to Hurmat Bibi and had two sons from this marriage, Mirza Sultan Ahmad and Mirza Fazal Ahmad.● He took employment in Sialkot in 1864 at the behest of his father but returned to Qadian in 1868 when his^{as} mother passed away.● Soon after his return to Qadian, the Promised Messiah^{as} was invited to hold a public discussion with Maulvi Muhammad Hussain Batalvi on the principal points of differences between the Ahle Hadees and the Hanafis. But at the opening of the discussion when Maulvi Hassan read the statement which supported his believe, the Promised Messiah^{as} felt that there was nothing in it that called for refutation. The Ahle Hadees were disappointed but this did not bother the Promised Messiah^{as} as he was only interested in the truth. That night he was comforted by divine assurance that God was pleased by the attitude he had adopted and that He would bless him greatly, so much so that Kings would seek blessings from his garments. He was shown in a vision some of those kings, six or seven in number, mounted on their steeds.● From 1872, the Promised Messiah^{as} began to emerge as the defender of Islam against the attacks of Christians, Arya and Brahma samajists by publishing articles in various journals.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● His first article was published on the 25th August 1972 in Manshur Muhammadi. In this article he emphasised that the test of a true religion is that its teaching is designed to establish its followers firmly on truth. He challenged the followers of all religions to set forth from their religious books their respective teachings on this behalf and promised an award of Rs 500 to any non- Muslims who would set forth one half or even one third of the teachings that he would set forth from the authoritative books of Islam. No one came forward to take up this challenge.● Thereafter, the Promised Messiah^{as} challenged any published statement which was in conflict with the fundamental teachings of Islam. He openly challenged two prominent Hindu leaders on the subject of on transmigration of souls and on the possibility of verbal revelation. This was done through articles in newspapers. As a result of this Pandit Kharak Singh left Ayra Samaj, became a Christian and wrote several pamphlets condemning the teachings that he himself supported and followed. Similarly Pandit Shiv Narrain Agni Hotri too left Brahma Samaj and founded a new sect called Dev Samaj.● In 1878, the Promised Messiah^{as} sent a manuscript for publication and enclosed with it a letter to the manager. The Promised Messiah^{as} was not aware of this contravention of Post Office regulations that was punishable with fine or imprisonment. The press belonged to Ralya Ram who was a bigoted Christian. He made a complaint to the postal authorities against the Promised Messiah^{as} and persecution was instituted. A lawyer who was engaged for this advised the Promised messiah^{as} to deny that he had put the letter in the packet but the Promised Messiah^{as} refused to depart from the truth. At this point the lawyer abandoned the case as he thought that there was no ground for acquittal and the Promised Messiah^{as} was left to present his own case before the magistrate. The Promised Messiah^{as} explained that as the subject matter of the letter only contained directions with regard to the manuscript enclosed in the packet he had in good faith thought that the letter formed a part of the manuscript and that he had not intended to defraud the post office. The prosecutor argued that in effect the Promised Messiah^{as} had accepted guilt and should be prosecuted. However, the magistrate rejected the plea of the prosecutor and discharged the Promised Messiah^{as}.● In 1874, the Promised Messiah^{as} saw in a dream a very handsome boy, about seven years of age, who he thought in his dream was an angel. The boy was sitting on a raised platform and gave him a large, delicious and luminous loaf of	
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	<p>bread and said: “This is for you and the dervishes of Qadian”. Consequently, a few years later, the Promised Messiah^{as} established at Qadian a hostel and a kitchen for the guests who came to visit him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● In 1875, the Promised Messiah^{as} was advised in a vision by an angelic presence that he should undertake fasting for a certain period. The Promised Messiah^{as} undertook this secretly.● (Read out the account of this and the dream narrated on page 21-22)● In 1876, the Promised Messiah^{as} saw a dream, when he was in Lahore, that the death of his father was approaching. He immediately returned to Qadian and found his father unwell but not to a degree where death seem imminent. His father urged that he should take some rest as it was June and the weather was very hot. He fell into a light slumber and received a revelation in Arabic “We call to witness the heavens where all decrees originate, and We call to witness that which will happen after sunset”. From this the promised Messiah^{as} understood that his father would pass away after sunset. He also became worried that after this some of the means of income which were available to him would become closed and that the family may be confronted with difficulties. Thereupon he received another revelation, also in Arabic, (Is not Allah sufficient for His servant?)” This revelation gave him great comfort and as per the previous revelation his father died the same day after sunset.	
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Homework: Learn the meanings of the Attributes with their meanings
Learn the prayers for this term.