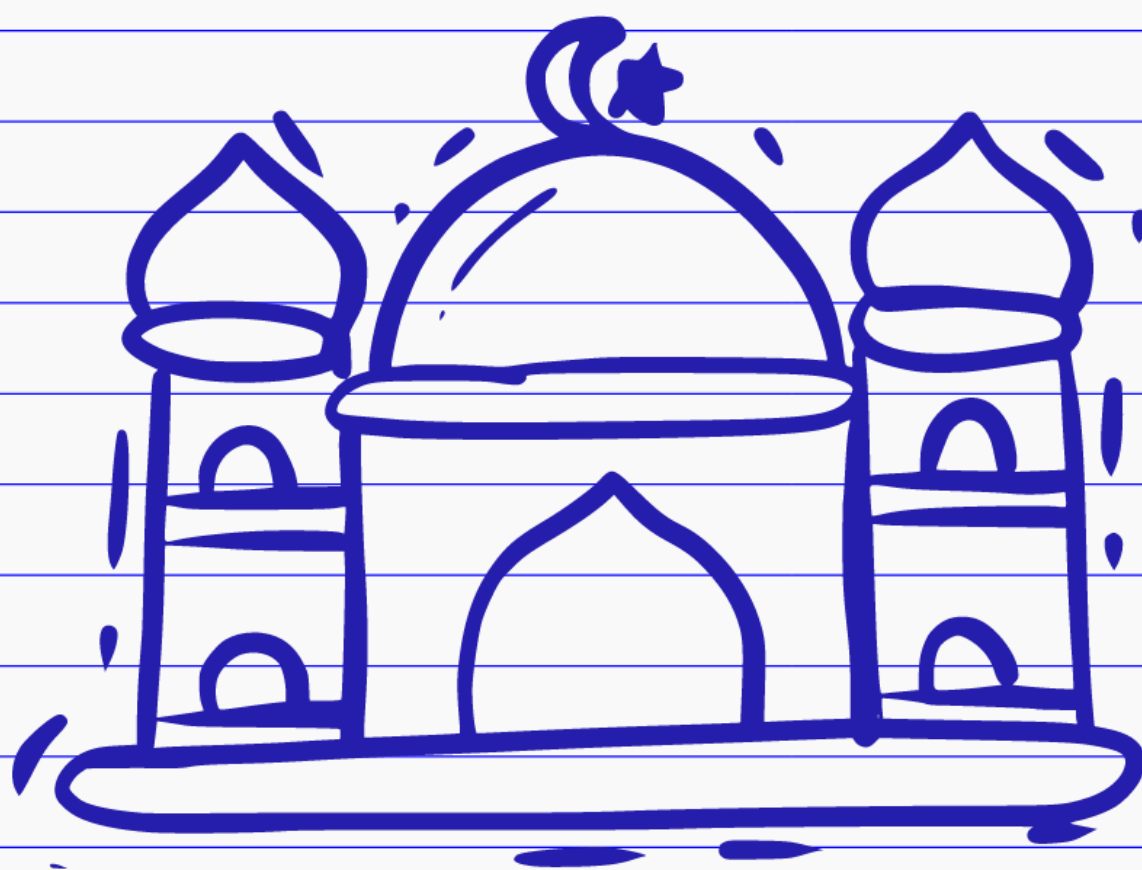


DAILY QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN:

20

**QUESTIONS ON FASTING,
LAYLATUL QADR & AL-I'TIKAAF**

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1- What is the ruling on fasting the month of Ramadan? How many times did Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) fast the month of Ramadan?

Fasting the month of Ramadan is a pillar from the pillars of Islam. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“Islam has been built on five [pillars]: testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing the salah (prayer), paying the zakat (obligatory charity), making the Hajj (pilgrimage) to the House, and fasting in Ramadan.”

(Agreed Upon)

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) fasted the month of Ramadan 9 times.

2- How do we confirm the entrance of the month of Ramadan?

The entrance of the month of Ramadan is confirmed with two male witnesses who sight the crescent moon. If they do not see the crescent moon, then the month of Sha'baan is completed for 30 days, then fasting begins. The Prophet (ﷺ) said :

“The month consists of twenty-nine days, so do not fast until you see it, and if the weather is cloudy wait until thirty days of the previous month have passed.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari 1907)

And in the Musnad 18895:

“...and if two Muslim witnesses sight [the moon], then fast and stop fasting.”

3- Mention a Hadith Qudsi (Sacred Hadith) regarding the benefits of Ramadan.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“Allah, the Exalted and Majestic, said: 'Every act of the son of Adam is for him, except As-Siyam (the fasting) which is (exclusively) for Me, and I will reward him for it.' Fasting is a shield. When anyone of you is observing fast, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise his voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him, he should say: 'I am fasting.' By Him in Whose Hand the soul of Muhammad is, the breath of the fasting person is sweeter to Allah than the fragrance of musk.”

(Agreed Upon)

4- The fasting person has two moments of joy, what are they?

The two moments of joy for the fasting person are:

- 1- The joy when they break their fast.
- 2- The joy when they meet their Lord.

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

Allah, the Exalted and Majestic, said, "There are two joys for the fasting person: the joy when he breaks his fast, and the joy when he meets Allah."
(Agreed Upon)

5- What is the name of the Gate in Paradise that only those who fast will enter?

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"Verily, there is a gate in Paradise called al-Rayyan, through which only those who fasted will enter on the Day of Resurrection. No one else will enter it along with them. It will be said, 'Where are those who fasted?' They will stand and no one will enter it along with them. When they enter it, it will be closed and no one else will go through it."
(Agreed Upon)

6- What is the ruling on delaying the Suhoor (pre-fasting meal)? What are the benefits of Suhoor?

Eating the Suhoor meal is Sunnah, and it is recommended to delay it. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"Eat Suhoor, for verily with Suhoor there is blessing."
(Agreed Upon)

There are both worldly and religious benefits of eating the Suhoor meal. From the benefits of Suhoor:

- One receives the reward for eating Suhoor, as it's Sunnah.
- It strengthens one's body to fast, thus increasing one's desire to fast.
- The Prophet (ﷺ) named Suhoor "The blessed early meal".
- It's in opposition to the non-Muslims, as they do not eat a pre-fasting meal.
- The Muslim is awake and is able to remember Allah, the Most High, and make du'aa during the time when Allah has descended to the lowest Heaven (during the last third of the night).
- One is awake and able to prepare for praying the Fajr prayer.

7- What is the ruling on hastening to break one's fast? When does the fasting person break their fast?

Hastening to break one's fast is a highly recommended sunnah. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

"The people will continue in goodness as long as they hasten to break their fast."
(Agreed Upon)

The fasting person breaks their fast after it's made certain that the sun has set. It is impermissible for anyone to break their fast whilst doubting if the sun has set or not.

8- What are the permissible reasons one may break their fast? What is upon them if they break their fast?

Permissible reasons to break one's fast:

- 1- Travel
- 2- Sickness
- 3- Pregnancy
- 4- Breastfeeding
- 5- Old Age

Regarding the traveler and the sick person [a sickness in which it's expected to be healed from], they must make up the day. As for the pregnant woman, the nursing mother, and the elderly, then they must feed a poor person for every day missed. For each poor person they must give a half of a Saa'.¹

9- List the types of recommended fasting.

- 1- Fasting the month of Muharram, most notably the tenth day (the Day of 'Ashuraa).
- 2- Fasting the month of Sha'baan.
- 3- Fasting the first nine days of the month of Dhul Hijjah, and most notably the ninth day which is the Day of 'Arafah.
- 4- Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays.
- 5- Fasting the three white days during the month (13th, 14th, and 15th of each month in the Hijri calendar).

10- List the types of fasting that are impermissible. Who are those who aren't permitted to fast?

- 1- The two 'Eids (Eid al-Fitr & 'Eid al-Adhaa).
- 2- The days of Tashreeq (11th, 12th, 13th of Duhl Hijjah) for the one making Hajj who doesn't have an animal to slaughter.
- 3- The day of doubt (the 30th day of Sha'ban).
- 4- Singling out Fridays.

It's impermissible for menstruating women and those with post-partum bleeding to fast.

11- List the acts that break one's fast. Which acts require an expiation?

- 1- Food
- 2- Drink
- 3- Everything that is consumed, even if it is not through the mouth, such as an injection.
- 4- Intercourse.
- 5- Ejaculation from one's desires. This doesn't include wet dreams.
- 6- Voluntary, or forced, vomiting.
- 7- The onset of one's menstrual cycle or postpartum bleeding.

As for the act that requires an expiation, then it is for the one who has intercourse during the daytime in the month of Ramadan.

¹ A half of Saa' is an Islamic measurement that equals 1.5 kilos, or 3.3lbs, in weight.

12- What is upon the fasting person who eats or drinks unintentionally out of forgetfulness?

The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

“Whoever forgets that he is fasting and eats or drinks, so let him complete his fast. For the One Who fed him and gave him to drink was Allah.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari 1933, Sahih Muslim 1155)

13- What is the ruling on one who breaks their fast during the day in Ramadan on purpose?

Whoever intentionally breaks their fast [during the daytime in Ramadan] has fallen into one of the major sins. Abu Umaamah said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say:

“Whilst I was sleeping, two men came to me and took hold of my arms...” And he quoted the hadith, in which he said, “Then they set off with me, and I saw some people hung up by their achilles tendon, with the corners of their mouths torn and dripping with blood. I said: ‘Who are these?’ He said: These are the people who used to break the fast before it was permissible to do so.”

(An-Nasaai’s Sunan al-Kubraa 3273 [Sh al-Albaanee declared it authentic])

Al-Haafidh Adh-Dhahabi said, “Whoever leaves off fasting the month of Ramadan without an illness or valid reason, certainly he is worse than the fornicator, the one who collects taxes, and the alcoholic.”

(The Book of Major Sins: 25)

14- What is upon the person who dies while not having completed their fast?

If they passed, and they were not able to make up their fast whilst alive, then there is nothing on them. As for the one who was able to make up their fast whilst alive and didn’t do so, then it is upon their male inheritors to feed a poor person for each day that was missed. A kilo and a half of food (1.5 kilos/ 3.3 lbs), which is the norm in their country, should be given [for each day missed]. Ibn ‘Abbas stated:

“If a man becomes ill during Ramadan and the dies whilst he did not fast, food should be given in charity on his behalf, and no fasts are due upon him...”

(Sunan Abu Dawud 2401)

15- What is the ruling on the one who breaks their fast during Ramadan and doesn’t make it up before the entrance of the next Ramadan?

Ibn ‘Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked about a man who entered the month of Ramadan with days from a previous Ramadan that he hadn’t fasted. He said:

“He should fast the month that is upon him, and fast what is due from him, and for each missed day feed one poor person a half of Saa’ (1.5 kilos/3.3lbs).”²

(Musnad Ibn al-Ja’ad 235)

16- What is the reward for the one who stands in prayer during the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr)?

The reward for standing [in worship] on the Night of Decree is one being forgiven for their previous sins. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

² See footnote of question 8 for the measurements of a “half a Saa”.

"Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan while having sincere faith (i.e. belief) and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all of his past sins will be forgiven, and whoever stands in prayer during the night of decree while having sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven."

(Sahih al-Bukhari 35, Sahih Muslim 760)

17- How does the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr) compare to other nights throughout the year?

Laylatul Qadr is the greatest night of the year. Allah, the Most High, sent down the Qur'an from the Preserved Tablet to the House of Honor (Baitul-'Izza) which is in the lowest Heaven. Allah, the Most High, describes it as a blessed night. Allah, the Most High, says:

{ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (١) وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (٢) لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ (٣) تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ (٤) سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ (٥) }

"Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn."

(Surah al-Qadr 97:5)

Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, also says in Surah ad-Dukhaan:

{ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُّبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنْذِرِينَ (٣) }

"Indeed, we sent it down on a blessed night. Verily, We are ever warning."

(Surah ad-Dukhaan 44:3)

18- Which night does the Night of Decree take place?

The most correct opinion is that the Night of Decree takes place on an odd night in the last ten nights of Ramadan. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"Seek the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr) in the odd nights in the last ten nights of Ramadan."

(Sahih al-Bukhari 2019)

19- Why was the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr) given that name?

From what the scholars have mentioned regarding the reason for the name "Laylatul Qadr" (The Night of Decree), "al-Qadr" is from nobleness and having high virtue. Just as the Arabs would say a person is of high status; meaning noble and of high virtue.

It was said that it was named the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr) due to the fact that Allah, the Most High, decrees every event that will take place that year. It was also said that it was given the name due to the high level of obedience and the great reward that is given during that night. And other than that has been said.

20- What is al-I'tikaaf? When does it take place? Lastly, did the Prophet (ﷺ) used to make al-I'tikaaf?

Al-I'tikaaf is to remain in the masjid for worshipping Allah, the Most High. It does not take place except for inside of a masjid. The Prophet (ﷺ) made al-i'tikaaf during the last ten nights in the month of Ramadan. 'A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said:

“The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to observe al-ʾiṭikaf in the last ten days of Ramadan until he passed. Then his wives used to make al-ʾiṭikaaf after him.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari 2026, Sahih Muslim 1172)

Bonus Question³- What is the supplication one says for the Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr)?

It was narrated from ‘A’ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, that she said:

"O Messenger of Allah, what do you think I should say in my supplication, if I come upon Laylatul-Qadr?" He said: "Say: 'Allahumma innaka 'afuwun tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Pardoning, and You love to Pardon, so pardon me).'"

(Sunnan Ibn Majah 3850)

³ This is an additional question by the translator exclusive of the original book.