Name: ..... Date: .....

Al-Fatiha

Lesson 1 · surah 1 · the opening

📖 The story: Al-Fatiha

Read together, part by part.

Part 1 – Seventeen times a day

Bilal is sixteen. One day he counts how often he recites Al-Fatiha. Two rak'as at fajr, four at dhuhr, four at asr, three at maghrib, four at isha. "Seventeen times!" he says to his sister Amira. "Every day the same seven sentences." Amira laughs. "And do you know what they mean?" Bilal hesitates. He knows the Arabic words very well. The meaning much less. That evening he looks it up.

☆ Without Al-Fatiha there is no prayer.

hesitate = doubt before you say something · **meaning** = what something means

Part 2 – A conversation with Allah

Bilal reads the translation. The first verses are praise: Allah is the Lord of the worlds, the Most Gracious, the King of the Last Day. Then comes a promise: You alone we worship, You alone we ask for help. And at the end a request: guide us to the straight path. Amira tells him a hadith: Allah answers every verse of Al-Fatiha. "When you say: all praise is for Allah, Allah says: My servant has praised Me." Bilal is quiet. "So it is actually a conversation."

☆ Al-Fatiha is a conversation between you and Allah.

praise = saying something good about someone · **promise** = saying you will certainly do something

Part 3 – Slower

The next morning Bilal prays fajr. For the first time he recites Al-Fatiha slowly. At Ihdina s-sirata l-mustaqim he thinks of his exam, of his friends, of the choices he has to make. The straight path: that is what he needs. After the prayer he says to Amira: "I've been reading it too fast for seventeen years." "You're sixteen," she laughs. "Even so," says Bilal.

☆ Recite Al-Fatiha slowly and think about the meaning.

the straight path = the right way in life · **choice** = decision between two things

💬 **Let's talk:** At which verse of Al-Fatiha would you most like to pause? Why?

💡 Did you know? – Al-Fatiha

- Al-Fatiha means: the opening. It stands at the front of the Quran.
- It is also called Umm al-Quran, the mother of the Quran, because the whole message comes together in it.
- After Al-Fatiha we say Amin: O Allah, accept it.

📖 Surah Al-Fatiha

surah 1 · 7 verses · Mecca

1

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Bismillaahir-rahmaanir-rahim

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

2

ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ

Al-hamdu lillaahi rabbil-‘aalamin

All praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds.

3

ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Ar-rahmaanir-rahim

The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

4

مَٰلِكِ يَوْمِ ٱلدِّينِ

Maaliki yawmid-din

Master of the Day of Judgement.

5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

Iyyaaka na‘budu wa iyyaaka nasta‘in

You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help.

6

ٱهْدِنَا ٱلصِّرَٰطَ ٱلْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Ihdinas-siraatal-mustaqim

Guide us to the straight path.

7

صِرَٰطَ ٱلَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ ٱلْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا ٱلضَّآلِّينَ

Siraatal-ladhina an‘amta ‘alayhim, ghayril-maghdubi ‘alayhim wa lad-daalin

The path of those You have blessed, not of those who earned anger, nor of those who went astray.

Al-Fatiha

Lesson 1 · questions and writing

✔ Questions

Tick the correct answer.

1. How often does Bilal recite Al-Fatiha a day?

- ◯ five times
- ◯ seventeen times

2. What does Al-Fatiha mean?

- ◯ the opening
- ◯ the elephant

3. Where is Al-Fatiha in the Quran?

- ◯ at the back
- ◯ at the front

4. What does Allah do at every verse?

- ◯ He stays silent
- ◯ He answers

5. Why does Bilal ask for the straight path?

- ◯ for his bike
- ◯ for his choices

6. What do we say after Al-Fatiha?

- ◯ Allahu akbar
- ◯ Amin

☆ **Remember this:** Al-Fatiha is the opening of the Quran and of every prayer.

✍ Think and write

Answer in a few sentences.

1. What do you ask Allah for in Al-Fatiha?

2. Why is it better to recite Al-Fatiha slowly?

Puzzles

Lesson 1 · Al-Fatiha

🔤 Word search

Find the words: from left to right and from top to bottom.

P	G	A	A	O	A	R	I	E	A	I
A	R	E	P	R	A	R	B	N	A	N
T	A	H	E	L	P	H	I	E	Y	A
H	R	L	O	R	D	O	L	P	A	P
A	O	O	E	I	A	A	A	A	E	R
O	P	E	N	I	N	G	L	M	O	A
A	L	A	A	A	H	I	R	I	I	Y
P	A	E	A	M	I	R	A	N	P	E
A	R	L	R	L	L	A	R	N	P	R
L	P	I	A	I	P	R	A	I	S	E
N	E	P	I	F	A	T	I	H	A	R

☐ OPENING ☐ FATIHA ☐ PRAISE ☐ PRAYER ☐ BILAL ☐ AMIRA ☐ LORD ☐ PATH ☐ AMIN ☐ HELP

🔍 Spot the 7 differences

Something is missing, bigger, smaller, turned or moved.

