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

# Why do we pray?

Lesson 4 · the importance of prayer

📖 **The story: Why do we pray?**
Read together, part by part.

## Part 1 – Five times, really?

Ines is sixteen and doing a work placement in a hair salon. Her colleague Lotte sees her unroll a prayer mat in the storeroom at midday. “Five times a day? Every day?” asks Lotte. “How do you keep that up?” Ines laughs. “It only takes a few minutes. Just like you look at your phone every so often, I look to Allah for a moment.” Lotte has to laugh. “That’s a good comparison.” Ines rolls up her mat. Actually she used to find it hard herself. Especially fajr, so early. Her grandmother said then: “The prayer is your appointment with Allah. You don’t forget an appointment.”

☆ **The prayer is your appointment with Allah, five times a day.**

**hair salon** = shop where people get their hair cut · **storeroom** = room for supplies

## Part 2 – The five prayers

That week Ines explains it to Lotte, with her phone. “Fajr is before sunrise. Dhuhr is after midday. Asr is in the afternoon. Maghrib is just after sunset. Isha is in the evening, when it is dark.” She shows an app with the prayer times. “In summer isha is sometimes very late, in winter dhuhr is already early.” Lotte asks why there are exactly five. Ines tells her the story of the night journey: there the Prophet received the prayer as a gift. “The prayer is the second pillar of Islam. It is the first thing a person will be asked about on the Last Day.”

☆ **Fajr, dhuhr, asr, maghrib and isha.**

**sunrise** = when the sun comes up · **be asked** = be questioned

## Part 3 – What the prayer does to you

On a busy Saturday everything goes wrong in the salon. A customer shouts, the hairdryer breaks, Ines is tired and angry. At four o’clock she goes to the storeroom for asr. When she comes back she is calmer. Lotte notices it. “You’ve changed in five minutes.” Ines thinks. “The prayer takes me away from everything for a moment. And it helps me not to say stupid things.” She remembers a verse: the prayer keeps you away from what is bad. That same evening Lotte sends her a message: “I’m also going to do nothing for five minutes a day. In my own way.” Ines sends back a heart.

☆ **The prayer keeps you away from bad things.**

**hairdryer** = machine to dry hair · **changed** = become different

💬 **Let’s talk:** What helps you to pray on time, even when you are busy?

### 💡 Did you know? – The prayer in Islam

- The prayer became obligatory during the night journey (al-Isra’ wal-Mi‘raj), about a year before the hijra.
- On Friday men pray the Friday prayer in the mosque, with a sermon (khutba).
- Whoever is ill may pray sitting or lying down. The prayer never falls away completely.

### 📖 From the Quran

Quran 29:45

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنكَرِ

*Inna s-salaata tanhaa ’ani l-fahshaa’i wa l-munkar.*

**“The prayer keeps a person away from shameful and evil things.”**

# Why do we pray?

Lesson 4 · questions and writing

## ✔ Questions

Tick the correct answer.

**1. Where does Ines do her work placement?**

- ◯ in a hair salon
- ◯ in a school

**2. What did Grandma say about the prayer?**

- ◯ it is difficult
- ◯ it is your appointment with Allah

**3. When is maghrib?**

- ◯ before sunrise
- ◯ just after sunset

**4. Which pillar is the prayer?**

- ◯ the fifth
- ◯ the second

**5. When did the Prophet receive the prayer?**

- ◯ during the night journey
- ◯ in the cave of Hira

**6. How is Ines after asr?**

- ◯ angrier
- ◯ calmer

☆ **Remember this:** Five prayers a day: fajr, dhuhr, asr, maghrib, isha.

## ✍ Think and write

Answer in a few sentences.

**1. What helps you not to forget a prayer?**

**2. How can the prayer help someone to stay calm?**

# Puzzles

Lesson 4 · Why do we pray?

## 🔤 Word search

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

| F | S | A | L | A | H | L | N | A | A | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | H | I | T | R | R | H | N | T | P | S |
| S | D | H | U | H | R | R | O | T | P | L |
| A | T | M | A | G | H | R | I | B | O | H |
| L | R | I | I | N | H | N | I | R | I | H |
| O | E | T | L | O | T | G | S | B | N | M |
| N | F | A | J | R | M | H | H | N | T | H |
| S | T | I | N | E | S | A | A | E | M | A |
| A | S | L | O | T | T | E | S | L | E | E |
| S | D | A | T | S | L | O | G | B | N | S |
| R | P | A | A | H | L | S | S | S | T | T |

☐ APPOINTMENT ☐ MAGHRIB ☐ SALAH ☐ DHUHR ☐ LOTTE ☐ SALON ☐ FAJR
☐ ISHA ☐ INES ☐ ASR

## 🔍 Spot the 7 differences

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

