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

The adhan

Lesson 5 · the call to prayer

📖 **The story: The adhan**

Read together, part by part.

Part 1 – A voice in the corridor

On the school trip to Antwerp the class is staying in a youth hostel. In the evening everyone suddenly hears a voice in the corridor: “Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar.” It is Omar, a quiet boy from the class. He is calling the adhan for the boys who want to pray. The others look surprised. “What is he singing?” asks Jente. “It isn’t a song,” Omar says later. “It is the call to prayer. I’m the only one here who can do it.” Jente finds it beautiful. “So calm,” she says. Omar blushes a little. Normally he is never that loud.

☆ **The adhan calls Muslims to prayer five times a day.**

youth hostel = hotel for groups of young people · **call** = asking people to come

Part 2 – How it began

The next day Ms Nadia tells the story. In Medina the Muslims did not really know how to call each other to the prayer. Someone suggested a bell, another a horn, yet another a fire. Then a companion, Abdullah ibn Zayd, had a dream. A man taught him the words of the adhan. He told the Prophet. “That is a true dream,” said the Prophet. “Teach the words to Bilal, for he has a strong and beautiful voice.” That is how Bilal became the first mu’adhdhin. Umar, by the way, had had the same dream.

☆ **Bilal was the first to call the adhan.**

companion = friend and follower of the Prophet · **mu’adhdhin** = the one who calls the adhan

Part 3 – What do the words mean?

Ms Nadia writes the words on the board. Allahu akbar: Allah is the greatest. Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah: I bear witness that there is no god but Allah. Ashhadu anna Muhammadan rasulullah: I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Hayya ‘ala s-salah: come to the prayer. Hayya ‘ala l-falah: come to success. “Come to success,” repeats Jente. “That’s a beautiful thought.” At fajr one more sentence is added: prayer is better than sleep. The whole class laughs. “My mum could call that every morning too,” says Omar.

☆ **Hayya ‘ala l-falah: come to success.**

bear witness = say that you know something for sure · **success** = doing well, achieving

💬 **Let’s talk:** Why do you think the adhan says “come to success”?

💡 Did you know? – The adhan and the iqama

- The adhan sounds five times a day, from the minaret or in the mosque.
- Just before the prayer begins, the iqama is called: a shorter call with the same words.
- Whoever hears the adhan quietly repeats the words. At hayya ‘ala he says: la hawla wa la quwwata illa billah.

📖 Hadith

the beginning of the adhan

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar. Ashhadu an laa ilaaha illa llaah. Ashhadu anna Muhammadan rasulu llaah.

“Allah is the greatest. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.”

The adhan

Lesson 5 · questions and writing

✔ Questions

Tick the correct answer.

1. Where is the class staying?

- ◯ in a youth hostel
- ◯ in a hotel

2. Who calls the adhan in the corridor?

- ◯ Omar
- ◯ Jente

3. Who had the dream about the adhan?

- ◯ Abdullah ibn Zayd
- ◯ Abu Bakr

4. Who became the first mu’adhdhin?

- ◯ Bilal
- ◯ Umar

5. What does hayya ‘ala s-salah mean?

- ◯ come to the prayer
- ◯ Allah is the greatest

6. Which sentence is added at fajr?

- ◯ come to eat
- ◯ prayer is better than sleep

☆ **Remember this:** Allahu akbar: Allah is the greatest.

✍ Think and write

Answer in a few sentences.

1. Which sentence of the adhan do you find most beautiful? Why?

2. Why did the Prophet choose Bilal to call the adhan?

Puzzles

Lesson 5 · The adhan

🔤 Word search

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

I	O	A	I	I	Q	A	M	A	N	T
A	A	Q	M	C	U	A	C	A	L	L
N	A	I	A	R	S	D	H	L	O	O
A	M	A	D	E	C	O	R	M	R	A
E	O	A	H	V	E	R	D	I	O	S
A	M	A	A	R	C	O	R	N	C	U
E	A	Q	N	E	A	Y	E	A	S	C
P	R	A	Y	E	R	N	A	R	A	C
Y	L	Q	A	M	P	E	M	E	C	E
A	L	A	V	O	I	C	E	T	B	S
E	D	L	P	B	B	I	L	A	L	S

☐ MINARET ☐ SUCCESS ☐ PRAYER ☐ ADHAN ☐ BILAL ☐ DREAM ☐ VOICE ☐ IQAMA ☐ CALL ☐ OMAR

🔍 Spot the 7 differences

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

