

Suggested Duration: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

- ▶ To learn the Islamic method of resolving conflict
- ▶ To understand that good citizens deal with conflicts in a peaceful and law-abiding way

Key Words

- ▶ Conflict, resolution, anger management, forgiveness

Islamic Values

Islam teaches us patience and kindness. It encourages us to forgive peoples' mistakes and to deal with conflicts in a peaceful manner.

Citizenship Values

Good citizens are expected to deal with conflict in a peaceful and law-abiding way.



Resources

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.0601:
Case Studies of Conflict

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.0602:
Story of the Black Stone

Activities

Ask some quick questions to recap the last lesson.

Share the lesson objectives.

A Starter Activity

Recap on the previous lesson about conflict in society, and the key learning points from the plenary. Also go over the homework from the previous lesson, which asked pupils to think about their personal experiences of, and reactions to, times of conflict.

Using the same case study as in the previous lesson (Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.0601), ask pupils how they would have responded in that situation. How would prophet Muhammad ﷺ have responded?

B Development

Activity 1: Islamic Guidance

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا

'The (true) servants of the All-Merciful (God) are those who walk on the earth humbly, and when foolish people speak to them (disrespectfully), they reply: Peace.'

(Surat al-Furqan 25:63)

Ask pupils:

- ▶ Are we all servants of God?
- ▶ What is so special about being humble?
- ▶ What does it mean to reply 'peace'?

Tell pupils 'The Story of the Black Stone', below.

The Story of the Black Stone

'When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was a young man, the people of his home town, Makkah, decided to rebuild the Ka`bah.

'Since there were many big families in Makkah, they worked separately, family by family, until the walls were high enough for the black stone to be replaced again into its corner.

'A violent argument broke out amongst them as each family wanted the honour of putting the black stone into its place. The disagreement lasted for a number of days and anger had increased to the point that they were ready to fight with arms, when the oldest man present suggested a solution.

'He called: 'O people of Quraysh! Whoever is the first to enter through the gates of this sacred place tomorrow morning will decide who shall lay the stone.' They agreed to follow the advice of the old man. The following morning, the first person to enter was Muhammad ﷺ, who had just returned to Makkah after a brief absence of a few days.

'This produced an immediate and pleasant feeling that here was the right person for the task, and his arrival was greeted by words of satisfaction. 'This is al-Amin,' said someone.

'We accept his judgement,' said others, 'It is Muhammad ﷺ.'

'Muhammad ﷺ asked 'What is this all about?'

'When they explained the matter to him, he asked for a sheet of cloth, which he spread on the ground. Then, he placed the black stone in the middle of the sheet and invited the leader of each

family to grab a part of the sheet and lift it up together.

When they had carried it to the corner of the Ka`bah, Muhammad ﷺ lifted the stone and placed it in its position. The rest of the work was completed peacefully.'

This story tells us that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ responded to conflict wisely and resolved it peacefully. This is an excellent example for everyone, especially leaders, people in authority and governments.

Activity 2: The Islamic Method of Resolving Conflict

Emphasise that the main cause of conflict is anger and then discuss the Islamic method of resolving conflict and controlling oneself when angry.

- ▶ Seek God's protection by reciting the ta`awwudh.

أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

- ▶ Remain silent. Do not respond immediately. Pause for thought and, when ready to respond, strengthen your argument and lower your voice.
- ▶ If you are standing, sit down and if you are already sitting down, lie down.
- ▶ Perform wudu' if possible – this will help you to calm down.
- ▶ Involve a third party who can help you to resolve the conflict without violence. Such a person is called an arbitrator (independent person who settles disputes or someone who is like a referee). It may be your mother, a trusted friend, an imam or a teacher. Countries that are in conflict with each other often go to the United Nations (UN) to arbitrate.

C Plenary

Go back to Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.0601 and ask pupils how they think Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would have reacted to these situations.

Remember:

- ▶ There are many ways to resolve a conflict.
- ▶ The first reaction is on impulse and not always the best – therefore think before you act.
- ▶ God is watching and listening to us at all times.

Suggested Follow-up Work

Give instructions for follow-up work:

Tell at least three people about Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ response to conflict.

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.0603:
Islamic Method of Reducing
Conflict

Case Studies of Conflict

Incident	What do you think caused the conflict?	Describe what happened	What kind of harm was caused?
Children fighting in the playground over a ball			
People rioting and looting in town			
Violent demonstration about a newspaper article which seems to be anti-Muslim			



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A violent argument broke out amongst them as each family wanted the honour of putting the black stone into its place. The disagreement lasted for a number of days and anger had increased to the point that they were ready to fight with arms, when the oldest man present suggested a solution.

He called: 'O people of Quraysh! Whoever is the first to enter through the gates of this sacred place tomorrow morning will decide who shall lay the stone.' They agreed to follow the advice of the old man. The following morning, the first person to enter was Muhammad ﷺ, who had just returned to Makkah after a brief absence of a few days.

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When they had carried it to the corner of the Ka`bah, Muhammad ﷺ lifted the stone and placed it in its position. The rest of the work was completed peacefully.

Islamic Method of Resolving Conflict

Discuss the methods used by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to control anger and resolve conflict:

- ▶ Seek God's protection by reciting the ta'awwudh.
أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم
- ▶ Remain silent. Do not respond immediately. Pause for thought and, when ready to respond, strengthen your argument and lower your voice.
- ▶ If you are standing, sit down and if you are already sitting down, lie down.
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