

## Finding Our True Purpose & Divine Guidance

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### Lesson Overview & Objectives

- **Core Question:** Why do human beings need religion, and how does Islam provide the complete, unchanged guidance to reach our ultimate purpose?
- **Key Concepts:** Fiṭrah (innate God-seeking nature), ‘Aql (intellect), the limitations of human opinions, the story of Ibrahim's glasses, the divine preservation of the Noble Qur’ān, and the 14 Ma‘ṣūmīn (a.s.) as sinless role models.
- **Materials Needed:**
  - **Activity 1:** A clean handheld mirror, a flashlight, washable dark marker/tape, and a damp cloth.
  - **Activity 2:** A blindfold/eye mask, a target sign labeled "**TRUE SUCCESS / WATER SOURCE**", 3–4 "Distractor" students, and a pair of clear, brown-framed glasses.

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### Part 1: Interactive Classroom Activities

#### Activity 1: The Blackened Mirror & Light Test (Fiṭrah & Sins)

- **Concept Demonstrated:** Every human being is born with an innate, unlearned God-seeking nature (fiṭrah). Committing sins and chasing worldly distractions act like dark smears across a mirror—or like Ibrahim's glass walls—blocking our internal light.

#### Setup & Execution

1. Hold up a clean mirror and shine a flashlight onto it so it reflects a bright beam onto the classroom wall.
2. Tell the class: "This mirror represents your fiṭrah—the built-in, unlearned instinct Allah gave you at birth to know Him and recognize good from bad."
3. Ask students to name everyday bad choices or distractions (e.g., lying, gossiping, chasing celebrity fame, skipping prayers). As each student names one, make a dark streak across the mirror with a marker or tape.
4. Shine the flashlight again: the light on the wall is completely blocked.
5. Take a damp cloth and wipe the mirror clean in one swipe, instantly restoring the bright reflection on the wall.

#### Lesson learnt

"Look at the wall now. Is the mirror broken? No! The mirror is still there, but it was covered up. Imām Ja‘far aṣ-Ṣādiq (a.s.) explained that our fiṭrah is a built-in awareness of Allah that doesn't need to be taught. But when we commit sins or get obsessed with worldly distractions, it works

like Ibrahim's glass walls—it creates an invisible barrier that blocks us from seeing our true purpose. When we pause, pray, and ask Allah for forgiveness, we wipe the mirror clean so our built-in compass can shine again!"

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### Activity 2: Eyes Covered — Reaching the Destination (The 3 Options & Divine Guidance)

- **Concept Demonstrated:** Relying only on our limited intellect (‘aql) or the biased opinions of others is like walking blindfolded through noise. To reach our true destination (qurb—closeness to Allah), we need external instructions sent through Prophets and Imāms.

#### Setup & Execution

1. Place a sign labeled **"TRUE SUCCESS / WATER SOURCE"** on the far side of the room.
2. Blindfold a volunteer student (the "Seeker").
3. Assign 3 "Distractor" students to shout conflicting, false advice ("Turn left!", "Stop walking!", "Follow my voice!").
4. **Round 1 (Human Opinions):** Let the blindfolded Seeker try to navigate using only their guesses or the shouting crowd. Show how they stumble and get lost.
5. **Round 2 (Divine Instructions):** Remove the blindfold and hand the student the **clear, brown-framed glasses**. Read the exact instructions from the board to walk straight to the destination in 5 seconds.

#### Lesson Learnt

"Notice what happened in Round 1. When we try to navigate life using only our own limited opinions (Option 1) or by following other people who are just as confused as us (Option 2), we end up lost. Our intellect (‘aql) tells us there is a destination, but it cannot give us every detail. That’s why we need Option 3: the clear, sturdy brown glasses—the divine instructions of Islam brought by the Prophets and Imāms to show us the exact path to our Creator."

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#### Part 2:

##### 1. Introduction: The Story of Ibrahim & The Shiny Wrapper

"Assalāmu ‘alaykum, Grade 7!

Let’s start today by imagining a young man named **Ibrahim**. He wakes up trapped in a mysterious garden surrounded by massive, towering glass walls under a scorching midday sun. He is overwhelmed by a desperate thirst for water to survive. He knows there must be a Creator who put him there, and he senses a higher purpose, but he has no instructions on how to reach the water on the other side of the glass.

As Ibrahim searches for a way out, he spots something in the dirt—a shiny wrapper. He digs it up, thinking it might contain something valuable, but it turns out to be completely empty! He wasted precious time and got sidetracked from his main goal.

How many people in our world today are chasing empty, shiny wrappers? We look at famous celebrities and multi-millionaires who seem to have wealth, popularity, and admiration. But if you look at their lives objectively, many struggle with severe depression, loneliness, lack of privacy, and broken relationships. Physical comforts alone cannot satisfy the human soul because humans were created for a higher, spiritual purpose: to become as close as possible to Allah (qurb) through worshiping and serving Him."

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## 2. Our Internal Guides: Fiṭrah and ‘Aql

"Allah did not leave us helpless in this world. He equipped every single human being with two internal guides:

1. **Fiṭrah (Innate Nature):** This is our unlearned, built-in instinct to know Allah and desire closeness to Him. The Qur’ān states that Allah created all humankind upon this innate nature (fiṭrah).
  - The Parable of the Sinking Ship: A man once asked Imām Ja‘far aṣ-Ṣādiq (a.s.) how he could know Allah. The Imām asked him: 'Have you ever been on a ship that was about to sink?' The man said yes. The Imām asked: 'In that terrifying moment when no human could save you, did your heart feel a strong hope in an All-Powerful force?' The man replied yes. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (a.s.) explained that this instinctual surge of hope when all physical means fail is the living presence of Allah in our hearts.
2. **‘Aql (Intellect):** This is our ability to use logic and reasoning. When we observe the beauty and precision of nature—like the variation of night and day, or the changing winds—our ‘aql immediately recognizes that there must be a Wise and Merciful Creator.

Together, our fiṭrah and ‘aql build a healthy conscience that helps us distinguish right from wrong. But as we saw in our mirror activity, committing sins and following worldly distractions cover up our fiṭrah like Ibrahim's glass walls."

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## 3. Why We Need External Revelation (The 3 Options & The Glasses)

"Even though our fiṭrah and ‘aql give us a general direction, our intellect alone is limited. It cannot give us detailed, step-by-step instructions for every aspect of life. When searching for life guidelines, we have three choices:

- **Option 1:** Following our own opinions and short-term desires (leads to ruin because our knowledge is limited).
- **Option 2:** Following the opinions of other humans (leads to ruin because they are also limited and biased).

- **Option 3:** Following the divine instructions of our Creator sent through the Prophets and Imāms—which is the religion of **Islam**.

In his dream, Ibrahim finds a tree with branches shaped like glasses and tries them on one by one:

- **The Broken & Frameless Glasses:** Represent incomplete human philosophies that lack logic or structure.
- **The Bright Pink Glasses:** Made the garden look magical and glittering. Ibrahim got so mesmerized that he spent a whole hour staring at the scenery, completely forgetting his thirst and his goal to escape! This represents the distraction of celebrity fame and materialism.
- **The Blue and Black Glasses:** Allowed him to see faint, blurry touch screens on the glass wall, but he couldn't read the text clearly.
- **The Sturdy Brown Glasses:** Identical to those worn by a wise old man. When he put them on, his vision became perfectly clear! He saw the garden, the sky, the text, and a glowing red '**ENTER**' button. When he pressed it, the words '**Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm**' echoed as the exit opened!"

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#### 4. Islam: The Complete, Preserved, and Advanced Path

"Just like Ibrahim's final pair of brown glasses, **Islam** is the only way of life that fulfills all criteria of logic, intellect, and innate nature:

1. **Divinely Preserved & Unchanged:** While earlier scriptures like the Torah and Bible were altered over time by human transmission, Allah Himself promised in the Qur'ān that He will protect this Holy Book from any alteration. Every single copy of the Noble Qur'ān across the world today contains the exact same words and letters as revealed over 1,400 years ago.
2. **The Final Brick of Prophethood:** Prophet Muḥammad (s.a.w.) explained: 'My example among the Prophets is like a house built beautiful and complete, except for one missing brick. I am that final brick that completes the house of prophethood.'
3. **Impeccable Role Models:** Shī'ah Islam uniquely provides 124,000 Prophets and the **14 Ma'ṣūmīn (Ahlul Bayt)** as sinless, flawless role models to guide us through every real-life scenario."

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#### 5. Conclusion

"Class, life is like Ibrahim's garden. Don't waste your time digging up empty shiny wrappers or wearing pink glasses that distract you from your real purpose. Let's use our internal guides (fiṭrah and 'aql) alongside the unchanged lens of Islam to press '**ENTER**' on our true spiritual success