

Sura Luqman

1. The first ayat of this sura is has three letters of the Arabic alphabet. Can you circle these letters?

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش
ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه
و ي

2. Who was Luqman, for whom this sura has been named? What does the Quran tell us about him? Give the ayat number(s).

Some scholars believe he was a prophet of Allah (swt) but most think he was a righteous man but was not necessarily sent to guide a certain peoples. He is believed by some scholars to have been of north African origin. Another theory is that he was a pre-Islamic Arabian sage revered during the time of Prophet Muhammad (saw). All we know for sure is what Allah (swt) tells us in ayat #12 of this sura – he was a wise man.

How many times does the name Luqman appear in this sura?

Twice (2)

3. Many of the ayats pertaining to Luqman in this sura, are of him giving advice to his son. Why do you think this conversation has been included in the Holy Quran?

For us to learn from – we can also benefit from the advice of this wise person.

What is the first piece of advice Luqman gives his son. Give the ayat number.

Ayat #13 – Do not associate anyone with Allah (swt)

4. Luqman continues to advise his son in ayat #16-19. In your own words, what are some of the things he advises?

All deeds, no matter how small, will be accounted for on the Day of Judgment.

Pray your salaah.

Courage and determination are required to be able to encourage others to do good things and discourage them from doing bad things.

Whatever happens to you in life, be patient and don't complain.

Do not be arrogant with others, especially when speaking to them; be respectful.

Do not be proud in the way you carry yourself.

Be moderate and thoughtful in the way you move and the way you speak.

5. In the middle of this conversation between Luqman and his son, the Quran includes two ayats in which Allah (swt) is addressing humankind in general. What are these ayats saying and why do you think they have been placed in this way?

Ayats #14-15 Allah (swt) is telling us to respect our parents. Ayat #14 says ‘give thanks unto Me and unto your parents’. Immediately before this “Luqman enjoins his son to recognise the Greatness of God, His Oneness and the need to worship only Him...this injunction is linked to obedience and gratitude towards parents, so long as they do not challenge one’s allegiance to God” (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr). And when obeying your parents would mean doing something in contradiction to Allah’s (swt) commands, the Quran says continue to show kindness to the parents and ‘consort with them in the world in a kindly manner’. The two – obeying Allah (swt) and respecting our parents – are linked.

6. The following taken from ayat #33 is also found in what beautiful dua we recite during the Holy month of Ramadhan?

يَوْمًا لَا يَجْزِي وَالِدٌ عَنْ وَّالِدِهِ وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ بُو جَارٍ عَنْ وَالِدِهِ شَيْئًا
إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ ط

Munajat of Imam Ali (as)

Give the translation in English. What is Allah (swt) telling us?

‘A day on which no parent will avail his child aught and no child will avail his parent aught; surely God’s promise is true’

Allah (swt) is telling us that on the Day of Judgment everyone will be so concerned about their state of affairs they will not even think about the affairs of others, including of those whom they cared about and loved deeply in this world. Or maybe that even if a parent wanted to take the place of their child, or vice versa, he/she would not be able to do so – everyone will be on their own (with only their deeds to help them).

7. Allah (swt) reminds us the importance of parents in this sura and that we should be thankful to them for everything they do for us, and not just on ‘Mother’s Day’ and ‘Father’s Day’. Try and think of something to show them how much you love them – today and every day!

There are lots of things you can do, these are just a few ideas: you can tell your parents how much they mean to you by speaking the words directly or maybe writing them in a card. Sometimes we can use our actions to say something: you can show them you are thankful for the food they buy/cook for you by helping them prepare iftaar; or maybe give them a tight hug when they pick you up/drop you off to school or to a friend’s house. You can even pray to Allah (swt) for them!

If you can't think of anything, try learning this dua (in Arabic or English) to recite every day. Allah (swt) taught it to us in the Holy Quran:



8. In this sura, Allah (swt) warns humankind not to be deceived by what two things? Give the ayat number.

Ayat #33 – Shaitaan and our worldly life

9. The picture below depicts which ayat? What is Allah (swt) telling us in this ayat?



Ayat #32 – Being caught in a storm at sea can be seen as a parable for when bad things happen to us in our lives. When bad things happen, we pray to Allah (swt) very often and with genuine sincerity (because we desperately need something from Him). But when things settle down and everything in our life is going well, we forget about Allah (swt). Our prayers become just a habit/task that needs to get done and we don't make any effort to do dua; we may even forget to thank Him for all the good things in our life at that time!

10. The sura ends with a comparison of the knowledge of Allah (swt) and the ignorance (or lack of knowledge) of human beings. Complete the table below:

Allah (swt) knows...

- a) when the Day of Judgment will be
- b) when it will rain
- c) what is in the bellies of pregnant women

We do not know...

- a) what good deeds will/won't count
- b) where or when we will die

What does this teach us?

That Allah (swt) is the All-Knowing. But we don't know anything – not even what we will take with us in the Hereafter, so to always continue to do more and more good deeds and ask Allah (swt) for forgiveness for our bad deeds. We don't know how much time we have left in our life so make every day, and every moment, count.

Bonus: Just as Luqman gave advice to his son, give three pieces of advice to your younger brother or sister or maybe a cousin or friend! You can use the template on the next page or any other piece of paper.

Then you can ask your mum or dad (or aunt or uncle or even grandparent!) to write down some advice for you! If they don't live with you, maybe they can post it to you...

