

PLAN:

1. **STARTER:** Ask children to recap the story of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and the idols as learnt in lesson 2 last term. One child starts it off, another carries on and all get a turn to contribute to the story by listening and adding to the previous person.
2. **LESSON:** Discuss the dua he recited when thrown into the fire (with meaning). Continue lesson as per notes and finish with activity and plenary.

The Duas of Prophet Ibrahim (AS)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To reflect on some of the duas and understand their application in our lives:

- To understand that Allah is sufficient for us.
- To reflect on how we can build up our faith to understand that Allah can be our support system in everything we do.

Prophet Ibrahim had broken all the idols except the largest one in the main temple while the people were celebrating their festival outside the town. When they returned and found what had happened to their gods, they were shocked and said, "Who has done this cruel thing to our lords?" One of them said, "It must be Ibrahim. He has always hated idol worship."

Prophet Ibrahim was brought to court to face trial for damaging the idols. When he was asked whether he was guilty he replied, "It must have been done by the biggest idol. Ask him about it." But the people said, "Our idols do not talk or answer questions." Now Prophet Ibrahim took the opportunity to make the people understand how useless their idols were. He said, "Shame on you! How can you worship pieces of wood and stone. They do not know anything and can neither harm nor benefit you."

However, nobody was willing to listen to his words and he was declared guilty. The people began to shout, "Burn him alive! Let him be with his Lord."

The Holy Qur'an says:

***"They cried, "Burn him alive and avenge your gods, if you want to take any action."
[Surah al-Anbiyaa' 21:68]***

Namrud decided to burn Prophet Ibrahim alive to please his idols. He ordered that wood be collected to make a huge bonfire. So much wood was brought that when the fire was lit, no one could get close enough to throw Prophet Ibrahim into it.

Namrud decided to build a large catapult and Prophet Ibrahim was thrown into the fire using this catapult. When Prophet Ibrahim was flying in the air towards the fire, the angel

Jibraeel came to ask him if he needed his help. Prophet Ibrahim replied, "No I need help from Allah only."

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

'Allah is sufficient for us and He is the best disposer of affairs!'

(Sura Aale-Imran, 3: 173).

Prophet Ibrahim (AS) put all his faith in Allah and recited the above dua.

The Holy Qur'an says:

When they threw him in the fire, We commanded, "O fire! Be cool and comfortable for Ibrahim."

[Surah al-Anbiyaa' 21:68]

Prophet Ibrahim (AS) put all his faith into Allah. His father was his bitter enemy, the public were against him, and the king of the time was enraged with humility. Their hatred and humiliation led the people to plan a terrible punishment.

However, Prophet Ibrahim (AS) did not fret nor fear. He did not care for the taunts of the people. He remained occupied in calling the people to Allah. At such a critical time when all earthly supports were removed, and all outward means of assistance lost Prophet Ibrahim (AS) placed his faith in the Supporter of all who support and the Assistant of all assistants, the assistance of the One Allah.

And Allah did not abandon his high-ranking Nabi. He reduced the plots of the enemy to dust.

At that moment the fire became "Cool and Tranquil" for Prophet Ibrahim (AS). His enemy could not harm him in the least.

This is the Greatness of Faith and this is the Help that Allah has promised to those who place their total trust in Him.

This and the various miracles which the Prophet Muhammed (SAW) has informed us about may sound incredulous. But we should think about the fact that if this dua, recited by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) had such an effect on the fire, at the command of Allah (SWT) how much more powerful is the Creator of such beings?

This Dua, therefore, can be recited in times of hardship and challenges. This Dua appears in the following verse of Surah Aal-e-Imran and was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) when his enemies had gathered around him during the battle of Uhud.

“and who, when the people told them: “Your enemies have mustered a great force against you: fear them,” grew more firm in their faith and replied: “Allah's help is all-sufficient for us. He is the best protector.”

[Surah ale-Imraan’(3:173]

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- What would you have done if you had been in the position of Prophet Ibrahim with the whole world against you and a raging fire in front of you.
- Why do you think Allah put Prophet Ibrahim (AS) in such a situation?
- What can we learn from this story and dua of Prophet Ibrahim (AS)?

REFLECTION:

- Take a couple of minutes to think about a situation in your life during which you felt like giving up because it was too hard and things were not going right.
- Do you think you can build up enough faith in Allah to understand that there are times when He will test us and that we have to be patient and aware that he will not test us beyond our capabilities?

ACTIVITY:

In groups, create a mind map of ways in which we can strengthen our faith in Allah.

REFERENCE:

- <http://www.everymuslim.co.za/index.php/articles-menu/personalities-menu/64-prophets-of-allah/871-life-of-prophet-ebrahimas>