

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent & the Most Merciful

Muharram- Level 2- October 2015

Topic Overview: Analysis of the Journey of Imam Hussain (PBUH) from Medina to Karbala -The Story of Hazrat Ghasim (PBUH) -Basing our Lives solely to Gain the Pleasure of God

<i>Number</i>	Context	Duration	Objectives	Procedures-Supplies Needed
<i>0</i>	<p>Warm-up/Craft</p> <p>The instructions for the craft are provided at the end of this table. To how to utilize this letter is mentioned in the beginning portion of this program.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The YouTube video below may be played while the kids are busy assembling this craft in an effort to create an atmosphere of despondency and make it more spiritual.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/Ij5F75XX8Uc</p>	25 Minutes	1. Since the kids arrive at different times, it is suggested that before the start of the official program, any sort of craft that is associated with the occasion is planned for those kids who come earlier to the program.	1. Parchment paper sheets in approximate dimensions of 25*15 cm. 2. Two thin sticks 3. A thin strip of Burlap fabric 4. Hot glue gun
<i>1</i>	<p>Beginning: Salaam, to all of you my dears, are you all doing well?</p>	20 Minutes	1. The importance of giving Salaam	1. It is better to display the verses so the

Welcome to our program! I hope today, we will have a great time together and learn new things. I hope you will all be able to help us in this effort.

All right, now how did you all like the craft portion of our program? Was it interesting? Did you like the letters you made? Now I will tell you what we are going to write in these letters. However, before anything, what do we start everything with? Yes, that is right, in the name of God and by seeking His help so; he can help us to be successful in what we do! What I mean is that not only, we will start our program in the name of God and say Bismillah but also afterwards, when we are writing our letters, on the top before writing our name we will write God's name. Now let us all say aloud: "Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim".

Now, that we have asked for God's help, we will also refer to the book of God and learn from the words of God. Now, who here knows surah al-Fajr? Or knows what part of the Quran it is located?

Surah al-Fajr is located in Juz' 30th of the Quran and it is very beautiful. We will now recite together a few verses of it and become more familiar with this Surah.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ (٢٧) ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً (٢٨) فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي (٢٩) وَادْخُلِي
جَنَّتِي (٣٠)

O the contented soul! (27) Return towards your Lord – you being pleased with Him, and He pleased with you! (28) Then enter the ranks of My chosen bondmen! (29) And come into My Paradise! (30)

2. Seeking means to the Holy Qur'an in order to illuminate our hearts that is means to salvation.
3. Mentioning the relationship of this Surah especially its last verses with Imam Hussain (PBHU).
4. The importance of knowing the meaning of the verses of Quran.
5. Addressing this point that it is a good habit to speak our hearts out to the Imam of Our Time and even write him a letter. In addition, that His eminence is always aware of our circumstances and nothing of our

participants may recite it as a group.

<p>(Please Note: The above translation is only given for mentor's use)</p> <p>These were the last few verses of Surah al-Fajr! This surah mentions the matter of light overcoming darkness and the victory of the believers over the ones who are worldly-minded. Even the name of this surah, which is “fajr”, has the same meaning. Who can tell me the meaning of the word "fajr" and knows what it is referring to? Maybe you have heard of this word before, which is said when it's dawn and slowly you can see the rays of the sun shining in the sky. Who knows what is overcoming what at that time? Yes, that is right, the sun light overcomes darkness and the sky is slowly becoming bright and bright.</p> <p>In the last few verses of this surah, God is explaining to us the story of a disobedient nation. And tells us that the consequences of disobediences, revolts, and misdeeds of this nation will be torment and the hell fire on the day of judgment. However, in the following verse we recited, God says: O' the one who is reassured and satisfied! Return to your lord as you being pleased with him and He is pleased with you! Then enter among my good servants and enter my paradise!</p> <p>There has been many narrations, handed down to us from our Imams that tell us: this surah is referring to Imam Hussain (PBUH) and God is referring to Imam Hussain (PBUH) in the last few verses of this surah. In reality, that worthwhile human being who has his full trust in God and is calm, is none but Imam Hussain (PBUH), whose acted to only seek God's pleasure. Therefore, God is pleased with him, and him by being calm, content and having his complete trust in God was able to stand against the enemy on the day of Ashura along with his family, so light could overcome oppression and darkness. Just like the light during dawn overcomes the darkness during night.</p>		<p>affairs is concealed from him. 6.Disapproving the act of not staying faithful to one's covenant by mentioning the letters written by the Kufians and ...</p>	
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This way, everyone understood that Imam Hussain is the righteous one, and the true Islam is in the hands of what people. If we want, we also can be included in these verses. Does not mean that only Imam Hussain (PBUH) could have had his trust in God and be calm. It is just that the degree of his trust in God was very high, his trust in God was very strong, and he only and only wanted to please God. But Insha'Allah we can also reach such a status by simply loving our Imam and knowing his way and goals. Well I think you all enjoyed our talk about the meaning of the verses of the Quran.

But, be aware that the "**Nafs Al-Mutmainnah** (the soul at peace) of our time, is the Imam of our Time (PBUH). He is also the best servant of God on this earth. Just like the oppressions suffered by Imam Hussain on the day of Ashura, in these 1000 years that Imam Mahdi has been in occultation, he also has suffered from the way his Shias and the people of this world have been treated by tyrannical and bad people. However, he has patience, until the time God wants him to reappear. Meaning that he is also pleased with God and God is pleased with him. Now, since we also want to follow the way of Imam Hussain, we have to act in a way to please God; this means we have to be a true follower of the Imam of Our Time, love him sincerely, and do things that will make him happy and ...

Now my dears let us talk about the letters you all made earlier: Do you all know why Imam Hussain left his city towards the city of Kufa? Yes, because the people of the Kufa were tired and upset from Yazid and the governors he had chosen. Not only was Yazid an oppressive leader, but he also shamelessly refused God's commands and openly committed terrible sins. Therefore, he practically did not act like a Muslim. That is why, people wrote a letter to the Imam, opened their hearts to him, and asked him to come to their help. Even

	<p>though they never fulfilled their demands and promises, they made and again were tricked by the devil.</p> <p>Now we want to use these letters, and talk our hearts out to the Imam of Our Time. We want to tell him how much we are waiting for him and tell him how much we love him. Tell him that we miss him a lot and we are eagerly waiting to see him. We all know that the Imam of Our Time is aware of what we have written in these letters and know what we have told him. We will keep this letter somewhere safe, and take a look at it every year, to renew our allegiance to him. We can also write a new letter to our Imam. We hope that one day; we can give our letters to him. If any of you would be willing to share with us what you wrote, I can read it aloud for everyone. (You may take this time and correct them if needed and point out anything)</p>			
2	<p>Clip: The love for you O’ Imam Hussain...</p> <p>https://youtu.be/oTvXxTjGcbI?list=LLi_1lWP1pr947ZPkO0KQYBw (2 Min) Or https://youtu.be/Ij5F75XX8Uc (6 Minutes)</p>	2 and 6 Minutes	-----	1. Projector, speakers and a device to play the YouTube video
3	<p>Story: He shouted, O'my Dear Uncle!</p> <p>It was nighttime. The sound of laughter and joy could be heard from the tents of the enemy. However, the tents of the Man of Free was silent. Everyone was thinking of the battle that was going to start tomorrow. The man of free gathered his companions and told them “the enemy is only looking after me, and is not looking after you all. Now that it's nighttime and dark, you are free to escape and save your lives.”</p>	7 Minutes	1.Becoming familiar with Hazrat Qasim ibn-al-Hassan (PBUH) 2. Becoming familiar with the heart-shattering oppressions	1. Becoming familiar with the skills necessary for storytelling in order to appeal to the children, and convey the message and goal of the story.

<p>The first person to say anything was a young teenage boy. A teenager who was the son of the brother of the man of free. He asked the man of free: O my dear Uncle, if I stay with you will I be killed tomorrow?"</p> <p>The man of free asked him: "How do you look at the matter of death"? The teenager said: "for me dying in defending my master is sweeter than honey". The man of free said: "Tomorrow you will die." After he said that, the man of free became silent. Again he told his companions: "Whoever wants to leave, they are free to do so, because tomorrow you will all be killed"</p> <p>That night, a few of the companions of the Man of Free escaped in the dark. The Man of Free, his family and 72 of his companions were the only ones left and ready to fight the enemy.</p> <p>That night, the teenager thought excessively about his uncle's question. His uncle asked him about death. The teenager was thinking to see if he had answered his uncle's question the correct way or not? It was at that moment, that he went to asleep. Suddenly, he felt as if these luminous butterflies have surrounded him. He opened his eyes. However, there were no butterflies around him. He closed his eyes again, and again saw these luminous butterflies flying all around him. That night, every time the teenager opened and closed his eyes, he would see the luminous butterflies flying all around him.</p> <p>The next morning arrived. It was the day of the ultimate battle. The battle upon a land that brought with itself sorrow and trouble. The enemy army was standing against the small army of the Man of Free like a long and continuous</p>		<p>inflicted upon Imam Hussain and the infallibility of his companions. 2. Becoming familiar with the bravery and heroism that the companions of Imam Hussain (PBUH) put into display.</p>	
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wall. Suddenly, the enemy troops placed their arrows in their arches and shot towards the companions of the Man of Free. Many of the companions of the Man of Free died or were wounded. The oldest son of the Man of Free, went to the battlefield and was martyred. The teenager got himself ready to go to the battlefield and fight against the enemy. The Man of Free saw him and started crying. He looked at him once more. He was in awe and thinking how could this young man in this height can fight the enemy and be victorious? The Man of Free thought to himself: he is still too young to fight. The Man of Free did not want the teenager to go to the battlefield and fight with those who were too brutal.

The Man of Free puts his hands upon the shoulders of the teenager and looks at him with happiness and says: "I do not want to see you be killed"

The teenager looked at the enemy troops. And looked at the thousands of troops who were standing far away and mostly were on horses that were restless. The teenager told his uncle: "How can I stay alive and see you be killed my master? I would never want to see that day"

The Man of Free still did not allow the teenager to go to the battlefield. The teenager started crying and continuously kissing the hands and feet of that man. The man of Free hugged him and kissed him upon his head. The teenager stared into the eyes of the man of Free begging him. He was talking with his uncle with his eyes. The man of Free did not know how to stop him from going to the battlefield and fight against the cruel troops.

A few moments later, the teenager stood in middle of the battlefield. The first soldier of the enemy attacked him, but fled before him with fear and tremble.

He killed the 2nd soldier. The teenager fought like a strong and courageous man. However in the midst of striking swords, and the roar of the injured horses, one of the straps of his shoes broke. He bent over to fix the broken strap of his shoe. It was at that moment, when one of the soldiers of the enemy seized the moment and struck his head with a sword. The teenager fell down on his face upon the ground and called out: O'my dear uncle!

The man of Free in midst of the dust and the tumult of the enemy, heard the teenagers voice. He ran towards him and saw the enemy troops, who was standing above the teenager's head and was sweating. The man of free attacked him and with just one strike cuts his hand off. The soldier of the enemy could not withstand the pain. With all the power he had left in him; he yelled towards his companions: "Why are you all not attacking???What are you all waiting for???"

Suddenly, more than 10 people attacked the Man of Free. The Man of Free fought with all of them, which forced the enemy to retreat. In the midst of the dust and the sand, few soldiers from the enemy side came and helped to carry the killer of that young teen boy.

The teenager twisted in pain and cried. He closed his eyes for a moment. When he opened up his eyes again, he saw his uncle who had bent over on his face, crying. The teenager closed his eyes again, this time with a smile. When the Man of Free saw the blood on the hair of the teenager, he knew that he would no longer open up his eyes. He hugged him and carried him to the tent.

The teenager slept forever and he was surrounded with the sound of flying butterflies.

<p>Prezi: The Traveler of Karbala</p> <p>Prezi Link: https://prezi.com/deujcc2xm9qn/l2-mosafere-karbala/</p> <p>Slide 2: My dears, the people of Kufa during the time of Imam Ali had tasted the leadership and wilayah of Imam Ali. They knew well, how just and kind this man is. They knew well, that he is indeed a special person and very different from ordinary people. After Hazrat Ali, his eldest son meaning Imam Hassan became his successor and became the Imam of Shias. At the same time though, Muawiyah had declared himself as the leader of Muslims. Then Muawiyah martyred Imam Hassan, and Imam Hussain became the 3rd Imam of Shias.</p> <p>Slide 3:When the tyrant and cruel Muawiyah died, his son Yazid came after him. Yazid was a person who drank alcohol, committed sinful acts in front of public and people, and had bad morals. He wanted to force Imam Hussain to pledge to him. Which meant that he wanted Imam Hussain to say that he agrees with him and he can be the leader of Muslims. Therefore, this way others would go against him. Well, it was obvious that Imam Hussain would never pledge his allegiance to a corrupt person. Because he sure was, making Islam look bad in the eyes of others. If Imam would accept this, then people would have thought that Yazid is a good person and everyone would have been deviated.</p> <p>Slide 4: During that time, Imam Hussain lived in the city of Medina. Yazid ordered the governor of Medina to go and force Imam Hussain to pledge and put him under lots of pressure. Imam Hussain could not risk it and so he decides that it is best to leave Medina. Therefore, during the night, Imam</p>	15- 20 Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Becoming familiar with the reasons behind Imam Hussain's journey to Kufa and the events of Ashura. 2. Lessons from Imam Hussain (PBUH) and his dear companions. 	1. Projector and a device to present the Prezi slides.
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Hussain, his family, and some companions left for the city of Mecca and took refuge in the sanctity of the House of God in Mecca.

Slide 5: my dear Kids!!!!!! The people of kufa would see that Yazid is doing sinful acts in front of the public, and oppresses them andnot to mention that he would call himself as the successor of the Prophet!!! That is why the Kufans, decided to bring Imam Hussain, the real successor of Prophet, the one who God had chosen. Therefore, they decide to write a letter to him and invite him to come to Kufa and help them out! With about 2200000 signatures on the letter, they gave it to few men to give it to Imam Hussain in the Mecca. They had written in the letter that Yazid is a bad man, he has betrayed all the good people, and he only does wrongdoings and does it in the name of Islam. Imam Hussain come to our city, become our leader and create for us a just and right government.

Slide 6: Imam Hussain had to change his intention of doing hajj to umrah, leave Mecca to preserve the respect for the House of God and to prevent any war or bloodshed to happen in the House of God if in any case the Imam is arrested.

Slide 7: So Imam starts his journey along with his family and a few of his companions towards the city of Kufa. Their journey took about 24 days under the extreme hot weather.

Slide 8: At the same time when the Imam starts his journey, he sends his trustworthy cousin Muslim ibn-aqeel to Kufa, so he could be sure of the letters sent to him. Also to see if people are true to their words and if they are ready for the presence of Imam and for his just government to be formed.

When Muslim ibn-aqeel enters Kufa, he receives the unprecedence support of the people, who had come to pledge to him. That is why Muslim sends a letter to Imam and lets him know that the people of kufa are true to their words; so he may come to Kufa.

However, on those same days the cruel Obeidallah ibn Ziyad who was very cold-hearted, is chosen by Yazid to come to Kufa accompanied with a few troops to help him in protecting his government and not allow it to get in the hands of Imam Hussain and his dear companions.

Slide 9: Yes my dears, unfortunately ibnZiyad started tricking and deceiving people. He started tricking and giving false promises to those same people who had invited Imam Hussain to Kufa with wealth and status and even threatened to kill some of them. The Kufans broke their promises and left Muslim ibn-aqeel alone. To an extent that during the Maghrib prayers a a lot of people were praying behind him, however after the Isha prayers all of them fled and left Muslims ibn-aqeel in the fear of Yazid and his troops.

Slide 10: The people of Kufa in the fear of the troops of ibn-Ziyad to come, search their houses, and kill them; did not even give food to Muslim ibn-aqeel and did not allow him to come to their houses. So Muslim ibn-aqeel had to stand in the street, not having anywhere to go to eat and rest. During this time he was sitting against a door of a house, thinking about of all the events that happened and he was worried of what is going to happen when Imam Hussain and his family arrives; when all of the sudden the person living in the house he was sitting against, opens the door. The old woman said to Muslim: O man what do you want? Hazrat asked her for a cup of water then the old woman asked: then why are you not leaving? Hazrat Muslim said: I do not have any place to go to. The old woman asked: who are you? Muslim said: I am Muslim

ibn-aqeel. The old woman recognized who he was and allowed him to enter her house. Because that woman was Shia, the lover of Hazrat Ali, and was braver than the many of the men in Kufa. However, when his son returned home and became aware that Muslim ibn-aqeel is in his house... he told on Muslim ibn-aqeel so he could receive lots of money from ibn-Ziyad.

Slide 11: Well in the end, they arrested him and brought him before ibn-Ziyad. While Muslim ibn-aqeel was in tears because of the way people had forgotten Imam Hussain and the Imam is on his way to the city of these coward people; he gets martyred by the hands of that cruel man.

Slide 12: My dears this same situation had happened for Imam Ali as well. Who remembers this? Do you all remember, that on the day of Ghadir Khumm Prophet of God, in presence of all the Muslims introduced Imam Ali as his next successor. So everyone pledged to him that after the Prophet, Imam Ali would be their leader? However, people forgot all about it and after the Prophet's death, they all left Imam Ali alone.

Slide 13: Oh, ohh ... my dears! Right now, our Imam is the Imam of Our Time. May we not do any wrong doings, and instead of being one of his supporters and make him happy, we do something bad and make him his heartbreak. If we are religious, if we love the Imam of Our Time, we have to be a wise supporter of the Imam of Our time. And not be like the Kufans, be tricked or for the fear of losing something, or something fun in this world; act contrary to our Imam's desires! We are the Shia's of the Imam of Our Time and we have to act and talk in a way that other would be like: wow!!!! Good job to those who are Shia and Muslims. How truthful are they! How kind are they!!!!How helpful are they!!!!Such a wonderful kids are they!!!!If we are not

like this, then will make our Imams look bad in the eyes of others!!! We have to be very careful!!!! Well

Slide 14: Imam was on his way to Kufa. When he reached near Kufa the army of Ibn-Ziyad blocked the way of Imam Hussain and his family, closed the road on them, and would not allow them to enter Kufa. That is why our Imam had to instead go to the desert nearby Kufa. The caravan was moving, when the horse of Imam Hussain stopped and would not move anymore. Imam Hussain asked: Where is this? They said: it is Karb-o -balla. Imam said that the meaning of this place is a place of sorrows and tribulations and this is the same place that my grandfather the messenger of God promised me of it. Imam Hussain reached this place on the 2nd day of Muharram, and set up the tents there. On the 7th day of Muharram, the cruel ibn-Ziyad ordered the river of Euphrates, which was the only source of drinking water to be blocked from the reach of Imam Hussain, his family and his companions. And from that day on, until the evening of the day of Ashura all those with Imam Hussain and himself had limited water in their tents and were extremely thirsty.

Well until this part of the story, Imam Hussain had reached Karbala. Important events happened in Karbala, up until when the night of the 10th of Muharram or Ashura happened. I will not explain the events that happened on that day and instead want to focus on the important lessons we can learn from the day of Ashura:

My dears, every moment of Ashura and the people that were with our Imam on the day of Ashura is a lesson for us. Maybe about 100 lessons to be learned, however I only will mention some of these lessons we can learn from:

1. My dears even though Imam Hussain faced lots of hardships and troubles during his journey, he would still guide and invite the troops of the army of ibn-Ziyad to the true religion of Islam. He would say: let us not start war and bloodshed. Wealth and status of this world is worth nothing in front of us being good humans. These are the things that will be lost but humanity is what that lasts forever and builds our world. He would remind everyone, that he is indeed the grandson of the Prophet of God, the person that introduced them to Islam. He said: I am the son of your Prophet's daughter. Have you ever faced oppression from me, so that you want to fight against me? You should tell honestly whether I have killed anyone from amongst you so that you want to fight me? Have I done anything other than following God's commands that you want to kill me and my family in this way? If you do not have faith, then at least be free and just human beings! We have not come to fight you. Leave us alone and so we can go to a safe and calm place and we will not do anything with you. But how unfortunate were they! Because of all the sins, they had committed and only wealth and status was important for them that they were not able to understand the words of the Imam.

2. Even though all the oppressors and cruel people killed or hurt all of his family members. Imam Husain remained patient and pleased in the face of all the hardships he faced, because he was doing all of this to please God and to guide people. His patience was to such an extent that God mentions, his patience and faith in the Quran.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ (٢٧) ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً (28)

O the contented soul! (27) Return towards your Lord – you being pleased with Him, and He pleased with you!

3. Some Shias were willing to give up everything for the support of the Imam

	of their Time. The companions and supporters of Imam Hussain, all knew that they were going to be martyred. Despite that, they were willing to stay besides their Imam and his family in their defense. They bid their farewell to their wife's, and children. Their wife's with the strong faith they had, encouraged their husbands to go and support their Imam of the Time.			
5	<p>Animation: Hazrat Qasim</p> <p>https://youtu.be/o7z-qVnmQuQ</p>	5 Minutes	1. Becoming familiar with Hazrat Qasim, his sacrifices, and the way he stood up to defend his Imam.	1. Projector, speakers and a computer
6	<p>Group Activity: Questions and Answers regarding the event of Ashura</p> <p>Divide kids into groups of 2-3 people. (Depending on the number of participants). Then ask each group one question and allow each group to think for 2-3 minutes. Then, ask them to stand up as a group and present their ideas in front of the other kids.</p> <p>(The answers to the questions are mentioned in the Prezi section of this file)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why Imam Hussein did not oath his allegiance to Yazid? To save the religion of Islam... 2. Why did Imam Hussain along with his family leave their home in 	15 Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage kids with the content taught. 2. Doing a group activity along with engaging kids in finding an answer as a group. 	

	<p>Medina and why did they end up going to the city of Karbala? To be safe from the governor of Medina, who wanted to force Imam Hussain to pledge allegiance to Yazid. He went to hajj and left Mecca as he did not want the sanctity of the house of God to be violated and ...</p> <p>3. What did Imam Hussain do to be sure of the demands of the people of Kufa? He sent his cousin, Muslim ibn-Aqeel to Kufa as his most trusted representative...</p> <p>4. For what reason did, the people Kufa first left alone Muslim ibn-Aqeel and then Imam Hussain (PBUH)? Weak faith, and the importance of wealth and status in this world, and were afraid of Yazid's tortures...</p> <p>5. What lesson do we learn from the event of Ashura? That is, to be one of the true companions of the Imam of Our Time.</p>			
7	<p>Play: The Reasons Behind the Event of Ashura</p> <p>Mother is sitting on a chair and is busy knitting. (mother's attire can be black as a sign of mourning) Her daughter arrives from school. Negar has is wearing a school uniform and has with her a backpack.</p> <p>Negar (Loud voice): Salaam Mom!</p> <p>Mother (stops knitting and looks at Negar with a smile): Salaam my little one, how was school?</p> <p>Negar: Yes, today we spent most of the time in the auditorium. We had a special program for the month of Muharram.</p> <p>Mother (while getting up): What kind of program? A speech? Or a eulogy (latmiya)?</p>	----	1. Becoming familiar with the reasons behind the journey of Imam Hussain from Mecca to Kufa.	1. 2 Actors: a mother and a daughter or a son. 2. Chair, knitting accessories or something that a mother can be busy with. 3. A bowl of fruits.

<p>Negar: They talked to us about the event of Ashura and the journey of Imam Hussain from the city of Mecca to Karbala.</p> <p>Mother (continue with excitement): What did they tell you? Tell me about it, I want to hear it as well!</p> <p>Negar puts her backpack down and grabs a fruit from the bowl, and puts it in her mouth-mother sits back down in her chair again.</p> <p>Negar: They told us that Imam Hussain had gone to Mecca a few months ago. When the time of Hajj comes and people had to come from all around to do the rituals of Hajj; Yazid also sends an army with Omar ibn- saeed bin al-'As as an excuse to perform the hajj rituals.</p> <p>Mother: Yes that is right, on the 8th of the month of zilhajj the army arrives in Mecca.</p> <p>Negar: But its seems it was a plot to arrest the Imam!!!! Right?</p> <p>Mother: (sighs, lowers her head in sadness, and says): Yes, in reality Yazid wanted to force the Imam to pledge to him. However, because the Imam does not agree to it, he therefore sends an army, and orders them to force the Imam to pledge to him!</p> <p>Negar: Today they told us, that Imam had no choice and had to make his Hajj into Umrah. So practically, he did not do the required rituals for the obligatory (wajib) Hajj!</p> <p>Mother: Yes, that is right, when Imam saw Yazid's army, in order to save the sanctity of the house of God and for Yazid's army to not be able to disrespect, he changed his hajj plan and had to leave the city of Mecca at night!</p> <p>Negar: Why so quickly? As if he could not wait 2 days longer, so he would be there for Eid al-adha?</p> <p>Mother: it appeared that on the night of 8th of Zilhajj, Imam dreams and in his dream, he saw his ancestor Hazrat Rasool (PBUH & HP) who tells him: leave the city of Mecca, as God does not want to see you martyred! (the sound of</p>			
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mother shakes)

Negar: Does that mean the Imam knew that he was going to be killed?

Mother (slow and sad): Yes!

Negar: Then why did he take his family with him?

Mother: Imam explains that he does not have the intentions to fight with anyone; on the other hand, the people of Kufa had written a letter and invited the Imam to come to their city. They told the Imam, we will support you, and so the Imam, along with his family started his journey towards Kufa in order to show that he has not come to fight anyone.

Negar: Mom, can you right now tell me why did Imam Hussain go to Kufa even though he knew that the people of Kufa are bad and will break their promises?

Mother: My dear! Imam Hussain sent his courageous and trustworthy cousin Muslim ibn-aeel earlier to Kufa so he take a look and see if the people of Kufa are really ready for the Imam to come or not? When Hazrat Muslim ibn-aeel entered the city of Kufa, many people pledged their allegiance to him and told him that they are ready for Imam Hussain's arrival. Therefore, he sent a letter to Imam Hussain letting him know that yes, the people of Kufa are eagerly waiting for him to come to Kufa. However, right after Imam left for Kufa, Ibn-Ziyad who was a very bad person, went to Kufa and told its people that if they do not listen to Imam Hussain (PBUH), he will give them money, great status, and he jailed many people and scared them.

Negar: Mom, is that mean, status and wealth was way more important than their Imam ????

Mom: Yes, my dear! The people, who had weak faith, did not fulfill their promises, they even left alone Hazrat Muslim ibn-aqil who was their guest in their city; and so Ibn-Ziyad martyred him. Later, ibn-Ziyad surrendered Imam Hussain in Karbala and martyred him as well.

Negar: Mom, I really want to strengthen my faith to an extent that I am always able to stand up for what is right and nothing would be able to scare me and be in my way for telling what is right.

Mom: wow, its great! I am very proud of you that you have come up with such a great idea. I am sure that right now the Imam of Our Time is very happy of your decision. How lucky you are !!!! To be honest, this can be very easy to do as well hard to follow.

Negar: What!!!what do you mean by that?

Mother: Well it's hard because there are a lot of people out there who follow all the religious rulings of Islam, they recite quran and pray, but have not yet reached such a status, and so they have made their Imam upset. Not following the Imam of Our Time is just enough for following the wrong direction and not be a true Shia. That is why we have to be strong Shias so we would not tricked easily by the devil like those people.

Negar: Well then why did you say it is easy?

Mother: Well I said it's easy, because if we connect to the Imam of Our Time in this way, strengthen our connections with him, and ask for his help; he will

	<p>easily help us to always be a true and strong Muslim. (Negar is paying careful attention to her mom and nods as way to show agreement)</p> <p>Now, let us stop our conversation here to go and eat something good together. Also my neck hurts from all the knitting I been doing for you. And I think you have become a bit tired by now, right????</p> <p>Negar (hugs her mom and says): I love you mommy!! And so thankful of all the things you do for me. Let us head to the kitchen. (both hold hands and joyfully exit the scene)</p>			
8	<p>Poem:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hussein’s a candle of light Hussein, Hussein O Hussein Hussein, Hussein O Hussein ***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hussein’s a candle of light, Who glows both in day and night, Guiding us all to the right, To Karbala we want to fly. ***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hussein is the savior, He is sinless he’s the pure, He will guide me he’s the cure, I’ll knock always at your door. ***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You are the ark of salvation,</p>	10 Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accustom the kids with the culture of poetry and reciting religious poems. 2. Becoming familiar with Imam Hussain (PBUH) and mourning for his eminence in form of poetry. 3. Accustom the kids with the ritual of chest beating (Ask kids to slowly beat upon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mentor should practice beforehand in reciting the poem eloquently. If possible, try to memorize the poem. 2. Ask the kids to recite along with you the parts of the poem that seems easier.

**You are the beacon of Guidance,
You are so close to my heart,
From it you will never depart.**

**I will hold onto your rope,
For you are my only hope,
Without you I'll never cope,
Guide me to the narrow road.**

**Let us board Hussein's ship,
Let us head for the best trip,
Guaranteed, you'll never slip,
Those left behind, will never win.**

I went to a desert one day
I saw a bird sitting there
I told it why are you so sad
He said I am heartbroken
Today is the day of Ashura
There is uproar in Karbala
Sadness can be seen
Upon the faces of the faithful ones
I said: O the beautiful bird
Fly up high in sky
Settle in Karbala
Carry our salutations
To the Master of Martyrs
Sing a song of sorrow

their chests while
the poems are
being recited.)

	<p>From the thirsty kids From the cold hearted enemies From the parched throat of little Asghar Tell us From Ashura From Akbar who was martyred Tell us from Karbala</p>			
9	<p>Homework:</p> <p>At the beginning of the program, you had asked the participants to use the letters they made to write a letter to the Imam of Our Time (May God the Exalted hasten his return), and discussed with them what they should write in their letters. As this point, you may ask the kids to write half of their letters during the program and write the rest at home while paying careful attention. Additionally, tell them to take a good care of their letter and they should know that the Imam of Our Time is aware of what they have written in their letters.</p> <p>My dears, when you see your parents talk with them about all the things you learned today as well as the purpose behind the letters you made today. So they may also be reminded of this matter, because being reminded of something is always good for everyone. You can encourage your parents to also write one these letters to the Imam of Our Time and act according to it. Also, tell them that he is aware of what they have written in their letter, just as he is aware of our hearts, actions and conditions.</p>	-----	1. Maximizing kids' ability in learning and memorization by doing related work at home.	
10	<p>End/Concluding and Reciting Dua al-Faraj</p> <p>My dears, may God accept it. I think that you all today, have learned many new things and we too have learned new things from your comments. Today, we tried to explain to you in more details about why this great and sad event of</p>	5 Minutes	1. Concluding and reiterating the overall concepts mentioned in this file.	1. It is important for this segment of the program to be done in a quiet and calm environment while

<p>Ashura happened. These kinds of detailed discussions, thinking, readings and better and detail researches allows us to know our Imam better and become familiar with his goals. So this way we can also continue that path and use it in our lives. You may ask why? Well, because we do not want to be like the people of Kufa. We do not want to be saying that we love the Imam of Our Time and are waiting for him to come back and fill this world with beauty, goodness and justice, and even pray for his return but God forbid when he reappears, we would be just like the people of Kufa? Right???We do not want to break our promises and make false claims. We want to forever hold on to the promises we make, know the Imam of our Time better, and sincerely pray for his return because we are in great need of him. Be able to say that we sincerely miss him and will never break our promises. In addition,the letters that we wrote today together, our Imam is aware of them that is why it is terrible to be not true to our promises. We will hold on to these letters until the time Insha'allah our Imam returns by our prayers and good actions. Then we will show our letters to him and will tell him these are the same letters and we have faithfully kept our promises.</p> <p>Now, let us all together recite dua al-Faraj sincerely, and sympathize with him with our broken hearts so we can be an essence to heal his dear heart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Reciting Dua al-Faraj while standing up and facing toward the Qibla, out of loveand respect for His Eminence. ♦ http://film.tebyan.net/film/151746 <li style="text-align: center;">or ♦ https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0cXoTGnPljk26 		<p>2. Creating a heartfelt bond with Imam of Our Age and Time and praying for his reappearance.</p> <p>3. Reminding of the Holy presence of the Imam of our Time (May God hasten his return) as our teacher and as the Imam of our age.</p>	<p>paying utmost attention the prayers.</p> <p>2. Starting the dua, after reminding the kids about the importance of praying for the Imam of Our Time (PBUH).</p> <p>3. It is suggested that that while the dua is being recited, the Arabic version of the dua along with the translation in the local language to be projected simultaneously.</p>
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In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful
O' God, send your blessing upon Muhammad and the Household
of Muhammad

O' God, at this moment and every moment
Be a guardian, a protector, a leader, a helper
a proof, and an eye for Your representative & ; proof, Mahdi son of Al-
Hassan,

Your blessings be upon him and his ancestors
guard him as long as he lives on this earth as a ruler
benefit him and bless him with everything You and this earth has to

offer

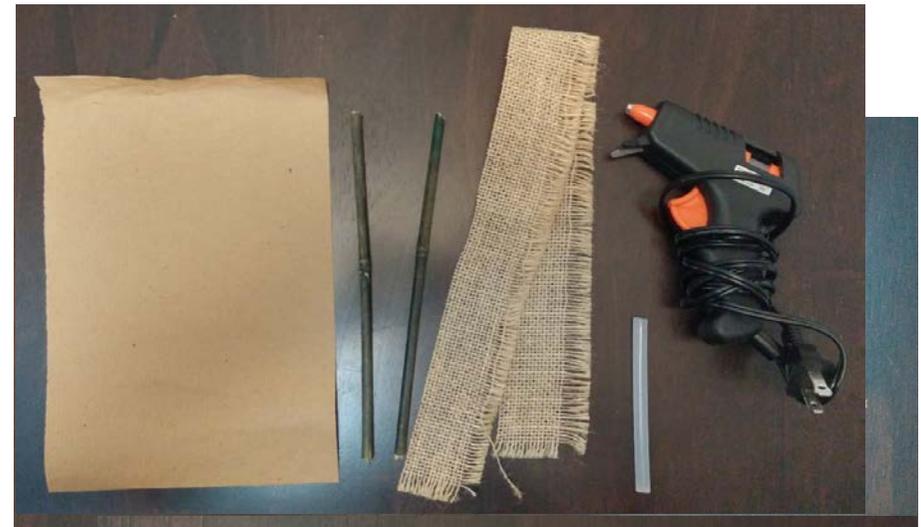
Instructions for how to make a letter

Supplies needed:

1. Parchment paper sheets¹ in approximate dimensions of 25*15 cm.
2. Two thin sticks
3. A thin strip of Burlap fabric
4. Hot glue gun

Think stick: You may use a tree branch, pencil, wood or

The cylindrical ice-cream sticks will not work well with this craft, so leave it as your last option.



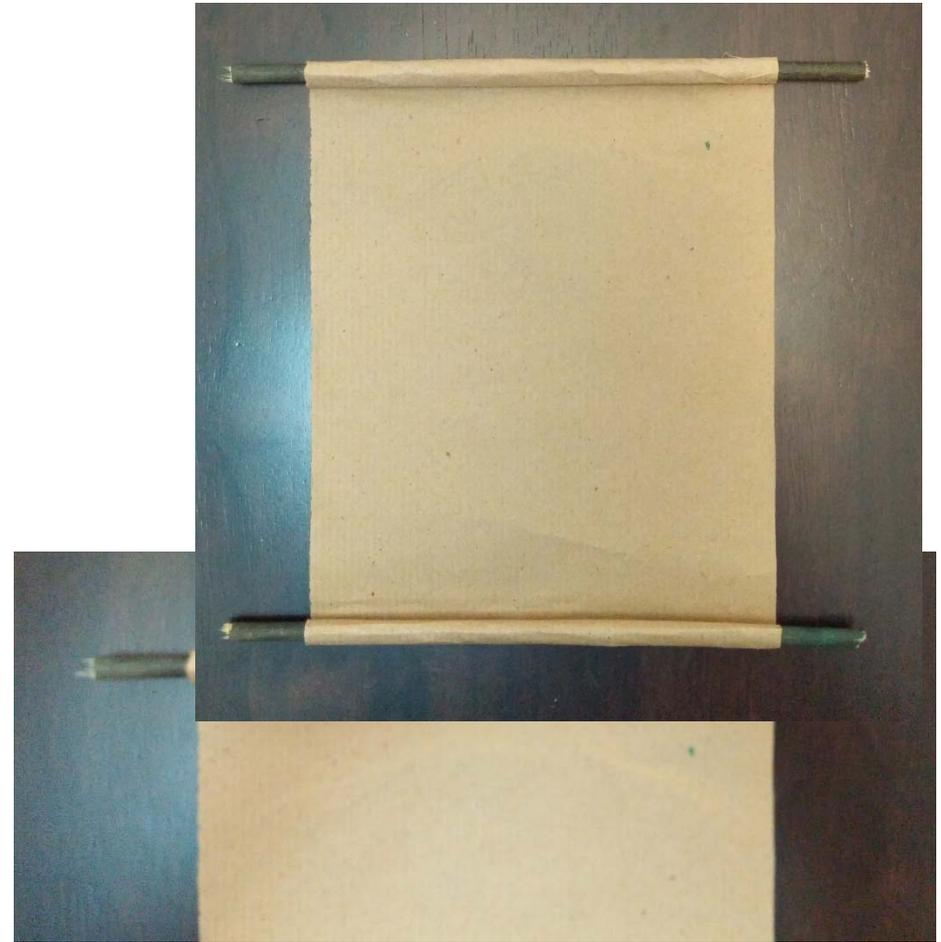
Glue the ends of paper and place the sticks on the glue so it may fully stick to the paper. It might be hard for the kids to use the hot glue guns so help them with this effort and ask them to just place the sticks on the glue. Wrap the paper around the stick a few times. Do this on both ends of the paper. You may write the few starting sentences yourself.

¹ You may use any sort of paper that looks antique and aged.

In the Name of God

Salaam, my dear Imam...

Salaam, my kind and compassionate father...



Ask the participants to write a letter to the Imam of Our Time (May God the exalted hasten his return). Before you start writing, as a group, you may talk with them about what should be written in the letters and then ask them to start writing. Ask the kids to divide the paper into two sections and write half of it during the craft portion of the program and the rest may be written at home while during it they pay careful attention. Tell them to take good care of their letters and know that the Imam of Our Time is fully aware of what they have written in these letters.



In the end, roll the paper and tie it around with a strip of Burlap fabric.