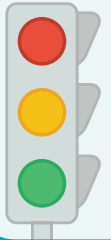


Being Sincere for Allah



Learning Objectives

In this lesson, I will:



Define ikhlas

Differentiate between good and bad intentions

Explain the importance of 'secret deeds'



Key Words

Sincerity (*ikhlas*) - الإِخْلَاصُ

Actions - الْأَعْمَالُ

Donor

T Thinking Starter

Can you think of a time when you did something kind for someone without them knowing?



What Is Ikhlas?

Allah سبحانه وتعالى says:

قُلِ اللَّهُ أَعْبُدُ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ دِينِي

“Say, “It is (only) Allah that I worship, being sincere in my devotion to Him.”” (Surah az-Zumar:14)



Ikhlas (sincerity) means doing something only for the sake of Allah.

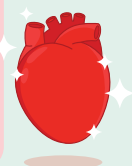
Allah is our only Rabb, and we worship Him Alone. Ikhlas is one of the most important aspects of our din. Without ikhlas, Allah will not accept our good deeds, and we will not be rewarded for them.

Sometimes, we do good deeds hoping others will praise us or reward us, but this is the opposite of ikhlas. Ikhlas means doing good deeds just to make Allah happy.

Ikhlas is all about the intentions in our hearts. Allah is the All-Knowing and He knows everything in our hearts.



Sincerity makes your heart shine!





Task 1

Circle the intentions that will make Allah happy and make your heart shine.



I am praying salah so that my mum stops bothering me.



I will be patient with my sister so that Allah is happy with me.



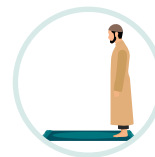
I will help my mum with the chores so everyone says I am so helpful.



I will wear hijab to follow Allah's command.



I will recite Qur'an so that I get dessert.



I will pray Salah to get close to Allah.

Intentions

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ

“Actions are according to intentions.” (Bukhari)

Our intentions (why we do something) are very important. When we do a good deed, we should always intend to seek the pleasure of Allah. If we do good deeds with the wrong intention, we won't get any reward and may earn a sin instead.

A small action with a sincere intention can bring huge rewards. You may give 1 cold coin to charity, but ikhlas can bring you the reward of giving 1,000 gold coins.

Always think and ask yourself: Why am I doing this?



Allah is so Kind that He rewards us for daily actions, which we might not even think of as acts of worship – just by our intention! For example, if you clean your bedroom with some of the following intentions, it will become an act of worship which you are actually rewarded for:

I want to clean my room because Allah loves those who are clean.

I want to make my mum happy, which makes Allah happy.

I want my room to be clean so that angels come with their blessings.



Task 2

Think of three good intentions for studying hard at school, and write them down.

1

2

3

The Secret of Sincerity: Secret Deeds

Sometimes, Shaytan tries to spoil our good actions by making us boast about them. The secret to being sincere is to do as many ‘secret good deeds’ as possible. This keeps our intentions pure and polishes our hearts.

IT'S STORY TIME!

The Mystery Donor of Madinah

For years, the poor of Madinah found food left at their doors during the night. They only found out who the ‘mystery’ donor was on the day he passed away.

It was none other than Zayn al-‘Abidin ‘Ali ibn al-Husayn رحمه الله, the great grandson of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم – a man who was very close to Allah سبحانه وتعالى.



When they bathed Zayn al-‘Abidin after his death, they noticed something strange: there were these marks on his back and shoulders. These marks were from carrying food on his shoulders and secretly delivering it to people at night for many years.

Allahu Akbar! Zayn al-‘Abidin did this secret deed just to please Allah for so many years, and nobody knew about it while he was alive!

A **donor** is someone who gives something, such as money, food, or other help, to a person in need.



Task 3

Finish off the following story.

Musa's Special Secret With Allah

Musa was an ordinary boy living in a small village, but he had a big heart. One day, Musa noticed something in his village that made him want to do a good deed in secret. He didn't want anyone to know it was him, not even his family or friends...

I Act On What I Learn

I will do a secret deed only for the sake of Allah!



P Progress Check



1. What is ikhlas?

☐

2. What are good and bad intentions for praying salah?

☐

3. Why is it important to do secret good deeds?

☐