

# MAP Jr Youth Group - Lesson 1

9/15/19

## I. Introduction:

- A. Why are we studying Islam through the lens of manners and the Life of the Prophet (SAW)?
- B. "The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) occupies a particular place in the life and conscience of Muslims today, just as he did in the past."
- C. "Muhammad (SAW) simply reminds the faithful of God's presence: he initiates them into His knowledge and discloses the initiatory path of spirituality through which he teaches his Companions and community that they must transcend the respect and the love they have for him in the worship and love they must offer to and ask of the One, who begets not and is not begotten."
- D. "Our attention is mainly focused, throughout the narration of the story of his life, on situations, attitude or words that could reveal Muhammad's personality and what it can teach and convey to us today. When Aisha (RA), his wife, was once questioned about the Prophet's (SAW) personality, she answered: "His character [the ethics underlying his behavior] was the Quran."
- E. "This is indeed the primary ambition of this work": making of the Messenger's life a mirror through which readers facing the challenges of our time can explore their hearts and minds and achieve an understanding of questions of being and meaning as well as broader ethical and social concerns."

## II. Chapter One: Encounter with the Sacred

### A. Tawhid

1. Monotheism with history of prophethood
2. "To God we belong, and to Him we return"

### B. Lineage of the Prophet - Prophet Ibrahim

1. Insistent and continuous expression of pure monotheism - human consciousness adherence to the divine project
2. Central figure In the Islamic tradition of the God and the line of prophets - blood father of this lineage of Ishmael leading up to Muhammad (S). Ibrahim and Ishmael sanctified this place in Mecca by building the Kaaba

### C. Spiritual Lineage

1. Trial of separation and abandonment - never seeking to invoke God and rely on him
2. 'Active acceptance of God's will' - question with ones mind, understand with ones intelligence, submit with ones heart - thru all the grief Ibrahim develops a relationship with God
3. Second trial of faith
  - a) finds signs in others of God's presence and support that enable him to face the trial
  - b) Teaches Ibrahim humility and recognition of the Creator

- c) Difference from Gospel - experiencing trial in solitude
- D. Facing human trials in solitude vs relationship to the Transcendent that continually insists on the permanence of communication
  - 1. "If my servants ask you concerning Me: I am indeed close [to them]. I respond to the prayer of every supplicant when he or she calls Me."
    - a) An initiation into humility which is a necessary stage in the experience of faith

### III. Review

- A. Which lineage chain from Abraham does the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) come from?
- B. What is an observation about this chain?
- C. Why is the figure of Abraham so important to Muslims?
- D. What is "active acceptance" and why is it an important concept?
- E. What does the trial of Abraham help him to clearly understand?