

Ilm Essentials

Program Overview

Reminder

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- Please remember that the recordings and slides were prepared and taught when the course was live
 - ▣ There may be mention of certain aspects of the course that are no longer applicable

Enable Muslims to live a traditional life, within a modern world

Pleasing to our Lord, in the footsteps of our Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

Background

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- Survey of other learning programs
- Discussion with other programs/scholars
- Shift away from the masājid
 - ▣ Due to the size of the US
 - ▣ Mental shift
 - ▣ Life is moving online

Goals and Objectives

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- Develop a core understanding of the Islāmic sciences
 - ▣ Revive our faith
- Practically implement Islām in our daily lives
 - ▣ Focus on the sunnah
- Protect our faith from foundational change
 - ▣ Islām as a shield

Place of Knowledge in Islām

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- Revelation started by talking about learning
- “Seeking knowledge is incumbent on every Muslim (man and woman)” (Ibn Mājah)
- “Whoever travels a path seeking sacred knowledge, Allah will place him on (make easy for him) a path leading to Paradise. The angels lower their wings for the student of sacred knowledge, pleased with what he is doing” (Tirmidhī)
 - ▣ Because knowledge directs one to Allah from the most accessible paths (i.e. the path of the sunnah and sharīah)

What Should I Be Learning

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- Minimum for each person (fard ayn)
 - ▣ Īmān (Aqīdah)
 - ▣ Islām (Fiqh)
 - ▣ Ihsān (Tasawwuf)
- Minimum for each community (fard kifāyah)
 - ▣ Minimum number of scholars
 - ▣ Establishing prayer in the masjid
 - ▣ Burial services and funeral prayer
- Some impermissible knowledge
 - ▣ Black magic
 - ▣ Astrology

The Beginning of Study

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- Correct your intention
 - ▣ For the pleasure of Allah Most High
 - To be able to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him
 - ▣ Incorrect intentions
 - Wield knowledge like a sword
 - Show off how much you know
 - Attract people to oneself

The Beginning of Study

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- Choose the most important based on your level
 - ▣ Avoid learning “fads”
- Recognize our place
 - ▣ We are learning because we don’t know
 - ▣ Be a clean slate for the teacher
 - Build a foundation
 - Fit in previous knowledge
 - Leave whatever doesn’t fit
 - We are like children when we are before the scholars
 - Need to be protected from certain things
 - Need to have the trust of a child

Place of the Scholars

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- Choose an appropriate teacher
 - ▣ “Verily this knowledge is dīn, so be careful who you take your dīn (knowledge) from” (Muslim)
- “The ulamā are the heirs of the Prophets. The Prophets do not leave money as a bequest, rather they leave knowledge” (Tirmidhī)
- “Verily the ones most fearful from My servants are the ulamā” (Quran 35:28)

Place of the Scholars

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- “Verily Allah does not take away knowledge by taking it from the people, rather He removes it by taking the scholars until none of them remains
 - ▣ Then the people will take ignorant ones as their leaders, who, when asked to deliver rulings, will issue them without knowledge
 - They will go astray and will lead others astray” (Bukhāri)
 - ▣ We pick up any book or video that looks professional
 - Listen to anyone who can quote a few hadīth or verses of Quran
 - Read one blog post and think we know something

Ilm Essentials Methodology

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- Maintain a traditional approach
 - ▣ Curriculum and books
 - Choose the most important subjects
 - Recognizing our level
 - Rely on traditional scholars and books
 - ▣ Teaching methodology
 - Present the dīn as it is
 - Highlighting flexibility where appropriate
- Utilize technology as needed
 - ▣ Technology should help, not define, the course
 - ▣ Dangers of online learning
 - Keep in touch with local scholars

Ilm Essentials Methodology

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- Essentials Program
 - ▣ Focus on core sciences
 - Islām, īmān and ihsān
 - ▣ Key concepts within those sciences
 - ▣ Interaction among the sciences
 - ▣ Focused learning

Mushaf Example

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Moving Forward

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- Have confidence in your faith
 - ▣ The stronger you are, the more you can help others
- Act with purpose and intent
 - ▣ Confidence is key to success as a Muslim
- Benefit your family
- Benefit your friends
- Benefit your community
- Benefit the ummah

Essentials Program Outline

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- Aqīdah (7 lessons)
- Tahārah (9 lessons)
- Islamic Scholarship (4 lessons)
- Salāh (19 lessons)
- Sawm (3 lessons)
- Zakāh (3 lessons)
- Purification of the Heart (11 lessons)
 - ▣ Articles and Resources

Fees and Schedule

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- Have 12 months to complete the entire course
 - ▣ Move through at your own pace
 - But target at least 1-2 sessions each week
- One-time registration fee
 - ▣ Covers the entire course

Recommended Reading

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□ The Heirs of the Prophets

▣ Ibn Rajab al-Hanbalī

■ Translated by Zaid Shākir

- <http://www.meccabooks.com/378-the-heirs-of-the-prophets-9781929694129.html>

Questions and Discussion

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