

Learning about the Prophets of Islam: **Prophet Lut**

(alayhi salaam)

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Lesson One: What is a Prophet?

This lesson is for younger students who may not be familiar with the concept of a prophet. It can also be used as a review lesson. This section can be omitted for older children or if this lesson has been completed during a study of a different prophet through TJ's lessons.

- Objectives:**
- Learn why Allah sent prophets
 - Learn the names of some prophets
 - Learn that prophets were sent to different groups of people living long ago.

Activity 1.1: Reading/Listening

Read/listen to the poem: "The Prophets and Messengers" from Islam4Kids:

<http://www.islam4kids.com/i4k/i4k.cfm?scn=poems&pm=poems/The Prophets And Messengers.htm>

Activity 1.2: Discussion

Why were prophets sent?

Name some prophets who were sent.

Lesson Two: Location

Objective: Identify and learn a little about the region where this prophet lived/was sent.

Activity 2.1: Where did Prophet Lut (alayhi sallam) live?

Prophet Lut lived in the city of Sodom which, according to "The Stories of the Prophets," was on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

Find the Dead Sea in the map below. Find the western shore.



Activity 2.2: Learn about this region as it is today

The Dead Sea (Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2006.)

Dead Sea, salt lake, situated between Israel and Jordan, and forming part of the border between the two countries. The surface of the Dead Sea, 408 m (1,340 ft) below sea level as of 1996, is the lowest water surface on Earth. The lake is 76 km (47 mi) long .

The Dead Sea is fed mainly by the Jordan River, which enters the lake from the north. Several smaller streams also enter the sea, chiefly from the east. The lake has no outlet, and the heavy inflow of fresh water is carried off solely by evaporation, which is rapid in the hot desert climate.



ALLSTOCK, INC./Nathan Benn

Due to large-scale projects by Israel and Jordan to divert water from the Jordan River for irrigation and other water needs, the surface of the Dead Sea has been dropping dangerously for at least the past 50 years. Environmental groups, led by Friends of the Earth, launched a "Let the Dead Sea Live" campaign in 2001 to preserve the lake and its unique environmental qualities. In September 2002 Israel and Jordan agreed to construct a 320-km (199-mi) pipeline that would link the Dead Sea with the Gulf of Aqaba, to slow down the process of evaporation of the lake's waters. If the shrinkage is allowed to continue, it is likely that the Dead Sea might disappear altogether by 2050.

Nearly nine times as salty as the ocean, the Dead Sea contains at a depth of 305 m (1,000 ft) some 27 per cent solid substances: sodium chloride (common salt), magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium bromide, and many other substances. Because of the density of solids in the sea, the human body easily floats on the surface. The high salt concentration means, however, that the lake contains no life of any sort except for a few kinds of microbes; fish carried in by the Jordan soon die, and even salt-water fish put into its waters cannot survive.

The Dead Sea is economically important as a source of potash, bromine, gypsum, salt, and other chemical products, which are extracted inexpensively. The shores of the Dead Sea are of growing importance as a winter health resort. The lake is closely associated with biblical history; the sites of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are traditionally located on the site of the lake, and the Essenes produced the manuscripts known today as the Dead Sea Scrolls in their community on the north-west shore of the lake.

Dead Sea

Israel and Jordan share the shoreline of the Dead Sea, the lowest elevation on the surface of the Earth. Nearly nine times saltier than the ocean, this aptly named body of water supports few plants and no animals except brine shrimp. However, the sea yields rich minerals which are extracted by Israeli companies to make table salt, fertilizers, and drugs. In historical accounts, the Dead Sea is referred to by names such as the Salt Sea, the Offensive Sea, and the Sea of Lot. ALLSTOCK, INC./Nathan Benn



Photo Researchers, Inc./Kjell B. Sandved

Salt Flats of the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea lies between Jordan and Israel. The northern half of this landlocked salt lake belongs to Jordan, while the southern half is divided between Jordan and Israel. When fish from the River Jordan swim into the sea from the north, they die as soon as they reach its extremely salty waters. The Dead Sea is not used to any great extent for navigation, and the Jordanian shoreline is mostly deserted. The high salt concentration of the salt flats near the Dead Sea allows little or no vegetation. Photo Researchers, Inc./Kjell B. Sandved Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2006.



Dead Sea Salt Works

Between Israel and Jordan lies the Dead Sea, where factories mine salt. The most saline body of water in the world because of rapid evaporation, the Dead Sea is nearly nine times saltier than ocean water. The Dead Sea is economically important not only for salt, but also for potash, bromine, and gypsum. Corbis/Moshe Shai
Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2006.

Discussion:

The Dead Sea is in between which two countries? _____

What is significant about the sea level of the Dead Sea?

How much salt does the Dead Sea have? _____

Is there any type of organism that lives in the Dead Sea?

Why are there no other organisms that live here? _____

Lesson Three: Prophet Lut and his message

Activity 3.1: Read about Prophet Lut (alayhi sallam): From: "Stories of the Prophets" by Ibn Kathir

(Teacher: The story contains mature content so be sure to read through first and decide if you want to edit the story for younger audiences).

Prophet Abraham (PBUH) left Egypt accompanied by his nephew Lut (PBUH), who then went to the city of Sodom (Sadum), which was on the western shore of the Dead Sea. This city was filled with evil. Its residents waylaid, robbed and killed travelers. Another common evil among them was that men had sex with men instead of with women. This unnatural act later became known as sodomy (after the city of Sodom). It was practiced openly and unashamedly. It was at the height of these crimes and sins that Allah revealed to Prophet Lut (PBUH) that he should summon the people to give up their indecent behavior, but they were so deeply sunk in their immoral habits that they were deaf to Lot's preaching.



Swamped in their unnatural desires, they refused to listen, even when Lot warned them of Allah's punishment. Instead, they threatened to drive him out of the city if he kept on preaching. Allah the Almighty revealed: The people of Lot (those dwelt in the towns of Sodom in Palestine) belied the Messengers when their brother Lot said to them: "Will you not fear Allah and obey Him? Verily! I am a trustworthy Messenger to you. SO fear Allah, keep your duty to Him, and obey me. No reward do I ask of you for it (my Message of Islamic Monotheism) my reward is only from the Lord of the Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists). Go you in unto the males of the Alamin (mankind), and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your wives? Nay, you are a trespassing people!" They said: "If you cease not, O Lot! Verily, you will be one of those who are driven out!" HE said: "I am indeed, of those who disapprove with severe anger and fury your (this evil) action (of sodomy). My Lord! Save me and my family from what they do." SO We saved him and his family, all except an old woman (this wife) among those who remained behind. (Ch 26:160-171 Quran)

The doings of Lot's people saddened his heart. Their unwholesome reputation spread throughout the land, while he struggled against them. As the years passed, he persisted in his mission but to no avail. No one responded to his call and believed except for the members of his family, and even in his household, not all the members believed. Lot's wife, like Noah's wife, a disbeliever. Allah the Almighty declared: Allah set forth an example for those who disbelieve, the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot. They were under two of Our righteous slaves, but they both betrayed their (husbands, by rejecting their doctrines) so they (Noah & Lut) benefited them (their respective wives) not, against Allah, and it was said: "Enter the Fire along with those who enter!" (Ch 66:10 Quran) If home is the place of comfort and rest, then Lut found none, for he was tormented both inside and outside his home.

His life was continuous torture and he suffered greatly, but he remained patient and steadfast with his people. The years rolled by, and still not one believed in him. Instead, they belittled his message and mockingly challenged him: "Bring Allah's Torment upon us if you are one of the truthful!" (Ch 29:29 Quran). Overwhelmed with despair, Lot prayed to Allah to grant him victory and destroy the corrupt. Therefore, the angels left Abraham (pbuh) and headed for Sodom the town of Lut (pbuh).

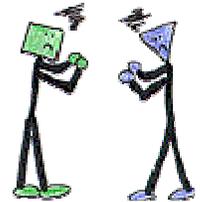
They reached the walls of the town in the afternoon. The first person who caught sight of them was Lot's daughter, who was sitting beside the river, filling her jug with water. When she lifted her face and saw them, she was stunned that there could be men of such magnificent beauty on earth. One of the tree men (angels) asked her: "O maiden, is there a place to rest?" Remembering the character of her people she replied, "Stay here and do not enter until I inform my father and return." Leaving her jug by the river, she swiftly ran home.

"O father!" she cried. "You are wanted by young men at the town gate and I have never before seen the like of their faces!" Lot felt distressed as he quickly ran to his guests. He asked them where they came from and where they were going. They did not answer his questions. Instead they asked if he could host them. He started talking with them and impressed upon them the subject of his people's nature. Lot was filled with turmoil; he wanted to convince his guests without offending them, not to spend the night there, yet at the same time he wanted to extend to them the expected hospitality normally accorded to guests.

In vain he tried to make them understand the perilous situation. At last, therefore, he requested them to wait until the night fell, for then no one would see them. When darkness fell on the town, Lot escorted his guest to his home. No one was aware of their presence. However, as soon as Lot's wife saw them, she slipped out of the house quietly so that no one noticed her. Quickly, she ran to her people with the news and it spread to all the inhabitants like wildfire. The people rushed towards Lot quickly and excitedly. Lot was surprised by their discovery of his guests and he wondered who could have informed them. The matter became clear, however, when he could not find his wife, anywhere, thus adding grief to his sorrow.



When Lot saw the mob approaching his house, he shut the door, but they kept on banging on it. He pleaded with them to leave the visitors alone and fear Allah's punishment. He urged them to seek sexual fulfillment with their wives, for that is what Allah had made lawful. Lot's people waited until he had finished his short sermon, and then they roared with laughter. Blinded by passion, they broke down the door.



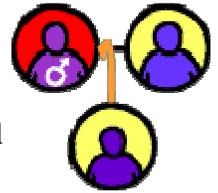
Lot became very angry, but he stood powerless before these violent people. He was unable to prevent the abuse of his guests, but he firmly stood his ground and continued to plead with the mob. At that terrible moment, he wished he had the power to push them away from his guests. Seeing him in a state of helplessness, and grief the guests said: "Do not be anxious or frightened, Lot for we are angels, and these people will not harm you." On hearing this, the mob was terrified and fled from Lot's house, hurling threats at him as they left.



The angels warned Prophet Lut (pbuh) to leave his house before sunrise, taking with him all his family except his wife. Allah had decreed that the city of Sodom should perish. An earthquake rocked the town. IT was as if a mighty power had lifted the entire city and flung it down in one jolt. A storm of stones rained on the city. Everyone and everything was destroyed, including Lot's wife.

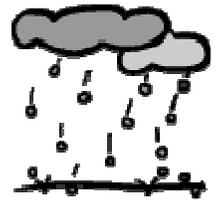
Allah the Almighty recounted this story: And tell them about the guests (angels) of Abraham. When they entered unto him, and said: "Salaaman (peace)!" Abraham said: "Indeed! We are afraid of you." They (the angels) said: "Do not be afraid! We give you glad tidings of a boy (son) possessing much knowledge and wisdom." (Abraham) said: "Do you give me glad tidings (of a son) when old age has overtaken me? Of what then is your news?" They (the angels) said: "We give you glad tidings in truth. So be not of the despairing." Abraham said: "And who despairs of the Mercy of his Lord except those who are astray?" (Abraham again) said: "What then is the business on which you have come, O Messengers?" They (the angels) said: "We have been sent to a people who are Mujrimeen (criminals, disbelievers, polytheists, sinners). (All) except the family of Lot. Them all we are surely going to save (from destruction)." Except his wife, of whom We have decreed that she shall be of the those who remain behind (she will be destroyed).

Then when the Messengers (the angels) came unto the family of Lot, he said: "Verily! You are people unknown to me." They said: "Nay! We have come to you with that (torment) which they have been doubting. And we have brought to you the truth (the news of the destruction of your nation) and certainly, we tell the truth. Then travel in a part of the night with your family, and you go behind them in the rear, and let no one amongst you look back, but go on to where you are ordered."



And We made known this decree to him, that the root of those (sinners) was to be cut off in the early morning. The inhabitants of the city came rejoicing (at the news of the young men's arrival). Lot said: "Verily! These are my guests, so shame me not. And fear Allah and disgrace me not." They (people of the city) said: "Did we not forbid you to entertain (or protect) any of the Alamin (people, foreigners, strangers etc) from us?" Lot said: "These (the girls of the nation) are my daughters to marry lawfully) if you must act so." Verily, by your life (O Muhammad), in their wild intoxication they were wandering blindly.

So As As-Saihah (torment, awful cry etc) overtook them at the time of sunrise; and We turned (the towns of Sodom in Palestine) upside down and rained down on them stones of baked clay. Surely! In this are signs for those who see (or understand or learn the lessons from the Signs of Allah). And verily! They (the cities) are right on the highroad (from Mecca to Syria, i.e. the place where the Dead Sea is now). Surely! Therein is indeed a sign for the believers." (Ch 15:51-77 Quran) Allah the Exalted also declared: So we saved him and his family, all, except an old woman (his wife) among those who remained behind. Then afterward We destroyed the others. We rained on them a rain of torment. How evil was the rain of those who had been warned. Verily, in this is indeed a sign yet most of them are not believers. Verily! Your Lord, He is indeed the All Mighty, the Most Merciful. (Ch 26:170-175 Quran)



The book was closed on the people of Lot (pbuh). Their towns and names have been erased from the face of the earth. Gone are they from memory. One book was closed of the books of corruption. Lot (pbuh) proceeded towards Abraham (pbuh). HE visited him, and when he recounted the story of his people, he was surprised to learn that Abraham (pbuh) already knew. So Lut (pbuh) continued to invite people to Allah, as did Abraham (pbuh), the patient one who turned to Allah repentantly, and the two held firm to their mission.

Activity 3.2 Prophet Lut Study Guide

After reading about Prophet Lut from "Stories of the Prophets," answer the following questions.

1. According to the reading, what Sodom is in what present day country? _____
2. Who was Lut's uncle? _____
3. How did the people respond to Lut's preaching? _____
4. What did Lut say his reward for conveying the message was?

5. Lut's family was saved from the punishment of Allah except for whom? _____
6. What other Prophet's wife refused to listen to the message of her husband like Lut's wife?

7. Who approached Lut's daughter? _____
8. What were they disguised as? _____
9. Who informed the townspeople of the visitors? _____
10. How did the mob respond to Lut's pleas to partake in what Allah made lawful?

11. How did the people respond when they found out the guests were angels?

12. What was Allah's punishment for this town? _____
13. Why were they being punished?

14. Were there any survivors? _____
15. As-Saihah overtook the people at sunrise. What is As As-Saihah? _____

Activity 3.3 Further Reading:

Read about Prophet Lut (alayhi salaam) in these ayaat: Try to read the Arabic and English.

Sura 7, Ayaat 80-84; Sura 11, Ayaat 63-83; Sura 15, Ayaat 57-77; Sura 29, Ayah 26, 28-35; Sura 37, Ayaat 133-138; Sura 51, Ayaat 31-37; Sura 54, Ayaat 33-39; Sura 66, Ayaat 10

Also, after each group of ayaat, it is a good idea to read the tafsir.

Teacher: If desired, assign some ayaat as copywork in Arabic. Also, select one group of ayaat to use as repeated reading exercises in Arabic to build fluency, insha Allah. Have student read the ayaat you have selected several times daily in Arabic during the duration of the

Lesson Four: Vocabulary-English

These are some words/phrases found in the story of Prophet Lut. Look them up, write a definition and use each one in a sentence.

summon

indecent

immoral

bely

cease

in vain

Lesson Five: Vocabulary-Arabic

Find out what the following words are in Arabic. If there is an ayah behind the word, this means you can find the word in that ayah. Write that word.

people (7:80) _____

town/village (7:82) _____

morning (11:81) _____

family (15:59). _____

Note there is more than one word for family in Arabic. Write this one.

messengers (15:61) _____

sea _____

prophet _____

torment (54:38) _____

angel _____

wife (7:83) _____

Note there is more than one word for wife in Arabic.

message _____

daughter _____