



arkan toledo

ISLAMIC SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (SRI)
Arkan Toledo in partnership with ICV

Program Material

Cleanliness: *A Quality of True Believers*

Objective of the Lesson:

One of the important teachings of Islam is to be clean. We can be physically clean, but we should also keep our minds clean. This lesson discusses the importance of cleanliness and how we can keep ourselves clean.



Cleanliness, or **Tahara**, is an important part of our faith. Tahara means total purity and cleanliness of body, clothes, place, and all parts of a Muslim's life. One of the main purposes of cleanliness is to maintain good hygiene. Maintaining cleanliness is also a requirement of our worship.^{5,6} We are required to perform salāt five times a day. Salāt is a form of worshipping our Creator. When we approach our Creator, we should be **clean**. Therefore, before each prayer, we make wūdū.^{5,6}

Wūdū is the most common way of cleaning ourselves. Wūdū is so important that Allāh (swt) has clearly told us the steps of wūdū in the Qur'ān. Without formally cleaning certain parts of our bodies, we cannot worship Allāh (swt). The purpose of wūdū is both **physical cleaning** and **spiritual cleaning**. Spiritual cleaning means we prepare and clean our minds before we do salāt.

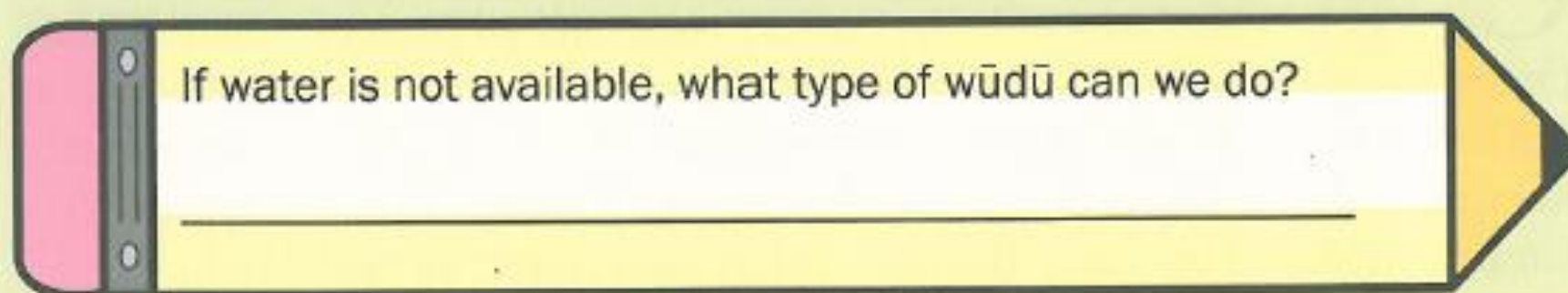


Sometimes wūdū alone will not clean our bodies. Our bodies may be unclean or impure for many reasons. In that case, we should take a full shower to cleanse ourselves. In Islam, it is called **ghusl**. The Prophet (S) taught us how to make a complete ghusl.

If water is not available or it is dirty, or if we are sick and cannot touch water, we still have to clean ourselves. Cleaning our bodies without the use of water is called **tayammum**. It is a dry wūdū. For dry wūdū, a person touches dry soil, dust, or drywall and rubs his face and hands as if he or she is making wūdū. The purpose is to spiritually clean our bodies. If clean water is available and if we are able to use water, we cannot do tayammum.

In our homes and schools, we almost always have clean running water. When Muhammad (S) was teaching Islam to the people in the desert of Arabia, water was quite difficult to get. It was very important to save and store water. Still, the Qur'an and Muhammad (S) taught that washing ourselves frequently by making wudu, and sometimes by making ghusl, is essential.

We should always keep our clothes clean. We cannot make our salāt wearing impure or dirty clothes. Clean clothes also help us stay healthy. We should be careful while eating and drinking that we do not drop food or drink on our clothes.



Eating clean and halal food is also important. Allāh (swt) does not allow us to eat the meat of animals that are dirty, such as pigs.

We should also make sure that we make our salāt in a clean place. This means that we should keep our homes clean. We should also keep our masajid very clean. When we keep our rooms and masajid tidy, it is easier to keep these places clean. Our shoes may carry dirty things from the street, so we should take our shoes off when we enter the masajid. For the comfort of others, we should not wear smelly socks.

We are not supposed to touch the Qur'an if we are not clean. It is preferable that we make wūdū before reading the Qur'an.

Along with physical cleanliness, Islam wants us to clean our wealth and our souls. We clean our wealth by giving zakat. It is a small part of our extra money that we



pay to the poor. The poor have a right to this money. When we give them their share, Allāh (swt) purifies the rest of the money that we are left with.

We cleanse our souls by making salāt. Every year, we also cleanse our souls by fasting during the month of Ramadan. It is narrated in a Hadīth that whoever fasts during the month of Ramadan, has his previous sins forgiven. Thus, fasting cleanses our souls. The annual pilgrimage to Makkah, the Hajj, also cleanses our souls. If the Hajj is accepted by Allāh (swt), the person returns as if he or she is a newborn—without any sin. An accepted Hajj wipes away all our previous sins.



The steps of wūdū are not mentioned in the Qur’ān. True / False

Wūdū cleans us physically and spiritually. True / False

Tayammum is a type of shower. True / False



Attachment 1 – Home Activities

Student Name:

School:

Date:

1. What are two ways to clean our bodies?

2. Your friend Jabeer is very sick. The doctor told him not to touch water. He wants to make salāt. What kind of wūdū can he make?

3. How do we purify our extra money?

4. Unscramble the following words to find meaningful words. These words were used in the lesson.

S H G U L _ _ _ _ _

D U U W _ _ _ _ _

A C N E L _ _ _ _ _

5. Circle **T** if the sentence is true. Circle **F** if the sentence is false.

If our bodies become very dirty, we can do tayammum. T F

By fasting during the month of Ramadan, we cleanse our souls. T F

Allāh has given clear steps for wūdū in the Qur'ān. T F

Before touching the Qur'ān, we must always do ghusl. T F

I am feeling too lazy to make wūdū, so I can make tayammum. T F

