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# ABRAHAM: UNDER THE BLESSING OF GOD

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Grade Level:5-6 /10-12y




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**Islamic Religious Education:  
Ibrahim Under the Blessing of Allah**

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**Key Words**

Abraham, Salam, Shalom, Greeting, Blessing

**Competences/Learning Outcomes**

- Students will understand the meaning of blessing by the example of Abraham's life.
- Students reflect on blessings in their own life. They see that they have been already blessed.
- Students experience the impact of a promise. They become a blessing to others by wishing them well.

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## Descriptions



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**Relation to life:** Students know the greeting of a Muslim: "Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh", which translates as: "May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be with you! Thus, the greeting expresses that one wishes one's fellow human beings the benefits of God, which are manifested in His peace, mercy and blessing.

**Textual reference:** The Qur'an tells the story of the visit of the messengers (angels) to Ibrahim several times (Sura 51:24ff; 15:49ff; 11:69-75; 29:31-32). Here too, just as in the Bible's First Book of Moses, we are told that Sarah, given her age, laughs at the announcement of a son as a descendant - Isaac means "He laughs" in Hebrew. There is no parallel in the Qur'an for the figurative word that Ibrahim will receive descendants "like stars in the sky and sand by the sea".

**Theological reference:** Just as the blessing formula (sallah Allahu 'alaihi wa sallam) is pronounced when the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned, this also happens when the prophets who preceded him are mentioned. In particular, Ibrahim, who also serves as a role model for every Muslim, is mentioned in the ritual prayer every time the blessing is pronounced over the Prophet Muhammad. But it is always the blessing of Allah Himself that is meant and works: "God it is Who made the earth a dwelling place for you and the sky a canopy. And He formed you and made beautiful your forms, and provided you with good things. That is God, your Lord; so blessed is God, Lord of the worlds." (Sura 40:64)

**Ritual reference:** Islam does not know a mutual blessing among (commissioned) people in the name of God, but it does know - with the saying of the blessing formula over Muhammad and the prophets - the command to the believers to take Muhammad as an example and to bring peace and blessing or the wish to the fellow human being that he may receive Allah's blessing. "Prayer formulas said for Prophet Muhammad and his kin [...] are usually as follows: 'May God's grace and blessings accompany Muhammad, his family and all those who believe in his message'." The word blessing (salam) as used in the Quranic verse is linked to the meaning of giving blessings in 27 places in the Quran. When these Quranic verses are read in relation to the Prophet Muhammad, they can be interpreted as "attaching one's heart to Muhammad, taking him as one's example, and filled with love and reverence, trusting in him as an exemplary leader."



## First Phase: Development of the Topic in Own Subject Lessons

Teaching Steps	Islamic Religious Education
<b>Overall Lesson Objectives / Competences for the Forum</b>	<p>Students can say the Muslim greeting formula and explain and present it as a blessing formula.</p> <p><i>Presentation Material:</i> A greeting card with the inscription "Salaam aleikum....".</p>
<b>Entry</b>	<p>Sitting circle: students write down words of welcome in different languages on cards and place the cards in the middle. Teacher tells the story of the visit of the messengers to Ibrahim according to Sura 11:69-75 (M9a). Students draw pictures that correspond to the story.</p>
<b>Elaboration I</b>	<p>Students underline the greeting formula and the wishes of the messengers for Ibrahim in M9b and transfer them to their pictures as an over- or signature.</p>
<b>Fuse I</b>	<p>Students place picture dictations around the greeting cards in the middle and explain their results.</p>
<b>Elaboration II</b>	<p>Teacher: What does "Allah's mercy and His blessings are upon you" mean to Ibrahim? Teacher records the result on the board: God's blessings are numerous. God said: "... and if you were to enumerate God's benefits (blessings), you would not be able to comprehend them" (Sura 16:18).</p> <p>Work in pairs: Students pantomime or memorialise what blessing means for them.</p>
<b>Fuse II</b>	<p>Students present their results.</p>
<b>Elaboration III</b>	<p>Teacher puts a sentence card with: "Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh" (M9c).</p> <p>Teacher-student conversation: What is the translation? What could the desire for blessing mean today?</p> <p>Individual work: Students write blessing wishes for other students on paper stars (M3).</p>
<b>Fuse III</b>	<p>Students present their results.</p> <p>The star stencils are used as another circle placed on the picture dictations.</p>
<b>Consolidation / Completion</b>	<p>Teacher: Do you know greetings from other religions and their meaning? Teacher puts these on cards next to the Muslim greetings if necessary. The farewell is with "Salam" and "Shalom".</p>



## **Second and Third Phase: Presentation and Exchange in Mixed Small Groups at Stations**

- Find these phases in the **“Guidance for Teachers”** on:  
[www.sharing-worldviews.com](http://www.sharing-worldviews.com)

## **Fourth Phase: Reflection in Own Subject**

- Find these phases in the **“Guidance for Teachers”** on:  
[www.sharing-worldviews.com](http://www.sharing-worldviews.com)



## Material

[M3] Paper Stars

**Work assignment:** Please fill in!





[M9]

**M 9a Koran, Sura, 11:69-75**

“And, indeed, Our messengers came to Abraham with glad tidings. They said, “Peace.” “Peace,” he said, and he hastened to bring them a roasted calf. Then when he saw that their hands reached not toward it, he conceived a fear of them. They said, “Fear not. Verily we have been sent unto the people of Lot.” And his wife was standing there and she laughed. Then We gave her glad tidings of Isaac, and after Isaac, of Jacob. r She said, “Oh, woe unto me! Shall I bear a child when I am an old woman, and this husband of mine is an old man? That would surely be an astounding thing.” They said, “Do you marvel at the Command of God? The Mercy of God and His Blessings be upon you, O People of the House! Truly He is Praised, Glorious.” So, when the awe had left Abraham and glad tidings had come unto him, he pleaded with Us concerning the people of Lot. Truly Abraham was clement, tenderhearted, penitent.

**Work assignments:**

- Read the Qur'anic text and underline the words of the messengers expressing wishes for Ibrahim.
- Use these words to decorate the picture you drew for the visit of the messengers.
- Write in the paper stars (M3) what you would like to give your fellow human beings, for example: "peaceful relationships".

**M 9b and c Word card: Greeting a Muslim**

**"Assalamu 'alaikum wa  
rahmatullahi wa barakatuh"**

**Task:** What do we wish for when we say a “blessing” to our fellow human beings?



## Expectation horizons for the materials

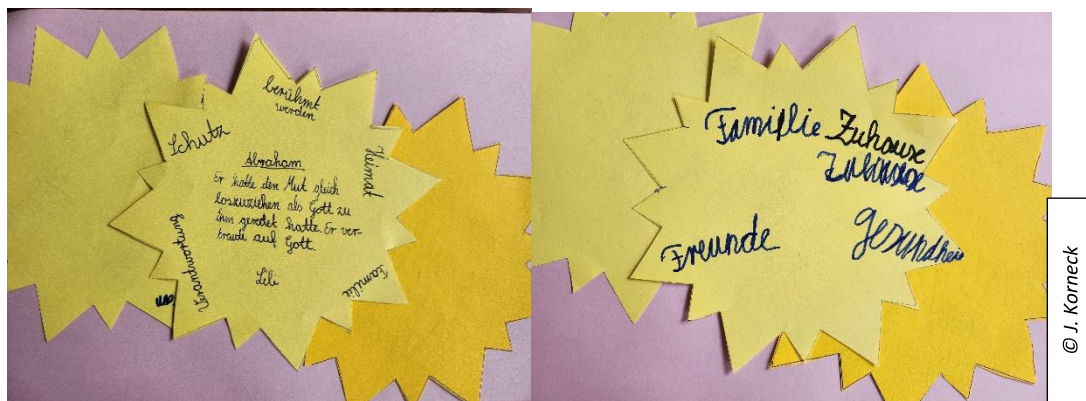


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### M 9c/E: Word map:



Examples for securing results M3/E:



Blessing for Abraham  
and Sarah

There I have  
experienced  
blessings





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## Picture Credits

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„Word Map“, by Aybiçe Tosun and Ayşe Yorulmaz

