

Basira Youth Cohort

Teacher: Muhammad Elmarouk ● Course Length: 1 Year ● Available Spots: 20

Course Structure: Weekly

- 1 hrs Basira Curriculum
- 30 min Hanafi Fiqh
- 30 min Tasawwuf

Year One Curriculum

Tasawwuf

1. Bidayah al-Hidayah, al-Ġazālī - 3 Months

Learning Objective:

A foundational understanding of strengthening one's relationship with Allah and purifying one's intentions. An introductory study of the diseases/sins of the heart and body and how to cure them.

2. Taj al-Aroos, Ibn 'Aṭā Allāh- 9 Months

Learning Objective:

Grow to know Allah. Embark on the journey of spiritual growth and purify your heart and character. Learn what it means to be a slave to Allah.

Fiqh

1. Ascent to Felicity, Shurunbulānī - 1 Year

Learning Objective:

Learn foundational Fiqh of the Fard Ayn with practical application.

Basira Curriculum

1. Why Islam Is True - 4 months

Learning Objective:

An evidence-based inquiry into the fundamental truths of Islam. See clearly that Islam is not a cultural preference but a clear fact.

2. Why Muhammad Is God's Messenger- 4 Months

Learning Objective:

There can be no doubt that the Prophet ﷺ was God's messenger. Learn how we know that his life is a historical fact and how that proves that he simply could not have been an impostor.

3. Islam. Politics, War, and Women- 4 Months

Learning Objective:

Study the Medinan period of the Prophet's messengerhood to reveal a breathtaking story of selflessness, courage, forgiveness, and God-given success, and show you what that entails for loyalty and citizenship in modern secular states. Discuss ISIS and Islamophobia.

Course Outline:

Bidayah al-Hidayah, al-Ġazālī

Filling one's day with what pleases Allah:

- 1) Seeking useful knowledge.
- 2) Worship.
- 3) Good Works.
- 4) Earning a Living and Protecting Religion.

Etiquettes of the Prayer:

1. Being Present.
2. Prophetic Supplication.

Refraining from disobedience:

1. The Eyes.
2. The Ears.
3. The Tongue.
4. The Stomach.
5. The Private Parts.
6. The Hands.
7. The Feet.

Curing diseases of the heart:

1. Envy.
2. Ostentation.
3. Conceit.
4. Arrogance.
5. Pride.

Embodying salient character:

1. The Etiquette with Allah.
2. The Etiquette of a Scholar.
3. The Etiquette of a Student.
4. The Etiquette of the Child with Parents.

Managing Relationships:

1. Strangers.
2. Friends and Companions. (How to choose your friends and social circles)
3. Acquaintances.

Taj al-Aroos, Ibn ‘Aṭā Allāh

Author's Biography

The Refinement of the Souls:

1. Repentance to Allah.
2. Outer and inner effects of acts of disobedience.
3. The struggle against the lower self.
4. Warning against disobedience to Allah.
5. Holding oneself accountable/How to cleanse your heart.
6. The reality of God-consciousness (taqwa).
7. Whoever realizes the immediacy of his departure hastens to acquire provisions.
8. The reality and sweetness of faith.
9. Who is a real man?
10. The Prophets and Allah's friends are the greatest means to Him.
11. The miracles of the Prophet's Companions.
12. A person's close companions/The manner of keeping company.
13. The triviality of this world (dunya).
14. Part of faith is to witness everything as coming from Allah.
15. Relinquishment of planning alongside Allah.
16. The reasons for entry into Paradise and the Hellfire.
17. Whoever is honest with Allah, He will guard him against harm from his enemies.
18. Allah is the king, you are the shepherd and your limbs are your sheep.
19. The person praying is intimately conversing with Allah and His Messenger.
20. The author's intimate discourses with his Lord.

Ascent to Felicity, Shurunbulānī

Purification:

1. Ablution. (Wudu)
2. The Purificatory Bath. (Ghusl)
3. Dry Ablution. (Tayammum)
4. Menstruation.
5. Types of Filth and Purification from Them.
6. Cleaning After Relieving Oneself (Istinja')

Prayer:

1. Prayer Times.
2. Call to Prayer. (Athan)
3. Conditions, Integrals, Sunnahs of the Prayer.
4. Supplications of the Prayer.
5. Things that Invalidate the Prayer.
6. Things that are Disliked in Prayer.
7. Breaking the Prayer.
8. Prayer of the Traveller.
9. Prayer of the Sick Person.
10. The Witr Prayer.
11. Nafl and Emphasized Prayers.
12. Taraweeh.
13. Making up Missed Prayers.
14. The Prostration of Forgetfulness.
15. The Friday Prayer. (Jumma)
16. The Eid Prayer.
17. The Funeral Prayer. (Janaza)

Fasting:

1. The Intention of Fasting.
2. Sighting the Moon.
3. Things that Invalidate the Fast.
4. Making up Missed Fasts.
5. Ittikaf.

Zakat:

1. Zakat Amount.
2. Eligible Recipients of Zakat.

Hajj:

1. How to Perform the Rites of Hajj.
2. The lesser Pilgrimage. (Umrah)
3. Violations of Hajj.

Why Islam Is True

1. Islam Is Fact.

Other religions are cultural preferences, but not Islam. Islam is objectively true and you can prove it. Muhammad Elmarouk explains what this course is about and guides you as you explore some of the differences between Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and atheism.

2. God Exists.

The universe is conclusive evidence for God's existence. Muhammad Elmarouk walks you through traditional Muslim arguments for the existence of God and helps you discover how these arguments are found throughout the Quran.

3. Science, Materialism, And God.

Muhammad Elmarouk explains how to understand laws of nature in light of the arguments for God's existence. He then helps you imagine what science looks like without the bias of materialism.

4. What Does Design Prove?

The favorite theistic argument of our times is the argument from design. Muhammad Elmarouk describes a small flaw in the argument, how that flaw is exploited by atheists, and how the arguments that you have learned can help you avoid this flaw.

5. The Oneness And Majesty Of God.

Muhammad Elmarouk discusses the relation between God's oneness and His omnipotence. He teaches you the logical fallacy of "loaded questions", introduces you to a series of loaded questions that atheists ask about God, and helps you answer them yourself.

6. Suffering And Divine Wisdom.

You will be surprised to learn that suffering actually proves that God exists! Muhammad Elmarouk will explain why and then hold your hand as you explore the Problem of Evil and Suffering to see exactly why it is flawed.

7. From Reason To Revelation.

We can figure out that God exists. We can also figure out that He probably made us for a purpose. But the only way to figure out that purpose is to listen to revelation. God must have sent us revelation.

8. Miracles.

Muhammad Elmarouk shows why scientific reasoning does not conflict with belief in miracles, exactly how miracles prove the genuineness of God's messengers, and how to understand miracles that appear at the hands of non-Muslims.

9. Evidence That The Quran Is From God.

Muhammad Elmarouk explains why the Quran is the greatest miracle of the Prophet (God bless him and give him peace) and how it's still here for everyone to see.

10. Evidence That The Prophet Was God's Messenger.

It is impossible for the Prophet (God bless him and give him peace) to have been an impostor. Muhammad Elmarouk discusses his many miracles, how we know they really happened, and how his life refutes anyone who would claim that he was an impostor.

11. Evolution And Islam.

Muhammad Elmarouk shows you how to join between revelation, reason, and science and then guides you as you learn the evidence for evolution and reconcile it with the direct creation of our father Adam.

12. Morality And The Purpose Of Life.

God sent us messengers to teach us the Sacred Law and prepare us for the afterlife. Muhammad Elmarouk discusses the Sacred Law, the evidence for the resurrection and eternal life after death, and how that affects your life right now

Why Muhammad Is God's Messenger

1. David Koresh, Tragedy At Waco, And The Dangers Of Blind Faith.

Violent American cult leader David Koresh used the authority of God to commit adultery with other men's wives and children and then led dozens to suicidal deaths in Waco, Texas. Surrendering our minds to impostors always leads to tragedy. Learn how to critically evaluate anyone's claim to speak on behalf of God, and why doing that is a religious obligation.

2. Don't Fall For A Myth.

Priests have always made up fantastic myths to bring religious masses under their spell. But not classical Muslim scholars. Learn the evidence-based historical methods of classical Muslim scholarship, integrate them with the historical methods of modern historians, and set yourself up to critically evaluate the religious claims of the Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace).

3. Muhammad Was Real.

There is no real historical evidence for the existence of the Buddha. Nor, for that matter, is there any non-scriptural historical evidence for the existence of Abraham, Moses, or Jesus. But the existence of the Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace) is indisputable historical fact, and you can prove it. Learn about the concept of "mass-transmission" to see how.

4. Birds Defeated An Army Led By Elephants (It's True).

The miracle-claims of other religions are historically suspect, but the miracle-claims of the Muslims are true. Learn why the miraculous defeat of the Abyssinian army that marched on the Kaba is an incontrovertible historical fact.

5. The Ancient Arabians Knew He Would Be A Prophet.

The Prophets Abraham and Ishmael (upon them be peace) had built the Ka'ba, which was the center of ancient Arabian life, politics, commerce, and religion. And they had prayed for a prophet from their descendants. Learn about "preparatory miracles" and grasp how their appearance

before and during the Prophet's childhood (God bless him and give him peace) led the ancient Arabians to believe that he would be that prophet.

6. Jews And Christians Were Expecting Him.

Many previous prophets (maybe even all of them!) predicted the Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace). Learn about the Bible, how we can prove the existence of these prophecies in it, and how exactly they prove that the Prophet is really God's messenger.

7. Khadija Wanted To Marry The Final Prophet.

The Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace) grew into the most gracious, sincere, selfless, wisest, and trustworthy young man of Mecca. Learn why this is historical fact, how it is miraculous, how it is evidence that he was not an impostor, and how Khadija expected—based on evidence—that the man she was marrying would become the final prophet.

8. The First Revelation Was Clearly From God.

The first revelation was a miraculous fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. Walk through some of the opening hadiths of Sahih al-Bukhari to learn about the event of divine revelation, the meaning of prophecy, and Christianity in ancient Arabia.

9. The Early Converts Used Their Minds.

The Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace) called people to accept him as God's messenger based on evidence. Analyze the rationale and motivations of the earliest Muslim converts and grasp the significance of the fact that the members of his household all believed in him and maintained their belief all the way to their deaths.

10. The Public Mission (And Why People Disbelieve).

Public evidence-based proclamation of the falsehood of Arabian paganism was met with power plays and persecution. Muhammad Elmarouk describes the key events of this period and helps you understand why people persist in disbelief despite clear evidence that they are wrong.

11. The Miracle Of The Quran.

The Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace) would simply recite the Quran and people would accept his claim to be God's messenger. Learn the different ways in which the Arabians responded to the Quran and grasp exactly why it was (and still is) his greatest miracle.

12. Emigration To Abyssinia.

Meccan persecution forced many early Muslims to emigrate to the just king of Christian Abyssinia. Learn how these Muslims' sincerity, wisdom, and independence are evidence that the Prophet (God bless him and give him peace) was genuine, and be proud of your faith as you compare the propaganda and dogmatism of polytheism and Christianity to the rational freedom of Islam.

13. Salman Rushdie And The Satanic Verses.

Salman Rushdie's 1988 publication of "The Satanic Verses" raised a storm all over the world. You might be surprised to discover that the incident of the Satanic verses is, in fact, reported in early Muslim sources. Analyze and interpret these reports according to the critical methods of classical Muslim scholarship and learn why the Muslim worldwide response contravened the teachings of the Prophet and his Companions.

14. The Economic And Social Boycott.

Pagan persecution flouted its own tradition of honorable chivalry. Learn how the Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace) won a miraculous moral victory and how disbelievers, too, often display exemplary moral behavior.

15. The Year Of Grief (And The Goodness Of Non-Muslims).

Abu Talib was an honorable, chivalrous, and moral man—but (according to most scholars) he died without accepting Islam. Learn how the concept of evidence-based belief can help you realize the goodness in non-Muslims, and use that to grasp the humility, selflessness, sincerity, and unimaginable liberality and well-wishing of the Prophet (God bless him and give him peace).

16. Rejection At Taif And The Miraculous Ascent To Heaven.

The Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace) sought support at Ta'if but children pelted him away with stones. Muhammad Elmarouk explains how outward humiliation is a clear

sign of his greatness (and genuineness) and how God then fulfilled Biblical prophecy by giving him the supreme spiritual experience of his miraculous ascent to heaven.

17. Pledges Of Support From Yathrib.

Jewish settlements in Yathrib were expecting the appearance of the final prophet but they thought he would be an Israelite. The war-torn Arabian tribes of Yathrib raced to embrace him just as the Jewish tribes turned away. Muhammad Elmarouk describes clear signs of his truthfulness.

18. Mus'ab In Medina.

Mus'ab b. 'Umayr took the clear evidence of the Prophet's genuineness to Medina and, within a year, there were Muslims in every Medinan household. Learn how the evidence-based message of Islam leads to a confident proselytism that is humble, open-minded, tolerant, emotionally sensitive and responds to insults with graciousness.

19. The Second Pledge Of Aqaba.

Both the Medinans and the Prophet's non-Muslim clansmen loved him intensely. How could they not?—He was the best human being who ever graced this world. But the Medinans saw—based on evidence—that his grace would carry into the next world, and they pledged to defend the Prophet (God bless him and give him peace) with their very lives. Learn why the greatest revolutions are the ones that take place in people's hearts.

20. The Emigration.

Unfazed by danger, the Prophet Muhammad (God bless him and give him peace) was one of the last to leave Mecca, and even as the Meccans hatched a great plot to assassinate him, he showed them signs of his genuineness by escaping with whole-hearted grace, optimistic poise, and sheer miraculousness into religious freedom—and eventual victory.

Islam. Politics, War, and Women

1. Religious Government.

The Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, “Religion is nothing but sincere well-wishing for everyone.” When this is the basis of government, the result is not an absolutist theocracy, but something even more beautiful than words can describe. Muhammad Elmarouk shows how the building of the Prophet’s mosque, the bonds of brotherhood between the Emigrants and the Helpers, and the Constitution of Medina solved the problems that motivate Western political thought.

2. Holy War, Martyrdom, And Modern Citizenship.

Muslim extremists have given the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) a bad name. Muhammad Elmarouk uses the Battle of Badr to show that the battles of the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) were not irrational crusades of conversion, but brave, noble, and chivalrous defenses against aggression. He then goes further to show how genuinely religious Western Muslims are not a “fifth column” but the most loyal and responsible citizens that any true democracy could hope for.

3. Religious Tolerance.

All religious governments launch witch-hunts and inquisitions against heretics and infidels—true or false? False! The Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give peace) lived with hypocrites and Jews who were his unmistakable enemies, but as long as they kept to the terms of the Constitution of Medina, they retained citizenship rights under his religious government. Muhammad Elmarouk revisits the Constitution of Medina and illustrates the magnanimous tolerance of the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) in the events surrounding the Battles of Badr and Uhud.

4. Polygamy, Chastity, And The Slander Against Aisha.

Every false prophet—from Musaylima to Joseph Smith—has used his position to acquire wives and concubines. Muhammad Elmarouk shows that the multiple marriages of the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) were for the benefit of his wives and other Muslims, not himself. He then examines his early marriage to Aisha, and how she thereby developed into one of the strongest, most independent, and most confident women the world has ever known.

5. War And Deception.

As armies marched from all over Arabia to besiege Medina, the Companions were frightened as they had never been before. When their Jewish allies began treacherously colluding with the enemy, the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) dispatched a spy to sow division in their ranks, famously telling him, "War is deception". Muhammad Elmarouk responds to Islamophobes who use this phrase to cast doubt on the loyalties of Muslim citizens and explains why the subsequent execution of Medinan Jews was not an anti-Semitic pogrom.

6. Patriarchy And The Abrogation Of Adoption.

Allah Most High commanded the Prophet's adopted son to divorce his wife and then commanded the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) to marry her. Muhammad Elmarouk explains how this proves that the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) was not an impostor, and then studies whether or not it is accurate to describe early Muslim society as being patriarchal.

7. Victory Through Concessions.

Against the will of all of his Companions, the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) agreed to seemingly humiliating concessions at Hudaibiyya, which Allah Most High called a "clear victory" (Quran, 48:1). Muhammad Elmarouk explains why the astounding political foresight of the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) could only have been a revelation from God.

8. Letters To Kings And The Battle Of Khaybar.

From the beginning of his mission, the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) behaved as though his mission would prevail not just in Arabia, but all over the world. After agreeing to seemingly humiliating concessions at Hudaibiyya, he sent letters to neighboring kinds, inviting them to submit to his divine authority, and decisively defeated the ancient Jewish settlement of Khaybar. Muhammad Elmarouk helps you understand why.

9. The Conquest Of Mecca.

The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) marched on Mecca, utterly victorious and, according to the customs of ancient Arabia, completely justified in ordering mass slaughter. Yet he entered humbly with his head bowed so low that it touched his saddle and delivered mass forgiveness. Muhammad Elmarouk explains how that forgiveness was his greatest victory.

10. Islam Prevails.

Muhammad Elmarouk describes how the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) consolidated the conquest of Mecca with victories at Hunayn and Taif, and then a march against the Byzantines at Tabuk (who never showed up). He then uses this to explain the meaning of the Quranic verse, "It is He who sent His messenger with guidance and the religion of truth so that He might make it prevail over all other religions." (Quran, 9:33) means to us today.

11. The Spread Of Islam And The Farewell Pilgrimage.

Dozens of delegations from all over the Arabian peninsula visited the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) declaring their faith and submitting to his political leadership. Idols all over the Peninsula were felled, and Arabian idolatry ended forever. Muhammad Elmarouk explores the meaning of religious tolerance from the perspectives of truth-based vs. truthless worldviews and explains what that means for Muslims today.

12. His Passing.

"The day the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and give him peace) entered Medina," one of his Companions said, "all of it lit up." Then on the day he died, "all of it became dark." Muhammad Elmarouk recounts the moving account of the Prophet's demise (Allah bless him and give him peace), how it proves the genuineness of his messengerhood, and the mission that he left behind for his Companions.

