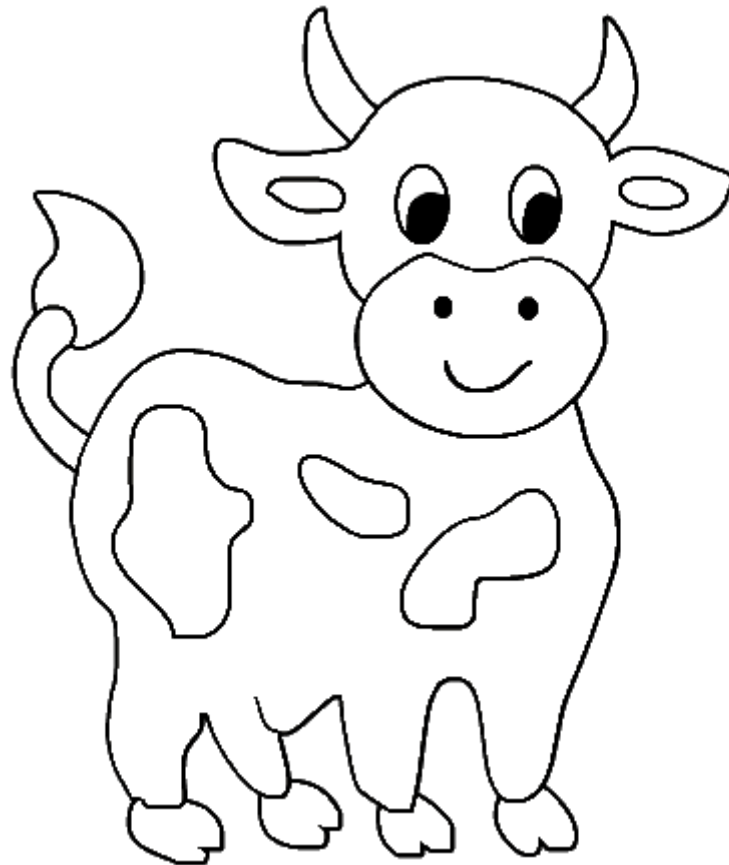


Sura Baqarah

1. This sura has been named after a cow. Before you colour the picture, think about why this sura has been called by this name? (Hint: why have some of the other suras we've learned about been named after animals?)

The sura talks about a cow – its named after the parable (story) of the sacrificial cow.



Summarise ayats #67-71. What does it demonstrate to us about the nature of humankind?

When Prophet Musa told his people that Allah (swt) has commanded them to slaughter a cow, they initially balk at God's command. They then interrogate Prophet Musa on the particulars and finally obey Allah (swt) and sacrifice a cow, albeit with hesitation. It has been reported that the Prophet said, 'Had they taken the nearest cow and sacrificed it, it would have been enough for them.' (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

It shows that we humans are prone to come up with every excuse/delay technique when we are required to do something that we do not want to do! We must remember that there is value in obeying Allah's (swt) command without question; after all a 'Muslim' is 'one who submits to God'.

2. **Ayats #50-54 of this sura tell us part of the story of what happened to the Israelites after the drowning of Firawn. What does it say? (Hint: it also includes a baqarah!)**

When Prophet Musa went atop Mount Sinai in seclusion from the Israelites for 40 nights (to obtain Revelation), leaving them to wait for him in the desert, he came back to find them worshipping a cow that they had fashioned from precious metals. Prophet Musa pointed out the error of their ways and told them to seek Allah's (swt) forgiveness. Allah (swt) forgave them.

3. **According to ayats #60-61, what do the Israelites complain about whilst they wander in the desert for years? What do they ask for? Draw one (or all!) of these items.**

Allah (swt) provides the Israelites with sustenance (food and water) but they are not happy to have just one type of food and tell Prophet Musa to ask Allah (swt) to give them more variety of foods: herbs, cucumbers, garlic, lentils and onions.



4. **In ayats #246-251 of this sura, the Holy Quran tells us that the Israelites begin to establish a Kingdom of their own. Who is their first King and what do the Israelites think of him?**

Talul (or Saul in English). They complained that he was of low social status – lack of wealth and kingly/priestly lineage.

What are the two qualities useful for a good leader which he possessed according to this sura? Give the ayat number.

Ayat #247 – Intelligence and physical prowess

5. **What is the English translation of the dua made by the small group of staunch believers who fought with Talut against Jalut and his large army?**

“Our Lord, pour patience upon us, make our feet steady, and assist us against the disbelieving people.”

Who defeated Jalut? What does the Holy Quran tell us Allah (swt) bestowed upon him?

Prophet Dawud; Allah (swt) gave him prophethood, kingship after Talut, revelation in the form of Zabur and Prophet Sulayman as his son, to name a few

6. Why did the angels question the creation of human beings in ayat #30 of this sura – what were they concerned about?

That they would cause corruption and shed blood

What does the Holy Quran tell us in regards to this in ayat #251?

Corruption of the earth is averted through the repelling of some people by others. Scholars suggest that Allah (swt) uses good people to repel the effects of evil people. Some interpret this to mean that the pious repel those who are impious – and whose sins would otherwise destroy humanity.

7. Ayat #177 lists the qualities of a pious person; what is included?

- a) having belief of Allah (swt), the Day of Judgment, the angels, the Holy Quran and the prophets of Allah (swt)
- b) giving your wealth, in the love of Allah (swt), to relatives, orphans, the needy, travellers, beggars and to free slaves
- c) praying salaah and maintaining it as a priority
- d) paying zakat
- e) keeping your promises
- f) being patient in misfortune (poverty), hardship (illness), and moments of peril

8. In Sura Hadid, the Holy Quran told us that believers must prove their faith by giving charity. Ayats #262-274 of this sura discuss the giving of charity in more detail. What are some of the things it teaches us in regards to how we should make our charitable contributions?

We should not gloat or feel superior when we give charity, as exulting in our own generosity or reminding the needy of their neediness destroys the virtue of charitable giving. We should be kind and gentle with the poor. We should not give charity for appearance's sake. We should give nice things, what we would like to have for ourselves (spend from that which we love – 3:92) and not merely the things we intend to throw away anyway. We should give generously. We should not think selfishly when we seek to help others. Giving charity in secret is encouraged – some scholars believe ayat #274 refers specifically to Imam Ali (as).

9. In previous quizzes, we have discussed the allegations made by the Meccans when Prophet Muhammad (saw) would share Quranic revelations with them. In the early part of this sura, Allah (swt) responds to their doubts with a challenge...what is that challenge? Give the ayat number.

Ayat #23 – to compose and bring a sura of equal calibre to that of the Holy Quran

10. What is the English translation of this famous phrase: لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ^ط. Why do you think Islam advocates this principle?

‘There is no coercion in religion’. Coercion in religion negates the idea of responsibility before Allah (swt), in which one is taken into account for one's actions, decisions and choices for both this life and the Hereafter.

Bonus: Ayatul Kursi is translated as ‘Pedestal Verse’ or ‘Throne Verse’. It is one of the most common passages of the Holy Quran to adorn Masjids and private homes. Which ayat of this sura is the famous ‘Ayatul Kursi’? Try and see if you can decipher and read the ayat in the decorative piece below!

