

Allah knows more than anyone else.

Allah is kinder to us than anyone else.

Allah gives us more things than anyone else.



Allah is in control of everything.

But when we look around us, we see some things happen which might make us sad.

We see people become ill.

We see some people do not have enough food.

We see earthquakes and hurricanes where people are hurt, or sometimes they even die.



Why does Allah let these things happen?

Is Allah kind to everyone?

Or only to some people?



Allah is kind to everyone.

He gave us so many things that we cannot count them all.



But some people do not say thank you to Him.

Some people do not do the things He tells them to do.

Some people say that they don't believe in Allah.



They don't think that Allah is real.

Some people even worship other things apart from Allah, like those who worship other people or statues or fire.



Do you think Allah is happy with that?

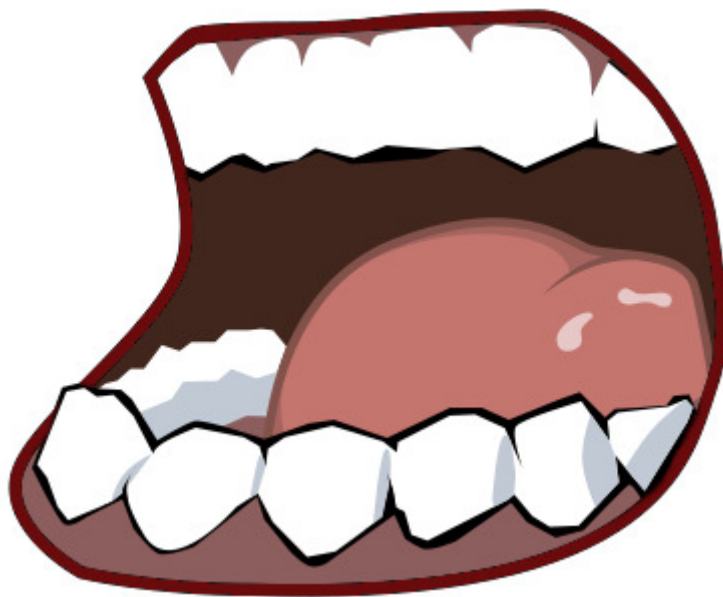
Sometimes Allah punishes people for the bad things they have done.

He gives them so many good things, like food and drink and being healthy and yet they behave badly towards Him.



He gave them hands, but they use their hands to do bad things, like stealing or hurting other people.

He gave them mouths and tongues, but they use them to say bad things.



He gave them brains and made them clever, but then they worship things apart from Allah.

Allah gives them time to stop doing their bad things and to say sorry to Him.

But if they don't do that, then sometimes He punishes them.



Sometimes He punishes them whilst they are still alive.



Sometimes He waits and He punishes them in the world we go to after we die.

Allah gives us time to say sorry for the bad things we have done.

If we say sorry to Him and we stop doing our bad things, then Allah always forgives us.

How kind He is.



Sometimes even good people have things happen which they find makes them sad.

Why is this?



When good people – people who worship only Allah and they do what He tells them to – have problems, what do they do?

They ask Allah for help.

They do more good things.



They say sorry to Allah even more for any bad things they have done.

They remember Allah and think about Him more.

They want Allah to help them; they want Him to take away their problems.

And so Allah helps them.



So because of something happening to a person which he did not like, he then ends up doing more good things than he was doing before.

If something happens to us which we do not like, then who is it who lets that thing happen to us?

It is Allah who lets it happen to us.



So we ask Allah to take away that thing which we do not like.

We ask Allah to forgive us for all the bad things we have done, in case He is punishing us for something bad we did.

We say to ourselves that we will try not to do bad things any more.

We ask Allah to make us patient so that we do not complain to other people about our problem.



We try to be brave even though we might be very sad.

And Allah never forgets about us.

He always listens to us, even when no one else does.

He always helps us if we ask Him with all our heart.



O Allah give us the best things in this life, the life we are living in now.

O Allah give us the best things in the life that we will go into after we die.



Aameen.

Key points for teachers

- Allah is kind and merciful to His creation.
- Allah shows mercy even to those who disbelieve in Him or who disobey Him.
- Some of His creation show gratitude to Him for that.
- Others from the Creation do not.
- The presence of difficulties and hardship in this world does not imply that there is no god, as many people in the West claim.
- Difficulties can occur to people because Allah is punishing them for sins they have committed.
- Difficulties can also occur to people as a test for them, in order to increase them in good deeds and patience.
- For the Muslims, difficulties should increase them in their closeness to Allah. So difficulties can bring about much good.
- There is a wisdom behind all of Allah's actions, even if we do not understand what that wisdom is.
- Allah accepts the repentance of the person when they repent sincerely and change their ways thereafter.
- The comprehensive supplication from Soorah al Baqarah (the second soorah) aayah 201.

Possible discussion points:

- 1) Did anything happen to you which made you sad?
- 2) What did you do when that happened?
- 3) Do other people sometimes feel sad?
- 4) Do good people sometimes have problems?
- 5) What should they do when they feel sad?
- 6) Who can help everyone with their problems?
- 7) Who should we ask to make us happy when we feel sad?