A FREE COMPANION FOR READERS

Ṣalāh and Wuḍūʾ in the Qur'an

Quick-reference pack

These pages gather, from the book, what the Qur'an gives about the prayer and the washing before it. Keep them beside you when you pray, or share them with family and friends.

The prayer at a glance

The Qur'an clearly supplies

- That ṣalāh is commanded
- Appointed times through the day
- The motions of physical cleansing before prayer
- A direction to face
- Standing, bowing, prostrating
- Speech, which the worshipper should understand (strongly implied, 4:43)
- A voice between loud and silent (17:110)
- Listening in silence when the Qur'an is recited (7:204); its application within a led prayer is implied
- Concessions in fear and travel
- Praying together, with the Prophet shown leading (4:102), and a call to prayer

Left open by the Qur'an

- A stated total of daily prayers
- How the times of prayer divide into separate prayers
- How many times each phrase and movement is repeated
- Where the hands go
- A complete fixed sequence of movements
- A compulsory word-for-word script
- Al-Fātiḥah named as compulsory
- Numbers of units in any prayer
- How rows are formed, who stands where, and who may lead

How to read the grades. Stated: the Qur'an says it in words. **Implied:** it follows closely from what the Qur'an says, without being said outright. **Left open:** the Qur'an does not make it a command. Left open does not mean forbidden, wrong or unwanted. What Allah leaves open, He leaves open deliberately, and the book understands that openness as wisdom and as a mercy.

In this pack

The prayer at a glance · Prayer times and their verses · The washing verse, 5:6, in Arabic and English · Words of praise, glorification and supplication from the Qur'an

The prayer as Muslims perform it. The Qur'an names standing, bowing and prostrating. The full form of the prayer as most Muslims perform it today, with its set sequence of movements, its units and its words, is inherited practice handed down through the Muslim community. That shared form has real value. It unites Muslims in one way of praying, gives worship a steady and structured shape, and lets believers pray side by side in congregations across the world. Whatever form is followed, the Qur'an strongly points every worshipper towards knowing what they are saying (4:43).

PRAYER TIMES

What each verse gives

The Qur'an ties the prayer to times of the day (4:103). The table sets the five familiar prayers beside the Qur'an's own words for their times.

Prayer	The Qur'an's wording	Verses	Status
Fajr	*ṣalāt al-fajr* (the dawn prayer); *qurʾān al-fajr* (the Qur'an of the dawn)	24:58, 17:78	Named as a prayer
Dhuhr	*dulūk al-shams* (the decline of the sun); *ḥīna tuẓhirūn* (when you reach midday)	17:78, 30:18	Time given
Asr	within the span from the sun's decline; *ʿashiyyan* (in the latter part of the day); before sunset	17:78, 30:18, 20:130, 50:39	Supported by late-afternoon markers; not named
Maghrib	*ṭarafayi al-nahār* (the two edges of the day); *ḥīna tumsūn* (when you enter the evening)	11:114, 30:17	Time given
Isha	*ṣalāt al-ʿishāʾ* (the nightfall prayer); *ghasaq al-layl* (the darkening of the night); *zulafan mina al-layl* (the near portions of the night)	24:58, 17:78, 11:114	Named as a prayer
Night prayer	*tahajjud*, *nāfilatan lak* (an addition for you), given to the Prophet; surah 73 describes long night standing with recitation	17:79; 73:1–4, 73:20	Named as an addition in 17:79

The key verses

وَأَقِمِ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ طَرَفَيِ ٱلنَّهَارِ وَزُلَفًا مِّنَ ٱلَّيۡلِۚ

Establish the prayer at the two edges of the day and in the near portions of the night. (11:114)

أَقِمِ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ لِدُلُوكِ ٱلشَّمۡسِ إِلَىٰ غَسَقِ ٱلَّيۡلِ وَقُرۡءَانَ ٱلۡفَجۡرِۖ

Establish the prayer from the decline of the sun to the darkening of the night, and the Qur'an of the dawn. (17:78)

So glorify Allah when you enter the evening and when you enter the morning. His is the praise in the heavens and the earth, in the latter part of the day and when you reach midday. (30:17–18)

Glorify with praise of your Lord before the rising of the sun and before its setting. (20:130; also 50:39)

The Qur'an gives the times rather than a total. Reading one prayer at each stated time is a reasonable way of arriving at the five prayers of inherited practice, and each of the five has support in these times. Asr rests on the most indirect evidence of the five. Chapter 3 of the book works through every verse.

The washing verse

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوٓاْ إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى ٱلصَّلَوٰةِ فَٱغْسِلُواْ وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى ٱلْمَرَافِقِ وَٱمْسَحُواْ بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى ٱلْكَعْبَيْنِ وَإِن كُنتُمْ جُنُبًا فَٱطَّهَّرُواْ وَإِن كُنتُم مَّرْضَىٰٓ أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ أَوْ جَآءَ أَحَدٌ مِّنكُم مِّنَ ٱلْغَآئِطِ أَوْ لَٰمَسْتُمُ ٱلنِّسَآءَ فَلَمْ تَجِدُواْ مَآءً فَتَيَمَّمُواْ صَعِيدًا طَيِّبًا فَٱمْسَحُواْ بِوُجُوهِكُمْ وَأَيْدِيكُم مِّنْهُ مَا يُرِيدُ ٱللَّهُ لِيَجْعَلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّنْ حَرَجٍ وَلَٰكِن يُرِيدُ لِيُطَهِّرَكُمْ وَلِيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُۥ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

O you who believe, when you rise to the prayer, wash your faces and your arms to the elbows, wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles. If you are junub, cleanse yourselves. If you are ill or on a journey, or one of you has come from relieving himself, or you have had contact with women (lāmastum al-nisāʾ), and you find no water, then turn to clean, wholesome earth and wipe your faces and your hands with it. Allah does not want to place any hardship on you, but He wants to cleanse you and to complete His favour upon you, so that you may be grateful. (5:6)

What the verse names

1. Wash the face.
2. Wash the arms to the elbows.
3. Wipe the head.
4. The feet to the ankles. The two canonical readings, *arjulakum* and *arjulikum*, both belong to the revealed text: the first most naturally joins the feet to the washed face, and the second to the wiped head.
5. If you are *junub*, cleanse yourselves. 4:43 adds *until you wash yourselves*.

When water cannot be used

1. Illness or a journey, or coming from relieving oneself, or *lāmastum al-nisāʾ*, with no water found.
2. Turn to clean, wholesome earth (tayammum).
3. Wipe the face and the hands with it.

Two more things the Qur'an asks

1. Approach the prayer knowing what you are saying (strongly implied by 4:43).
2. Remember the purpose of the verse: no hardship, a cleansing, and a favour completed.

The verse joins the parts with *wa* (*and*), which does not fix an order, and it names only these parts. How many times each is washed, and the fuller routine of inherited practice, are left open. Chapter 4 of the book covers the washing in detail.

WORDS OF PRAYER

Words the Qur'an gives

The Qur'an commands glorification, praise and supplication (*duʿāʾ*), and leaves the exact wording open. These are some of the words it gives. Whatever you say, say it in a normal voice and know what you are saying (17:110, 4:43).

PRAISE AND GLORIFICATION

ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ

al-ḥamdu lillāhi rabbi al-ʿālamīn

Praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds. (1:2)

سُبْحَٰنَ ٱللَّهِ

subḥāna Allāh

Glory be to Allah. (12:108)

سُبْحَٰنَكَ ٱللَّهُمَّ

subḥānaka Allāhumma

Glory be to You, O Allah. (10:10)

سَبِّحِ ٱسْمَ رَبِّكَ ٱلْأَعْلَى

sabbiḥi-sma rabbika al-aʿlā

Glorify the name of your Lord, the Most High. (87:1)

A first-person rendering, not the words of the verse itself: *subḥāna rabbiya al-aʿlā*, glory to my Lord, the Most High.

وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ

wa rabbaka fa-kabbir

And magnify your Lord. (74:3)

The command to declare the greatness of Allah, *takbīr*.

SUPPLICATION

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ٱهْدِنَا ٱلصِّرَٰطَ ٱلْمُسْتَقِيمَ

iyyāka naʿbudu wa iyyāka nastaʿīn, ihdinā al-ṣirāṭā al-mustaqīm

You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help.
Guide us on the straight path. (1:5–6)

رَبَّنَآ ءَاتِنَا فِي ٱلدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي ٱلْءَاخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ ٱلنَّارِ

rabbanā ātinā fī al-dunyā ḥasanatan wa fī al-ākhirati ḥasanatan wa qinā ʿadhāba al-nār

Our Lord, give us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire. (2:201)

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَآ إِن نَّسِينَآ أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ۚ

rabbanā lā tuʾākhidhnā in nasīnā aw akhṭaʾnā

Our Lord, do not take us to task if we forget or make a mistake. (2:286)

More supplications from the Qur'an

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْوَهَّابُ

rabbanā lā tuzigh qulūbanā baʿda idh hadaytanā wa hab lanā min ladunka raḥmah, innaka anta al-wahhāb

Our Lord, do not let our hearts turn aside after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from Yourself. You are the Giver. (3:8)

رَبِّ ٱجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ ٱلصَّلَوٰةِ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَآءِ

rabbi-jʿalnī muqīma al-ṣalāti wa min dhurriyyatī, rabbanā wa taqabbal duʿāʾ

My Lord, make me one who establishes the prayer, and some of my descendants too. Our Lord, accept my supplication (*duʿāʾ*). (14:40)

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

rabbi zidnī ʿilmā

My Lord, increase me in knowledge. (20:114)

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَآ أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ ٱلْخَٰسِرِينَ

rabbanā ẓalamnā anfusanā wa in lam taghfir lanā wa tarḥamnā la-nakūnanna mina al-khāsirīn

Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves. If You do not forgive us and have mercy on us, we will surely be among the losers. (7:23)

رَبَّنَا ٱغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَٰلِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ ٱلْحِسَابُ

rabbanā-ghfir lī wa li-wālidayya wa li'l-muʾminīna yawma yaqūmu al-ḥisāb

Our Lord, forgive me, my parents and the believers on the day the reckoning takes place. (14:41)

رَّبِّ ٱغْفِرْ وَٱرْحَمْ وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ ٱلرَّٰحِمِينَ

rabbi-ghfir wa-rḥam wa anta khayru al-rāḥimīn

My Lord, forgive and have mercy, for You are the best of those who show mercy. (23:118)

Call on Allah by His beautiful names.

وَلِلَّهِ ٱلْأَسْمَآءُ ٱلْحُسْنَىٰ فَٱدْعُوهُ بِهَا

wa lillāhi al-asmāʾu al-ḥusnā fa-dʿūhu bihā

To Allah belong the most beautiful names, so call on Him by them. (7:180)

About the book. *Ṣalāh and Wuḍūʾ Are in the Qur'an*: *What the Text States, Implies, and Leaves Open* works through every verse on the prayer and the washing before it, and grades each claim as Stated, Implied or left open. It is written for anyone who wants to know what the Qur'an itself says, in plain English, with the Arabic where the wording matters.

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