

How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?

Wonderful words

Prophet: a messenger sent from Allah

Muhammad: the Prophet who received Allah's message to the world.

Allah: God

Fasting: giving up food and drink for a religious observance

Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah to be made once in a life time if possible, this is the 5th Pillar of Islam

Qur'an: the Muslim holy book, for Muslims the final revelation from Allah

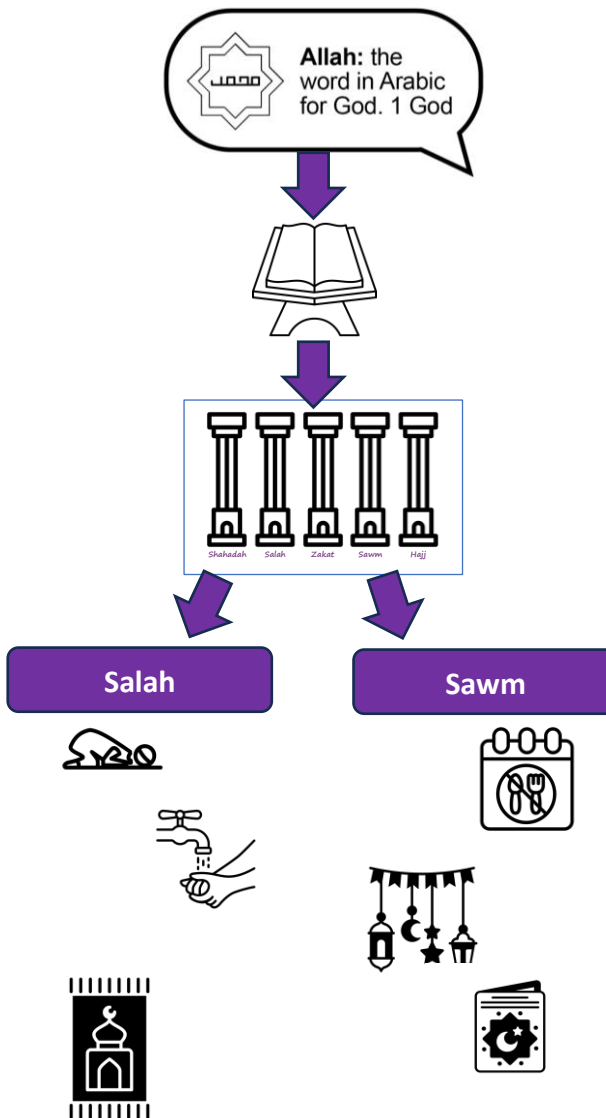
Salah: ritual prayer carried out 5 times per day, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

Shahadah: The Muslim declaration of faith. It includes the beliefs that Allah is the only God, and that Muhammad is Allah's messenger.

Sawm: fasting from food or liquids during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan, this is the 4th Pillar of Islam

Zakah: giving of charity usually 2.5% of income, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

So how does it all work?



Important information

The words Islam, Muslims and Salaam all share the same root SLM which means peace. Islam means to submit to Allah by trusting him with everything they have.

To help Muslims to know what to do they will read the Qur'an which was given to Prophet Muhammad on the Night of Power. The first chapter of the Qur'an tells Muslims all about Allah. The belief in the oneness of Allah is called tawhid.

This belief is also said by Muslims when they say the Shahadah, their statement of belief which is also the first of the Five Pillars of Islam. The pillars are actions Muslims try to complete to worship Allah.

One pillar is called Salah, and this is when a Muslim will pray five times a day facing the Kaba in Makkah. Another is called Sawm, and this is when a Muslim is fasting during the month of Ramadan, if they are able to.

Muslims will also give money to charity, and this is known as Zakah. This is 2.5% of their wealth and helps the poorest people in society. At least once during their lifetime a Muslim should go on a holy journey or pilgrimage to the city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. All of the five pillars show that a Muslim is submitting to Allah by doing what he wants them to do.