



# Why does God ask to be worshiped & what's in it for me?

LESSON PLAN 2 PRESENTATION



## Questions to consider

If we agree that God does not ask to be worshiped out of neediness or narcissism, since these are qualities that pertain to humans and not to God, then upon what basis does God ask to be worshiped?

How can we as humans, with all of our flaws and limitations, know the basis by which God asks to be worshiped?



# Because God said so?!

- A** We want Islam without submission.
- B** We want to believe in God without obedience.
- C** We want to enjoy life without struggle.
- D** We want without sacrifice.



# Ryan's story



watch **18:20-30:00**



# The parable of the fly

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ضُرِبَ مَثَلٌ فَاستَمِعُوا لَهُ ۚ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَنْ  
يَخْلُقُوا ذُبَابًا وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا لَهُ ۗ وَإِنْ يَسْلُبْهُمُ الذُّبَابُ شَيْئًا لَا يَسْتَنْقِذُوهُ مِنْهُ  
ضَعْفَ الطَّالِبِ وَالْمَطْلُوبِ

“O people, here is a parable set forth to you, so listen to it carefully: All those whom you invoke besides Allah can never create (even) a fly, even though they all join hands together for that. And if a fly snatches something away from them, they cannot release it from its possession. (Equally) feeble are the invoker and the invoked” [22:73]



# Connecting worship to the creator

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

People, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you,  
so that you may be mindful [of Him] [2:21]

ذَلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَاعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ

This is Allah: your Lord, there is no God but He, the Creator of everything; so, worship Him. He is Guardian over everything” [6:102]



# What do we mean by worship (عِبَادَة)





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## General worship

Overall obedience to God's commandments

## Ritualistic worship

Specific routines and practices that constitute rituals

- five daily prayers (*salah*)
- pilgrimage (*hajj*)
- fasting (*sawm*)



# Worship and God's benevolence

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

People, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you,  
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الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ  
مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Who spread out the earth for you and built the sky; who sent water  
down from it and with that water produced things for your  
sustenance [2:22]