

Islam: How are Muslim beliefs expressed through practice?

What is the call for prayer?

The words "God is Great, there is no god except the One God" (Allah) are heard and spoken in Arabic.

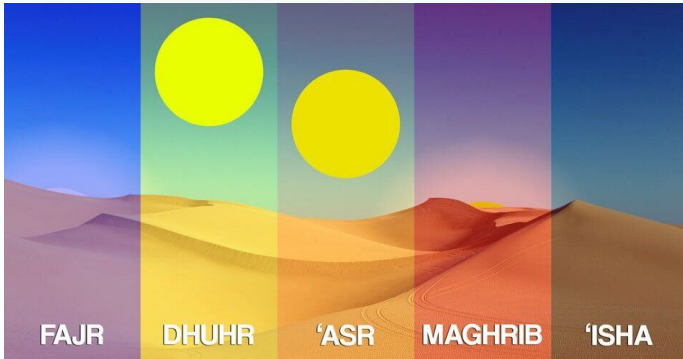
Muslims are called to pray at five different times during the day.

It is traditionally called out from the mosque's minaret (tower).

In modern times, the call to prayer voice is usually a recording.

The sound tells Muslims to listen and that prayer is about to begin inside the mosque.

The second part of the call for prayer tells Muslims to line up for the beginning of prayer.



How do Muslims pray and why is it important?

Salah is the second pillar of Islam. It is the core belief that Muslims should pray five times each day. Prayer times are fixed by the sun and change daily.

Salah allows Muslims to communicate with Allah, listen to Allah and follow the messages and guidance from the prophets.

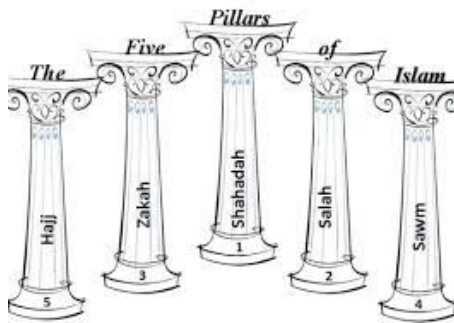
Salah is one way Muslims can remember Allah and turn to Allah for forgiveness. It is a sign that Allah is important in their lives.

- Before praying Muslims must wash.
- Muslims must pray in the direction of Mecca
- They perform certain actions: standing, bowing, kneeling and sitting.
- Unless they are in a mosque, Muslims pray on a prayer mat

Muslim duties

The Five Pillars are the basic duties for Muslims:

1. **Shahada** is the declaration of faith; which is repeated several times a day. 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger'.
2. **Salah** is the belief that Muslims should pray five times each day.
3. **Zakah**. This is the Muslim obligation, for those who can afford it, to give at least 2.5% of their savings every year to the poor.
4. **Sawm** is fasting during daylight in the month of Ramadan (the ninth month in the Islamic calendar).
5. **Hajj** is the pilgrimage to Mecca (The House of Allah) which Muslims should complete at least once in their lifetime.



How do Muslims practice their faith during Ramadan?

Sawm is the fourth Pillar of Islam. Muslims fast during the daylight hours of the month of Ramadan.

They do this to remember how others, who might not have food, feel. It is a great display of self-control.

At sunset, Muslims will break their fast and pray.

During the 30 days, Muslims also spend more time praying, reading the Qur'an and giving up bad habits.

They also reflect and thank Allah for his forgiveness, strength to do the fast and for all Allah has given them.

Key Vocabulary

minaret	A tall thin tower from which Muslims are called to prayer.
misbaha	Prayer beads which Muslims count during prayer. There are 99 beads, one for each of Allah's names.
qibla	The point toward which Muslims turn to pray. It is the direction towards the Kaaba.
raka'ah	The ritual movements during prayer.
salah	Muslim prayers performed five times a day.
pillar	A core belief of Islam.
declaration	Confidently saying something.
shahadah	The declaration of Allah being the one true God.
zakah	Giving money to charity.
pilgrimage	A journey to the holy city of Mecca.

