Surat-ul-Mumtahinah: Verses (1-3)
Betrayal of the Muslim Society is a Major Sin

**Lesson Objectives**

1. Learn and memorize ayaat 1-3 of Surat-ul-Mumtahinah.
2. Learn how a Muslim should deal with hostile enemies.
3. Learn about the sin of betraying the Muslim society.
4. Learn who are the enemies of Islam?
5. Learn and memorize the hadeeth on the attitudes of a hypocrite.

**Vocabulary**

- Al-Mumtahinah
- Aduww
- A’d a’a
- Waliyy
- Awliyaa’
(60:1) O believers do not take My enemy and your enemy as protectors. You give them love and share your secrets although they reject the truth that has come to you. They have expelled the Messenger and you because you believe in your Lord Allah (so how can you love them?). If you truly went out to fight in jihad for My sake, how can you secretly deal with them when I know better what you hide and what you do in the open. Whoever does this from among you has missed following the true path.

(60:2) If they overcome you, they will be your enemies and they will use their hands and speech to hurt you and they would love to see you become disbelievers.

(60:3) Your relatives and your children will not benefit you. On the Day of Resurrection Allah will separate you (into the group going to Heaven and the group going to Hell). Remember that Allah sees everything you do.
Background Story

As you learned in a previous chapter, just before the conquest of Makkah, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was keeping his military plans secret so that the Makkans would not know that he was coming. Then one day he called upon Ali to go with Al-Zubair and Al-Miqdad ibn Al-Aswad on a mission. “Go to Rawdat Khakh (a place near Madinah). There you will find a traveling woman who has a message. Take the letter from her and bring it to me,” the Prophet instructed.

They went to this location and found the woman. They asked her to bring out the letter, but she denied having the letter. They searched her bags and did not find anything. Ali said, “I know that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ did not lie. I swear that we will find the letter even if we have to completely search you.” When she realized that they were serious she went aside and pulled the letter out of her hair. So the companions brought the letter back to Rasoolullah ﷺ.

The Muslims discovered that the letter was from the companion of Prophet Muhammad, Hatib ibn Abi Balta’a. The letter was addressed to some leaders of Makkah. It informed the Quraysh of Rasoolullah’s possible plans. The Prophet asked, “What is this O Hatib?” He said, “Don’t be in a hurry to punish me, O Messenger of Allah. I used to have a protective agreement with the Quraysh even though I was not related to them. The rest of the Muhajireen have relatives among the Quraysh who can protect their wealth and family in Makkah. Since I do not have family, I thought I would use this letter to get the Quraysh to protect my family. I did not do this because I have tuned away from Islam. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “He has told the truth.”

‘Omar ibn Al-Khattaab said, “O Messenger of Allah, let me kill this hypocrite.” Muhammad ﷺ called on ‘Omar not to rush to judgment and said, “He attended Badr. How do you know, maybe Allah looked at those who were at Badr and said, “Do what you want to do from now on I have forgiven you.” So Allah revealed the first verse from this surah. (This story is found in Bukhari and Muslim)
1. Betrayal of Muslims is a great sin and a shameful act. However, a Muslim who betrays the trust of the Muslims for material reasons has not necessarily left Islam. But it is a major offence and the leader can choose an appropriate punishment for the crime. Hatib’s case was one of extremely poor judgment. He thought that since Allah had promised His messenger victory that he could send the letter, get protection for his family and it wouldn’t make a difference to the outcome.

2. True Believers have full trust in Allah and the Prophet. The story shows how the companions fully trusted the words of Rasoolullah ﷺ even though the evidence at first suggested that there was no letter.

3. What makes someone an enemy of Islam? The verses give six descriptions of the disbelievers who we are forbidden from taking as best friends, protectors, or even loving them in our hearts:
   a. They reject Islam and are openly hostile towards it and the believers.
   b. They expel the Muslims from their homes.
   c. They oppose and fight the believers.
   d. They physically harm Muslims based on their beliefs.
   e. They verbally harm Muslims based on
their beliefs.
f. They would love to turn Muslims away from Islam.

4. True believers should never take hostile enemies of Islam as protectors and close friends. The term “awliyaa,” plural of “Wali,” used in this verse is most closely translated “protector.” Hatib was turning to the pagans of Makkah to ask them to be the protectors of his family. However, his actions would have been at the expense of the Muslims. These ayaat show us that it is forbidden to share one’s love, trust and secrets with enemies or to seek their protection.

5. Islam comes first. Obedience to Allah comes first no matter what we think we may lose when we obey Allah. Nothing in this life will protect us on the Day of Judgment if we disobey Allah and deserve His punishment.

6. The verses reprimand Hatib in a scolding manner. This shows the high status and the purity of belief of Hatib. This kind of scolding comes from Allah’s love for him. If he was a hypocrite, Allah would have promised him Hell fire.

7. Even great people may make mistakes. When they make mistakes we should put it in perspective with all the other good things they have done in the past.

8. Rushing to judgment may be harmful behavior. ‘Omar thought that Hatib was a hypocrite and wanted to kill him. The Prophet corrected him and called on him to look at the sincere and good things Hatib did for Islam in the past.

Hadeeth Shareef

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ: 
"آية المنافق ثلاث: إذا حدد كذب، وإذا وُعد أخفى وإذا اعتقد
 خان."

رواه البخاري ومسلم

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrated that Rasoolullah said: "The signs of a hypocrite are three; when he speaks he lies, when he promises he breaks his promise and when he is trusted he betrays."

Reported in Al-Bukhari and Muslim
**FAITH IN ACTION**

- Always be loyal to your Muslim community.
- Avoid betraying the trust Muslims give you.
- Always have full trust in Allah and His Prophet.
- Avoid rushing to judgment against Muslims who make mistakes and help them repent.

**CHAPTER REVIEW**

**Projects and Activities**

1. Write a 700 word essay about the negative effects of betraying trust.
2. Write a 500 word profile about the sahabi Hatib Ibn Balta’ah.

**Stretch Your Mind**

1. What saved Hatib from being considered a hypocrite or a traitor?
2. What are the differences between a non-Muslim friend and a non-Muslim enemy?

**Study Questions**

1. What is the first thing this surah called for?
2. Who was the person whom the first few ayaat of Surat-ul Mumtahinah were revealed in reference to?
3. Describe the reason for the revelation of these three ayaat.
4. What makes a person an enemy of Islam and Muslims?
5. What do you think of ‘Omar Ibn-ul-Khattab’s reaction to events that led to the revelation of these three ayaat?