



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

The Story of Prophet Yahya (AS)

يحيى

A boy given a whole Book from Allah, and told: take it with strength.

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The Story of Prophet Yahya (AS)

"O Yahya, take the Book with strength."

Maryam 19:12

Come with me. Today, we're going on a journey... far, far away... and long, long ago.
Picture a boy.

Not a grown-up. Not a wise old man with a white beard. A boy, a child, maybe about the age you are right now.

He is standing in a quiet room, and somebody is handing him something. Something heavy. Something enormous.

They are handing him a whole Book from Allah.

And a voice says to him, gently, but seriously, the way you speak to someone when what you are saying really matters:

"O Yahya... take the Book... with strength."

Take it seriously. Hold it tightly. Do not let go.

And the boy... takes it.

This is the story of Prophet Yahya... alayhi salaam. The boy who was given wisdom while he was still a child.

Do you remember the old man who whispered?

There was once a prophet named Zakariya, alayhi salaam. He was very, very old. His bones had grown weak and his hair had gone completely white. And for his whole long life... he had no children at all.



A Name Nobody Had Carried

So one day, alone in a quiet place of worship, he whispered a secret prayer. He asked Allah for a child. Not just any child, a child who would be pleasing to Allah. Someone to carry the message after him.

And Allah, who hears every whisper, answered him.

"O Zakariya! We give you good news of a boy... whose name will be Yahya."

And Allah said something wonderful about that name. He said: We have not given this name to anyone before him.

Nobody in the whole history of the world had ever been called Yahya. Not one person. Allah made a brand-new name... just for this child.

So think about how much this boy was wanted. He was prayed for by an old man who had almost run out of hope. He was promised by Allah Himself. He was given a name nobody had ever carried.

He was waited for... for a very, very long time.

And then Yahya was born. And he grew.

Now here is the part that makes Yahya so different from almost anyone else in all the stories.

Most of the time, when Allah gives someone a great task, they are a grown-up. They have lived a long life. They have learned a lot. They are ready.

But the Qur'an says about Yahya: "And We gave him wisdom while he was still a child."

While he was still a child.



Take the Book With Strength

Not later. Not when he was older. Not once he had grown up and grown a beard and become a serious sort of person.

Right then. As a boy.

Allah gave him understanding. Real understanding, the kind that helps you know what is right and choose it, even when it is hard, even when nobody is watching, even when the other children are doing something else.

And Allah handed him the Book and told him: take it with strength.

Which means Yahya, as a child, decided something. He decided that what Allah said was not something to hold loosely, like a toy you might put down and forget. It was something to hold on to tightly. With both hands.

Now, if I told you Allah had given a boy wisdom and a Book... you might imagine somebody very stern. Somebody who frowned a lot. Somebody a bit frightening.

Yahya was not like that at all.

Listen to how Allah describes him in the Qur'an. Four things. Listen carefully, because each one is a treasure.

The first: Allah gave him tenderness. Softness. A gentle, kind heart, the sort of heart that notices when somebody is sad. The sort of heart that is careful with small creatures, and careful with people's feelings.

The second: Allah made him pure. Clean on the inside. His heart had no meanness in it. No jealousy hiding in the corners. No little cruelties.

The third: he was careful of Allah. He knew Allah was watching, always, and it made him gentle rather than frightened. He did not want to do anything that would upset the One who loved him.

And the fourth, and oh, this one is so beautiful,

Allah says: "And he was dutiful to his parents... and he was never a harsh, disobedient tyrant."



Kind to His Parents

He was good to his mother and his father.

Think about that for a moment. Out of everything Allah could have said about this remarkable boy, a boy given wisdom, a boy given a Book, a boy with a brand-new name, one of the four things Allah chose to mention... is that he was kind to his parents.

He listened to them. He was gentle with them. He never spoke to them in that sharp voice we sometimes use when we are tired and we do not want to do the thing we have been asked to do.

Being good to your mum and your dad is such a big deal... that Allah put it in the Qur'an, forever, in the middle of describing one of His prophets.

As Yahya grew, Allah made him a prophet, just as He had promised his father.

And Yahya had a very special job.

In that same blessed land, another baby was going to be born, a baby whose birth would be a great wonder. A baby who would speak in the cradle. That baby was Isa, alayhi salaam, the son of Maryam.

And Allah tells us in the Qur'an that Yahya came confirming a word from Allah, meaning he came to tell the people the truth about Isa. To point to him. To say: this is real, this is from Allah, believe it.

Allah describes Yahya in that same verse with three more words. He calls him noble. He calls him pure and self-restrained. And He calls him a prophet from among the righteous.

So Yahya spent his life doing the bravest thing a person can do.

He told the truth.

Even when it was not the easy thing to say. Even when powerful people did not want to hear it. He said what was true, because Allah had told him to take the Book with strength, and he had said yes as a boy, and he never let go.



Peace Be Upon Him

And when Yahya's life in this world came to an end, Allah said something about him that He has said about almost no one else.

Allah greeted him.

"And peace be upon him the day he was born... and the day he dies... and the day he is raised up alive."

Peace on all three days. The day he arrived. The day he left. And the day, one day, when everyone will be raised again.

Allah Himself said peace be upon Yahya. What a thing to be given.

That is the story of Prophet Yahya, alayhi salaam. The boy who was whispered for. The boy with a name nobody had ever carried. The boy who was given wisdom while he was still a child... and who held on to it with both hands.

And now... slowly... we leave that quiet room behind... the Book, the lamp, the boy holding on tightly... and we travel back home. To right here. Right now.

But carry Prophet Yahya with you, wherever you go. Because his story is a secret message just for you.

You do not have to wait until you are grown up to love Allah. You do not have to wait to be gentle, or honest, or kind to your mum and your dad. You do not have to wait to hold on tightly to what is true.

Allah gave wisdom to a child. He can put it in your heart too... starting tonight.

So let us end with the words Allah said to him. They mean... O Yahya, take the Book with strength. Say them with me... slowly... as if Allah were saying your name...

Yā Yaḥyā... khudhi-l-kitāba bi-quwwah.

Talk about it

Read a question aloud and let your child answer before you show the choices. Then ask: what would you have done?

1. Who was given wisdom while still a child?

- a. Prophet Yahya
- b. Prophet Musa
- c. Prophet Nuh

2. In Prophet Yahya's story, what kind of heart did Allah give him?

- a. A soft and tender heart
- b. A hard, angry heart
- c. A jealous heart

3. What was Prophet Yahya told to take with strength?

- a. The Book from Allah
- b. A bag of coins
- c. A camel's rope

4. On how many days was peace said over Prophet Yahya?

- a. Three special days
- b. Only one day
- c. Forty days

5. In Prophet Yahya's story, what was special about his name?

- a. Nobody had it before
- b. It meant the strong one
- c. It was very old

6. In Prophet Yahya's story, who said peace be upon him?

- a. Allah Himself
- b. The king of the land
- c. The people of the town

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a



Hear this story

Read it again online, or listen to it narrated in the Sukun Kids app.

sukunkids.app/stories/yahya

Sukun Kids: stories of the prophets for Muslim children, narrated for bedtime.

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