

UNDERSTANDING SŪRAT AL-FĀTIḤAH

A Student Companion

Compiled from the Holiday Online Tafsīr Class

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*"The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."
(Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī)*

Preface

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May His peace and blessings be upon our noble Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, his family, his Companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness until the Last Day.

This booklet is a compilation of the lessons delivered during the Holiday Online Tafsīr Class on Sūrat al-Fātiḥah by Shaykh Sulaiman Hamza. It has been prepared especially for children and young students so they can revise the lessons at home, strengthen their understanding of the Qur'an, and put its teachings into practice.

Knowledge is not merely to be memorised—it is to be understood, lived, and shared. We ask Allah to make this small effort beneficial for everyone who reads it.

اللهم آمين

Chapter One: Introduction to Tafsīr

What is Tafsīr?

Linguistically, **tafsīr** means explanation and clarification.

As an Islamic discipline, tafsīr is the science of explaining the speech of Allah in order to understand His intended meanings. Its purpose is to ensure that Allah's commands are obeyed, His prohibitions are avoided, His guidance is followed, and the lessons contained in His Book are reflected upon and implemented.

What is a Sūrah?

A sūrah is a chapter of the Qur'an. According to the scholars, the shortest sūrahs consist of three verses (āyāt).

What is an Āyah?

An āyah is a verse of the Qur'an. Every sūrah is made up of a number of āyāt.

Names of Sūrat al-Fātiḥah

Name	Meaning
Al-Fātiḥah	The Opening
Umm al-Qur'ān	The Mother of the Qur'an
Umm al-Kitāb	The Mother of the Book
As-Ṣalāh	The Prayer
As-Sab‘ al-Mathānī	The Seven Oft-Repeated Verses

Makki and Madani Sūrahs

Makki Sūrahs: Revealed *before* the Hijrah. They focus on Tawḥīd (belief in One Allah), Īmān (faith), and the Hereafter.

Madani Sūrahs: Revealed *after* the Hijrah. They focus on laws, worship (‘ibādah), and community life.

Discussion Question: Why is Sūrat al-Fātiḥah called "The Opening"? Talk about how we use it to start our prayers and the Qur'an.

Chapter Two: Isti'adhah & Basmalah

Allah says: "When you recite the Qur'an, seek refuge in Allah from Shayṭān, the accursed."

What is Isti'adhah?

It is seeking Allah's protection from Shayṭān. The most common wording is:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

"I seek refuge in Allah from Shayṭān, the accursed."

We should seek refuge:

- ✓ Before reading the Qur'an
- ✓ When angry
- ✓ When Shayṭān whispers evil thoughts
- ✓ Before beginning important matters

Basmalah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"In the Name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful."

We say **Bismillah** before every good action, such as: eating, studying, travelling, working, writing, and reciting the Qur'an.

Allah's Beautiful Names:

- **Allah:** The only One worthy of worship.
- **Ar-Raḥmān:** His mercy reaches every creature.
- **Ar-Raḥīm:** His special mercy is for the believers.

Reflection Prompt: Close your eyes and think about one way Allah has been merciful to you today. Write it down in your journal.

Chapter Three: Understanding Sūrat al-Fātiḥah

Verse 1:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Meaning: All praise and thanks belong to Allah, the Lord of all that exists.

New Words:

Al-Ḥamd: Praise and thanks together.

Rabb: Master, Owner, Sustainer.

Al-‘Ālamīn: Everything besides Allah.

Lessons: Allah deserves every praise. Every blessing comes from Him. Allah owns everything.

Verse 2:

الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

Allah reminds us that His mercy is greater than we can imagine.

Lessons: Allah is Merciful to everyone. Allah has a special mercy for believers. Never lose hope in Allah's mercy.

Verse 3:

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Allah alone owns the Day of Judgement.

Lessons: We will all return to Allah. Every action has consequences. Prepare for the Hereafter.

Verse 4:

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

Meaning: You alone we worship. You alone we ask for help.

Lessons: Worship only Allah. Depend only on Allah. Worship comes before asking.

Verse 5:

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Meaning: Guide us to the Straight Path.

Lessons: Guidance is Allah's greatest gift. Ask Allah for guidance every day.

Verse 6:

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ...

Meaning: The path of those whom Allah has blessed.

Lessons: The believer should avoid **Knowledge without action** and **Worship without correct knowledge**. Instead, combine **Correct knowledge** and **Righteous deeds**.

What I Have Learnt (Checklist)

After studying Sūrat al-Fātiḥah, I now know that:

- ☐ Allah deserves all praise.
- ☐ Allah is my Lord.
- ☐ Allah is Most Merciful.
- ☐ The Day of Judgement is real.
- ☐ I should worship Allah alone.
- ☐ I should rely upon Allah alone.
- ☐ I should ask Allah for guidance every day.
- ☐ I should seek knowledge and practise it.

Vocabulary List

Word	Meaning
Tafsīr	Explanation of the Qur'an
Sūrah	Chapter
Āyah	Verse
Isti‘ādhah	Seeking Allah's protection
Basmalah	Saying Bismillāh
Rabb	Master, Owner and Sustainer
Al-Ḥamd	Praise and thanks
Ar-Raḥmān	Mercy for all creation
Ar-Raḥīm	Special mercy for believers
Ṣirāṭ	Path
Tawḥīd	Belief in the Oneness of Allah
Hijrah	Migration of the Prophet ﷺ to Madinah

Learning Resources

Mini Lesson Plan for Classes:

1. **Opening:** Recite Sūrat al-Fātiḥah together (5 mins).
2. **Recall:** Ask students to name the three meanings of "Rabb" (5 mins).
3. **Exploration:** Discuss Verse 4—why do we worship before we ask for help? (10 mins).
4. **Activity:** Use the checklist to see what we learned today (5 mins).
5. **Closing:** Recite the final dua (2 mins).

Revision Quiz

1. What does Tafsīr mean?
2. What is the difference between Makki and Madani sūrahs?
3. Mention three names of Sūrat al-Fātiḥah.
4. Why do we say Bismillāh before starting or doing things?
5. What are the three meanings of Rabb?
6. Who are Al-‘Ālamīn?
7. What does "Iyyāka na‘budu" mean?
8. What should a believer avoid in Verse 6?
9. Mention three lessons you learnt from Sūrat al-Fātiḥah.
10. How will you apply Sūrat al-Fātiḥah in your daily life?

Final Advice

Sūrat al-Fātiḥah is the opening of the Qur'an and the opening of every ṣalāh. Although it consists of only seven verses, it contains the foundations of Islam: praise of Allah, His Lordship, His mercy, the Hereafter, worship, reliance, guidance, and the path to success.

Read it with your tongue, understand it with your mind, believe it with your heart, and live by it every day.

"Guide us to the Straight Path." (Sūrat al-Fātiḥah 1:6)

May Allah make the Qur'an the light of our hearts, the guide for our lives, and the means of our success in this world and the Hereafter. **Āmīn.**