By Al-Hafiz Abdul-Ghani ibn Abdul-Wahid al-Maqdisi

(541–600 A.H.) May Allah have mercy on him.

These lessons teach us about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family, names, manners, worship and the miracles Allah gave him. It also teaches us about ten great Companions who received good news of Paradise. We learn their names, important events and lessons so we can worship Allah alone and follow the Qur'an and Sunnah as understood by the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) of this Ummah.

Part One: The Prophet's Life

1. Why We Learn About the Prophet ﷺ

All praise belongs to Allah. Nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah alone. This is Tawheed. We learn about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to love him, follow his example and worship Allah as he taught us. Al-Hafiz Abdul-Ghani ibn Abdul-Wahid al-Maqdisi was born in 541 A.H. near Nablus in Palestine. He studied with scholars, travelled to seek knowledge, wrote Islamic books and followed the Sunnah. He passed away in 600 A.H. Allah has promised to protect the Qur'an (Surah al-Hijr 15:9). Muslims check reports about the Prophet ﷺ before teaching them. The Prophet ﷺ said that a person will be with those he loves (Sahih al-Bukhari 6168). We show love for the Prophet ﷺ by following him. Those who obey Allah and His Messenger will be with the Prophets, truthful people and righteous people in the Hereafter (Surah an-Nisa 4:69).

2. His Name and Family

The Prophet ﷺ was called Abul-Qasim because his oldest son was Al-Qasim. A kunyah is a respectful name beginning with Abu or Umm. Abul-Qasim is his established kunyah. His family line is Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Abdul-Muttalib ibn Hashim ibn Abd Manaf ibn Qusayy ibn Kilab ibn Murrah ibn Ka'b ibn Lu'ayy ibn Ghalib ibn Fihr ibn Malik ibn an-Nadr ibn Kinanah ibn Khuzaymah ibn Mudrikah ibn Ilyas ibn Mudar ibn Nizar ibn Ma'add ibn Adnan. He belonged to Quraysh and Banu Hashim. Adnan was among the descendants of Prophet Isma'il, son of Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon them. His family line is established up to Adnan; the exact names after Adnan are not established. His grandfather's name was Shaybah. People began calling him Abdul-Muttalib after they thought he was the servant of his uncle Al-Muttalib during a journey. His grandfather had a white streak of hair when he was born. Worship and servitude belong to Allah alone. Allah chose Kinanah from the children of Isma'il, Quraysh from Kinanah, Banu Hashim from Quraysh and Muhammad ﷺ from Banu Hashim (Sahih Muslim 2276).

3. His Mother and Birth

His mother was Aminah bint Wahb from Banu Zuhrah of Quraysh. He was born in Makkah in the Year of the Elephant. That was the year Allah protected the Ka'bah from Abraha's army (Surah al-Fil 105:1–5). The Prophet ﷺ was born on a Monday. The strongest opinion is that he was born on 2 Rabi al-Awwal, in the Year of the Elephant. His exact birth date is not certain. He explained that Monday was the day on which he was born and revelation came to him (Sahih Muslim 1162). The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions did not make his birthday an annual religious festival. True love for him means learning and following the Qur'an and Sunnah, not inventing special religious celebrations. No particular house now claimed as his birthplace is established as a place for special worship. Allah commands us to follow the guidance He revealed, not to add new acts of worship (Surah Ali Imran 3:79). Visiting a building claimed to be the Prophet's birth house is not a special Sunnah.

4. His Parents and the People Who Raised Him

The strongest opinion is that his father Abdullah died before the Prophet ﷺ was born. His mother Aminah died when he was about six years old. His grandfather Abdul-Muttalib cared for him and died when the Prophet ﷺ was about eight years old. Then his uncle Abu Talib looked after him. Allah reminded the Prophet ﷺ that He found him an orphan and gave him shelter (Surah ad-Duha 93:6).

5. Women Who Fed Him Milk

Thuwaybah first breastfed the Prophet ﷺ. She also breastfed Hamzah and Abu Salamah. Halimah as-Sa'diyyah later cared for him among Banu Sa'd. Under Islamic rules, breastfeeding can establish close family relationships. The Prophet ﷺ taught that breastfeeding can make marriage forbidden just as blood family relationships do (Sunan an-Nasa'i 3302). Hamzah was both his uncle and his brother through breastfeeding. The Prophet ﷺ could not marry Hamzah's daughter because she was his niece through breastfeeding.

6. His Names

The Prophet ﷺ had five well-known names: Muhammad, Ahmad, Al-Mahi, Al-Hashir and Al-Aqib. Muhammad is greatly praised. Ahmad praises Allah greatly. Al-Mahi means Allah removes disbelief through his message. Al-Hashir means people will be gathered after him. Al-Aqib means the last Prophet, with no prophet after him (Sahih Muslim 2354). His other established names and descriptions include Al-Muqaffi, the Prophet of Repentance, the Prophet of Mercy and the Prophet of Battle (Sahih Muslim 2355). Allah describes him as a bringer of good news and a warner (Surah al-Baqarah 2:119), kind to believers (Surah at-Tawbah 9:128) and a mercy to the worlds (Surah al-Anbiya 21:107). On the Day of Judgement, the Prophet ﷺ will ask Allah to help his Ummah. This is called intercession, and it happens only with Allah's permission. He will be the first to request that the gate of Paradise be opened (Sahih al-Bukhari 7510; Sahih Muslim 197).

7. Growing Up in Makkah

The Prophet ﷺ grew up with his uncle Abu Talib. He was truthful, trustworthy and known for good manners. Allah protected him from idol worship and bad customs. As a young man, he worked and helped others.

8. His Journeys to Sham

As a young boy he travelled towards Sham with his uncle Abu Talib. A story tells of a monk named Bahira who recognized signs of prophethood. Some details of that story are not firmly established, so they should not be treated as certain. Later he travelled for trade with Maysarah, who worked for Khadijah. He was known for honesty and good manners. Khadijah trusted his character and his work.

9. His Marriage to Khadijah

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid was his first wife. The strongest account places his age at about twenty-five when they married. She believed him and comforted him when revelation first came. She was the mother of all his children except Ibrahim. Jibril brought Khadijah good news of peace from Allah and a home in Paradise (Sahih al-Bukhari 3820). Khadijah supported the Prophet ﷺ with her wealth and kind words. She was the first to believe his message and was one of the people he loved deeply.

10. When the Qur'an First Came

After the first revelation, the Prophet ﷺreturned home frightened. Khadijah reminded him that he helped relatives and those in need. She took him to Waraqah ibn Nawfal, who recognized that Jibril was the angel who came to earlier Prophets (Sahih al-Bukhari 3). Before the first revelation he sometimes worshipped Allah in the Cave of Hira. He saw true dreams before Jibril came. Jibril told him to read and the Prophet ﷺ said that he could not read. Allah then revealed the first five verses of Surah al-Alaq 96:1–5. The Prophet ﷺ was forty years old when revelation began (Sahih al-Bukhari 3). The Prophet ﷺ called people in Makkah to worship Allah alone for thirteen years. Muslims do not make special visits to the Cave of Hira as an act of worship. We follow the worship taught after revelation. The five daily prayers became obligatory and were taught through revelation. The Prophet ﷺ taught Tawheed first and then explained worship, good manners and obedience to Allah.

11. Moving from Makkah to Madinah

The Prophet ﷺ travelled from Makkah to Madinah with Abu Bakr. Amir ibn Fuhayrah helped them and Abdullah ibn Urayqat guided them. They hid in a cave while others were looking for them. Allah tells us that the Prophet ﷺ told Abu Bakr not to be sad because Allah was with them (Surah at-Tawbah 9:40). The journey to Madinah is called the Hijrah. Abu Bakr stayed with the Prophet ﷺ, and they trusted Allah while making careful plans to travel safely. The Muslims who moved from Makkah were called the Muhajirun. The Muslims who welcomed and helped them in Madinah were called the Ansar. The Hijrah later became the starting point of the Muslim calendar. After the Hijrah Allah commanded Muslims to face the Ka'bah rather than Jerusalem in prayer (Surah al-Baqarah 2:144). The exact month of the change is not firmly established.

12. His Last Days and Death

The Prophet ﷺ died on a Monday in Rabi al-Awwal at the age of sixty-three. He was buried in the room of Aishah where he died. His body was washed by his family and close helpers, he was wrapped in three white cloths and Muslims prayed over him in separate groups. Ali, Al-Abbas, Al-Fadl, Qutham, Usamah ibn Zayd, Shuqran and Aws ibn Khawla helped prepare him for burial. Abu Bakr and Umar were later buried beside him. The strongest opinion is that he was sixty-three years old when he passed away. During his last illness he warned Muslims not to make graves into places of worship (Sahih Muslim 530; Sahih al-Bukhari 435). Muslims pray to Allah alone and do not ask the dead for help. He experienced pain and fever during his illness (Sahih al-Bukhari 5648).

13. His Sons

The Prophet ﷺ had three sons: Al-Qasim, Abdullah and Ibrahim. Al-Qasim was born in Makkah and was the reason he was called Abul-Qasim. Abdullah was also called At-Tayyib and At-Tahir. Ibrahim was born in Madinah to Mariyah al-Qibtiyyah. All three passed away in childhood. Al-Qasim passed away when he was about two years old. Ibrahim passed away at about seventeen or eighteen months old. The strongest opinion is that At-Tayyib and At-Tahir were names for Abdullah, not two separate sons.

14. His Daughters

His four daughters were Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum and Fatimah. Zaynab married Abu al-As ibn ar-Rabi. Ruqayyah married Uthman ibn Affan. After she died, Uthman married her sister Umm Kulthum. Fatimah married Ali ibn Abi Talib, and their children included Al-Hasan, Al-Husayn, Zaynab and Umm Kulthum. Fatimah passed away about six months after the Prophet ﷺ. All four daughters were born to Khadijah. Zaynab's daughter Umamah was loved by the Prophet ﷺ. Fatimah was among the members of his family who passed away after him. The Prophet ﷺ carried his granddaughter Umamah, the daughter of Zaynab, during prayer. His care for his children and grandchildren teaches kindness to family.

15. His Hajj and Umrah

After moving to Madinah, he performed four Umrahs: at al-Hudaybiyyah, the next year, from al-Ji'ranah after Hunayn and with his Hajj. He made Hajj once after the Hijrah. It was the Farewell Hajj, when he taught Muslims the rules of pilgrimage (Sahih al-Bukhari 1778; Sahih Muslim 1253). He told the Muslims during the Farewell Hajj that they might not see him perform Hajj with them again. He taught the rites of Hajj to the people.

16. The Battles and Journeys

He personally led about twenty-five journeys involving battles, and some historians counted twenty-seven. There were also around fifty smaller journeys led by Companions. The places named include Badr, Uhud, the Trench, Banu Qurayzah, Banu al-Mustaliq, Khaybar, the conquest of Makkah, Hunayn, at-Ta'if, Wadi al-Qura, al-Ghabah and Banu an-Nadir. Differences in the totals depend on how the journeys are counted. The journeys named in the lessons are not all the same kind of battle. Some were journeys without fighting. The Prophet ﷺshowed courage, mercy and fairness and taught Muslims to keep promises.

17. People Who Wrote His Letters

Those who wrote for the Prophet ﷺ included Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Amir ibn Fuhayrah, Abdullah ibn al-Arqam, Ubayy ibn Ka'b, Thabit ibn Qays, Khalid ibn Sa'id, Hanzalah ibn ar-Rabi, Zayd ibn Thabit, Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan and Shurahbil ibn Hasanah. Zayd ibn Thabit and Mu'awiyah were especially active in this work.

18. Inviting Rulers to Islam

He sent Amr ibn Umayyah to the ruler of Ethiopia, Dihyah al-Kalbi to Heraclius of Rome, Abdullah ibn Hudhafah to Khosrow of Persia, Hatib ibn Abi Balta'ah to the ruler of Egypt, Amr ibn al-As to Oman, Salit ibn Amr to al-Yamamah and Shuja ibn Wahb to a ruler in Sham. He also sent messengers to Bahrain and Yemen. Khosrow, the king of Persia, tore up the letter calling him to Islam. Other rulers listened with respect. The letters showed that the message of Islam was for all people, not only those living in Makkah and Madinah. Some rulers accepted Islam while others refused it. Khosrow tore up the letter he received. The Prophet ﷺ also sent Mu'adh ibn Jabal and Abu Musa al-Ash'ari to Yemen. His letters called people to worship Allah alone.

19. His Uncles

The Prophet ﷺ had eleven paternal uncles named Al-Harith, Qutham, Az-Zubayr, Hamzah, Al-Abbas, Abu Talib, Abu Lahab, Abdul-Ka'bah, Hajl, Dirar and Al-Ghaydaq. Hamzah and Al-Abbas accepted Islam. Abu Talib protected the Prophet ﷺ but did not accept Islam. Abu Lahab opposed the message (Surah al-Masad 111:1–5). Hamzah accepted Islam early and joined the battles of Badr and Uhud. Al-Abbas became Muslim. The Prophet ﷺ asked Abu Talib to say the testimony of faith before his death, but he did not accept Islam (Sahih Muslim 24). Being related to a Prophet does not replace faith and obedience to Allah.

20. His Aunts

His six paternal aunts were Safiyyah, Atikah, Arwa, Umaymah, Barrah and Umm Hakim, who was also called al-Bayda. Safiyyah was the mother of Az-Zubayr ibn al-Awwam. Umaymah was the mother of Zaynab bint Jahsh. Atikah was connected to the reports of a dream before Badr. These women were related to many Companions. Safiyyah accepted Islam and moved to Madinah. Umaymah's daughter Zaynab bint Jahsh became one of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ. Some smaller family details are not firmly established, so they should not be treated as certain.

21. His Wives: Khadijah and Sawdah

Khadijah was his first wife and the mother of his children except Ibrahim. After she died, he married Sawdah bint Zam'ah. Sawdah gave her turn with the Prophet ﷺ to Aishah and remained married to him (Sahih al-Bukhari 2593; Sahih Muslim 1463).

22. His Wives: Aishah and Hafsah

Aishah was the daughter of Abu Bakr. She learned much about Islam and became a great teacher of Hadith. Her kunyah was Umm Abdullah, though she did not have children. Hafsah was the daughter of Umar ibn al-Khattab. She worshipped Allah much and was one of the Mothers of the Believers. The strongest opinion in the biography is that Aishah began living with the Prophet ﷺ in Madinah when she was nine years old. She became a great teacher of Islam and passed on many Hadiths. Hafsah was known for fasting and praying at night. The Prophet ﷺ continued his marriage with her (Sunan Abi Dawud 2283).

23. His Wives: Umm Habibah, Umm Salamah and Zaynab

Umm Habibah was Ramlah bint Abi Sufyan. She travelled to Ethiopia and stayed Muslim when her first husband left Islam. Umm Salamah was Hind bint Abi Umayyah, a patient and knowledgeable woman with children from her earlier marriage. Zaynab bint Jahsh was the daughter of the Prophet's aunt Umaymah. She had been married to Zayd ibn Harithah. Allah mentions her later marriage to the Prophet ﷺ (Surah al-Ahzab 33:37).

24. His Wives: Zaynab, Juwayriyah, Safiyyah and Maymunah

Zaynab bint Khuzaymah was known as the Mother of the Poor because she helped people in need. Juwayriyah bint al-Harith was from Banu al-Mustaliq. Safiyyah bint Huyayy was treated with kindness despite her different family background. Maymunah bint al-Harith was the last wife the Prophet ﷺ married. The Prophet ﷺ completed marriages with eleven women: Khadijah, Sawdah, Aishah, Hafsah, Umm Habibah, Umm Salamah, Zaynab bint Jahsh, Zaynab bint Khuzaymah, Juwayriyah, Safiyyah and Maymunah. Nine were alive when he passed away. They are the Mothers of the Believers and deserve our respect. Khadijah and Zaynab bint Khuzaymah passed away during his lifetime. The other nine wives were alive when he passed away. May Allah be pleased with all the Mothers of the Believers. Maymunah was the last wife he married. The strongest opinion is that Umm Salamah was the last of his wives to pass away.

25. People Who Helped Him

Among those who helped the Prophet ﷺ were Anas ibn Malik, Hind and Asma the sons of Harithah, Rabi'ah ibn Ka'b, Abdullah ibn Mas'ud, Uqbah ibn Amir, Bilal ibn Rabah, Sa'd, Dhu Mikhmar, Bukayr, Abu Dharr, Waqid, Abu Waqid, Hisham, Abu Damirah, Hunayn, Abu Asib, Abu Ubayd and Safinah. Some carried his shoes, helped him travel and looked after his animals. Bilal and Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum gave the call to prayer in Madinah. Sa'd al-Quraz called the prayer in Quba and Abu Mahdhurah in Makkah. Women who helped the Prophet ﷺ included Barakah (Umm Ayman), Salma (Umm Rafi), Maymunah bint Sa'd, Khadirah and Radwa. Barakah cared for him as a child and was later the mother of Usamah ibn Zayd.

26. People He Freed

Some people he freed were Zayd ibn Harithah, Thawban, Abu Kabshah, Shuqran, Rabah, Yasar, Abu Rafi, Abu Muwayhibah, Fadalah, Rafi, Mid'am, Kirkirah, Zayd, Ubayd, Tahman and Ma'bur. Some had more than one name or kunyah. Being freed brought them dignity and a chance to live independently. Zayd ibn Harithah was very dear to the Prophet ﷺ, as was Zayd's son Usamah. People deserve kindness and respect whatever their family background.

27. His Animals

His horses included As-Sakb, Al-Murtajaz, Al-Lizaz, At-Tarib, Al-Luhayf and Al-Ward. Khuzaymah ibn Thabit witnessed the sale of the horse Al-Murtajaz and the Prophet ﷺ accepted his testimony (Sunan Abi Dawud 3607). The Prophet ﷺ cared for his animals and did not treat them cruelly. Kindness to animals and honesty when buying or selling were part of his good manners. His animals included a mule called Ad-Duldul, a donkey called Ufayr and camels named Al-Adba, Al-Qaswa and Al-Jad'a. He also kept animals for milk and goats named Ujrah, Zamzam, Suqya, Barakah, Warsah, Atlal and Atraf. His Companions cared for an old mule by grinding its barley when it could no longer chew. His camel once lost a race. The Prophet ﷺreminded people that Allah can lower the things of this world after they become high (Sahih al-Bukhari 6501). Losing does not take away a person's value.

28. His Belongings

His belongings included spears, bows called Ar-Rawha, Shawhat and Safra, shields, protective armour and swords. His sword Dhul-Fiqar was taken after Badr. Other sword names included Al-Qula'i, Al-Battara, Al-Hatf, Al-Mikhdam and Ar-Rasub. A dream about a damaged sword before Uhud had a meaning that he later explained (Sahih al-Bukhari 4081). He wore protective armour, including two coats of armour at Uhud (Sunan Ibn Majah 2913). Taking steps to stay safe is part of trusting Allah. The Prophet ﷺ also taught that what the Prophets leave behind is charity rather than inheritance to be divided (Sahih Muslim 1761). Some belongings, such as his ring, served a practical purpose. Muslims do not worship his belongings or turn their names into acts of worship.

29. What the Prophet ﷺ Looked Like

The Prophet ﷺ had a bright and beautiful face, broad shoulders, a strong build and a height between very tall and very short. His hair was neither completely straight nor tightly curled. He had a beard, clear eyes and a warm smile. Ali, Anas, Al-Bara, Jabir ibn Samurah and Umm Ma'bad described his appearance. There was a mark called the Seal of Prophethood between his shoulders. He spoke clearly and calmly. Allah described him as a witness, bearer of good news, warner and shining lamp (Surah al-Ahzab 33:45–46). He had the Seal of Prophethood near his shoulders, and his Companions described him with respect. We do not invent pictures of the Prophet ﷺ.

30. His Good Manners and Courage

The Prophet ﷺ was brave. When people heard a frightening noise in Madinah, he went to check and returned to reassure them. He was also shy, gentle and polite. Shyness is a good quality when it keeps someone away from wrongdoing. He treated rich and poor fairly. He did not complain about food he disliked. He visited the sick, accepted invitations, smiled, greeted people and forgave personal wrongs. He did not use rude language. He was kind to children, guests and those in need. He told the truth even when joking. His courage went together with mercy and fairness.

31. His Daily Life and Worship

The Prophet ﷺ helped his family at home. He repaired his shoes, mended his clothes, welcomed guests and visited the sick. He lived simply, did not look down on anyone, accepted gifts and did not accept charity for himself. He liked honey, dates and good smells. He showed respect to adults and children, helped in his home, forgave personal wrongs and did not use harsh words. These are everyday examples of following his Sunnah. He wore simple clothes and used a silver ring for his letters with "Muhammad, Messenger of Allah" written on it. He spoke honestly and cared for sheep earlier in his life, as other Prophets also did (Muwatta Imam Malik 1783).

32. The Miracles Allah Gave Him

A miracle is an amazing sign Allah gives a Prophet. Miracles happen by Allah's power, not by a Prophet's independent power. The greatest miracle is the Qur'an. Allah challenges people to bring even one chapter like it (Surah Yunus 10:38). Miracles are signs from Allah. They are not magic. A wonderful story about a person must be checked before it is taught as true. The Qur'an is the greatest lasting miracle.

33. Amazing Signs

Allah caused the moon to split as a sign for the Prophet ﷺ (Surah al-Qamar 54:1–2). A palm trunk made a sound after he moved to a different place to give sermons. Stones and trees showed signs by Allah's will. An animal spoke and a distressed camel was treated kindly after its owner was warned. A palm-tree trunk made a sound when the Prophet ﷺ stopped leaning on it during his sermons. Stones greeted him and water flowed by Allah's permission. Every miracle belongs to Allah alone.

34. When Allah Answered His Duas

Allah healed Ali's eye after the Prophet ﷺ made dua. An injured leg of Abdullah ibn Atik was healed. The Prophet ﷺ prayed that Abdullah ibn Abbas would understand Islam and the Qur'an, and that Anas ibn Malik would receive blessings in his life, children and wealth (Sahih Muslim 2404). The Prophet ﷺ made dua for Ibn Abbas to understand the religion and the meaning of the Qur'an. He made dua for Anas to have a long life, children and wealth. Allah gave blessings in their lives. He made dua for many Companions, including Umar ibn al-Khattab. Allah alone answers prayer and grants healing. We ask Him for understanding, health and goodness.

35. Events He Told People About

Allah told the Prophet ﷺ about some future events. He gave Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman good news of Paradise and told Uthman that he would face a difficult test (Sahih al-Bukhari 3695). He said Al-Hasan would make peace between two groups of Muslims (Sahih al-Bukhari 3704). He also gave news about journeys by sea, the false prophet Al-Aswad al-Ansi, the king of Persia, Thabit ibn Qays and a woman who would later be seen during a journey. He knew these things because Allah informed him. He also foretold events involving the false prophet Musaylimah and the events of al-Yamamah. He did not know unseen matters by himself; Allah taught him what He wished.

36. Blessings of Food, Water and Rain

Allah blessed a small amount of food during the Battle of the Trench so many people could eat. Food also increased at Abu Talhah's house and at meals involving Abu Hurayrah and other Companions. When people needed rain, the Prophet ﷺ made dua and Allah sent it. When the rain became too strong, he asked Allah to move it away. On the day of Hunayn, Allah helped the Muslims after a difficult beginning. Allah also blessed food given by several Companions. These events taught the Muslims to rely on Allah and to thank Him. Water came from between the Prophet's fingers by Allah's permission so people could drink and make wudu. These miracles teach us to thank Allah and share what we have.

37. Allah Protected Him

During the Hijrah, Suraqah ibn Malik chased the Prophet ﷺ. His horse sank into the ground and he asked for help. The Prophet ﷺ prayed for him and Allah saved him. The Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr were also protected in the cave (Surah at-Tawbah 9:40).

Part Two: The Ten Companions Promised Paradise

Ten great Companions were named together in a Hadith with good news of Paradise. They were not the only people given that good news. Other Companions were also promised Paradise. The first four here were the rightly guided Caliphs. The ten were named together in a famous report. Their honor does not mean that only ten Companions will enter Paradise. We love all the Companions and speak about them with respect.

1. Abu Bakr as-Siddiq

Abu Bakr as-Siddiq was Abdullah ibn Uthman ibn Amir of Quraysh. His kunyah was Abu Bakr; a kunyah does not always mean that someone had a child with that name. He accepted Islam early and was the close friend of the Prophet ﷺ. He was the first rightly guided Caliph. Abu Bakr accompanied the Prophet ﷺ during the Hijrah (Surah at-Tawbah 9:40). He was called As-Siddiq because of his truthfulness and his strong belief in the Messenger. His children included Abdullah, Abdur-Rahman, Muhammad, Asma, Aishah and Umm Kulthum. He led the Muslims for about two years and passed away in 13 A.H., aged about sixty-three.

2. Umar ibn al-Khattab

Umar ibn al-Khattab was from Quraysh. He was known for his strength, fairness and courage. He accepted Islam and supported the Muslims. He became the second rightly guided Caliph. Umar led the Muslims for about ten years and six months and passed away in 23 A.H. at about sixty-three years old. His children included Abdullah, Hafsah and Abdur-Rahman. Umar's daughter Hafsah was one of the Prophet's wives. Umar cared strongly about justice and keeping people safe. He was the second of the four rightly guided Caliphs.

3. Uthman ibn Affan

Uthman ibn Affan was from Quraysh. He accepted Islam early and migrated for his religion. He married Ruqayyah, the daughter of the Prophet ﷺ. After her death, he married her sister Umm Kulthum. He was called Dhun-Nurayn, meaning the one with two lights. Uthman was the third rightly guided Caliph. He led the Muslims for about twelve years and passed away in 35 A.H. during a time of serious trouble. He was generous and devoted to the Qur'an. Uthman was known for modesty and giving from his wealth. He served the Muslim community during a time when Islam spread to many places. His life ended during a difficult period but his honor as a Companion remains.

4. Ali ibn Abi Talib

Ali ibn Abi Talib was the Prophet's cousin and the son of his uncle Abu Talib. He accepted Islam when he was young and married Fatimah, the Prophet's daughter. Their sons included Al-Hasan and Al-Husayn. Ali was knowledgeable, brave and the fourth rightly guided Caliph. He led the Muslims for about four years and nine months and passed away in 40 A.H. After Ali passed away, his son Al-Hasan helped bring peace between two large groups of Muslims. The year 41 A.H. became known as the Year of Unity, and the Prophet ﷺ had given good news about Al-Hasan's role (Sahih al-Bukhari 3704).

5. Talhah ibn Ubaydullah

Talhah ibn Ubaydullah was among the early Muslims and he supported the Prophet ﷺ. He was away on an assigned journey when Badr took place, so his absence was with permission. He took part in other important events, including Uhud. Talhah was generous, devoted to worship and helpful to others. He had children including Muhammad and Musa. He passed away in 36 A.H. during the events of the Battle of the Camel. Talhah was away from the Battle of Badr because he was carrying out an assigned task. Being absent with permission was not the same as refusing to support the Prophet ﷺ.

6. Az-Zubayr ibn al-Awwam

Az-Zubayr ibn al-Awwam was the son of Safiyyah, the Prophet's aunt. He was the Prophet's cousin and accepted Islam early. He joined the Muslims in Madinah and defended the Prophet ﷺ. Az-Zubayr was known as a trusted helper of the Prophet ﷺ. His children included Abdullah, Urwah and Asma. He passed away in 36 A.H. Az-Zubayr's mother Safiyyah was the sister of the Prophet's father Abdullah. Az-Zubayr supported the Prophet ﷺ and was known as his helper. He did not become the only helper; many Companions supported the Prophet ﷺ.

7. Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas was one of the earliest Muslims. He was from Quraysh and his mother was Hamnah bint Sufyan. He joined Badr and other important events with the Prophet ﷺ. He was the first Muslim to shoot an arrow in Allah's cause during one of the early journeys. His children included Muhammad, Umar, Amir and Aishah. Sa'd was among the last of the ten Companions to pass away. Sa'd was an early Muslim who remained firm during difficult times. He was known for courage and for serving the Muslims. A statement about being among the first Muslims should not be used to reject sound reports about others who accepted Islam early.

8. Sa'eed ibn Zayd

Sa'eed ibn Zayd ibn Amr was among the early Muslims of Quraysh. He married Fatimah, the sister of Umar ibn al-Khattab. Sa'eed's father Zayd ibn Amr had refused idol worship even before Islam. Sa'eed was away with Talhah on an assigned journey at the time of Badr. He had not refused to help. He lived in Madinah and passed away in 51 or 52 A.H. Sa'eed's father Zayd ibn Amr refused idol worship before the Prophet ﷺ was sent. Sa'eed became Muslim early and was one of the ten given good news of Paradise.

9. Abdur-Rahman ibn Awf

Abdur-Rahman ibn Awf was from Quraysh. His earlier name was Abd Amr and the Prophet ﷺ named him Abdur-Rahman. He accepted Islam early, migrated and joined Badr. Abdur-Rahman was known for generosity and good character. His children included Salim, Muhammad, Ibrahim and Humayd. He passed away during the rule of Uthman in 32 A.H. Abdur-Rahman ibn Awf helped others with his wealth and remained generous. The strongest view is that his earlier name was Abd Amr before the Prophet ﷺ gave him the name Abdur-Rahman.

10. Abu Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah

Abu Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah was Amir ibn Abdullah ibn al-Jarrah. He accepted Islam early, joined Badr and supported the Prophet ﷺ. He was known for honesty and keeping trusts. Abu Ubaydah passed away in 18 A.H. during the plague of Amwas in Sham. Mu'adh ibn Jabal prayed over him. His sons included Yazid and Umayr. Faith and obedience to Allah come before pride in family and tribe (Surah al-Mujadilah 58:22). Abu Ubaydah was known for being trustworthy and was called the trustworthy one of this Ummah. He joined the early Muslims and served them until he passed away during the plague in Sham.