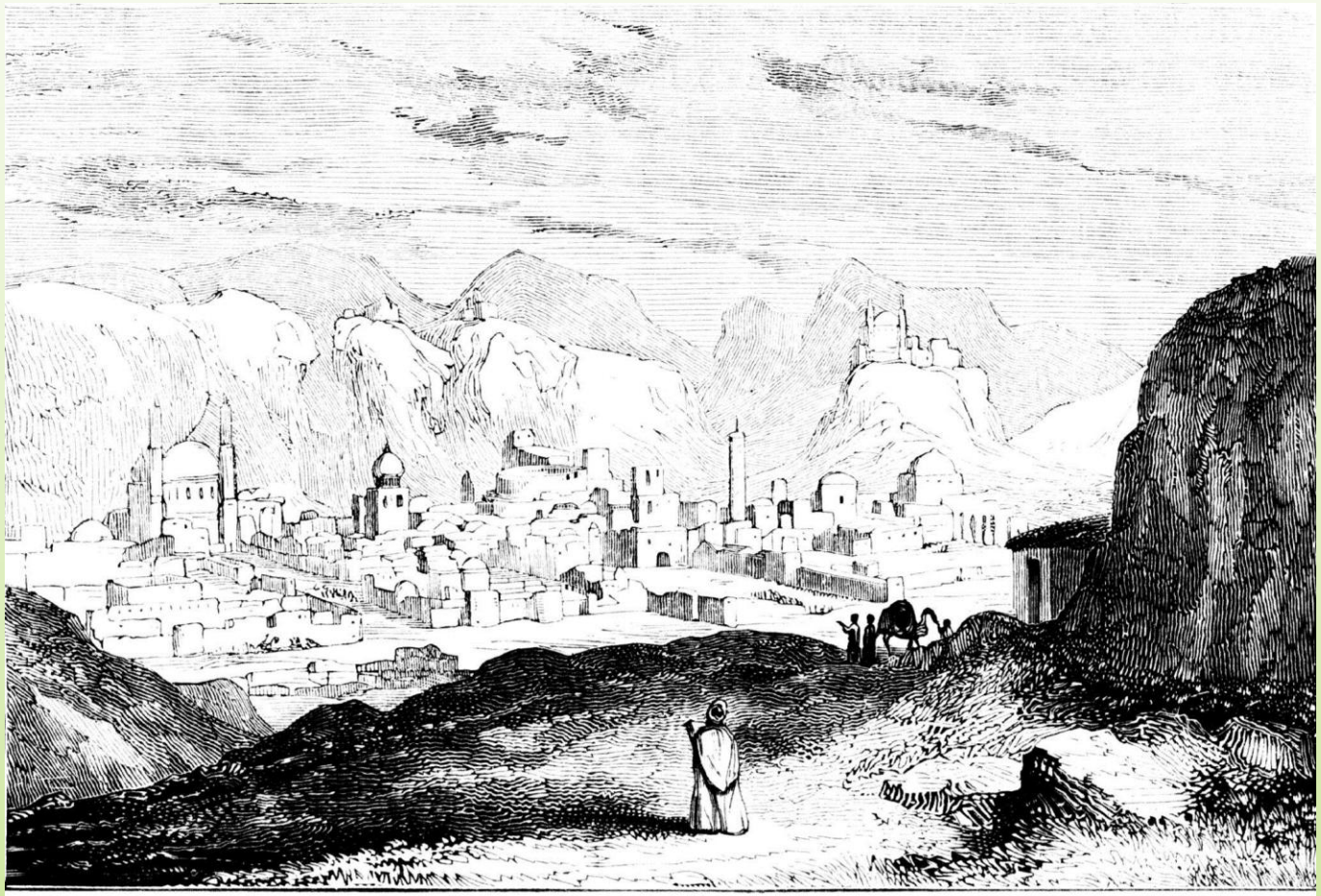
Islam a Religion of Peace

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
18.11.26



MECCA.

A long, long time ago, about 1,500 years ago, a baby boy was born in a place called Makkah. Makkah is in a country called Saudi Arabia, in the Middle East.

The boy's family was poor. Sadly, his mum and dad died when he was very young. He was only six years old. His grandad and then his uncle looked after him. They loved him and cared for him. When he was a little older, he worked looking after sheep.

As he grew up, he travelled with his uncle on camels. They went to faraway places to buy and sell things. He met lots of different people and learned many things. When he was older, he became a leader of these journeys.

Later, when he was a grown-up, he began to think a lot about the world around him. He would go to a quiet cave to think.

He looked at his life and wondered, "Why am I happy and successful when some people around me are hungry, sick or poor?"

He noticed that many people in Makkah cared only about having more and more money. They didn't help people who were poor, they didn't care for people who were sick, and they didn't share their food with people who were hungry.

He began to wonder if there was something more important than having lots of money. He thought that people should care for one another, help those in need and be kind.

"What do you think is more important – having lots of money or helping other people?"



One day, something very special happened. As the man sat quietly in his cave, an angel appeared to him. The man was frightened because he had never seen an angel before!

The angel told him his name was Gabriel and that he had a special message from Allah, the one true God.

The angel told him that Allah wanted people to worship him, to say thank you for the things they had, and to help people who were poor, sick or hungry. Allah wanted people to be kind, honest and to try their best to do good things.

As the man listened, he knew these were important messages. They were the things he had been thinking about for a long time.

The man was called Muhammad. He became a prophet, which means someone who shares messages from God. Muhammad shared Allah's message with other people. He taught them to believe in one God, to be kind, to help others and to always try to do the right thing.

Today, many people around the world follow his teachings. The city where he was born, Makkah, is a very special place for Muslims. Muslims from all over the world travel there to worship Allah.

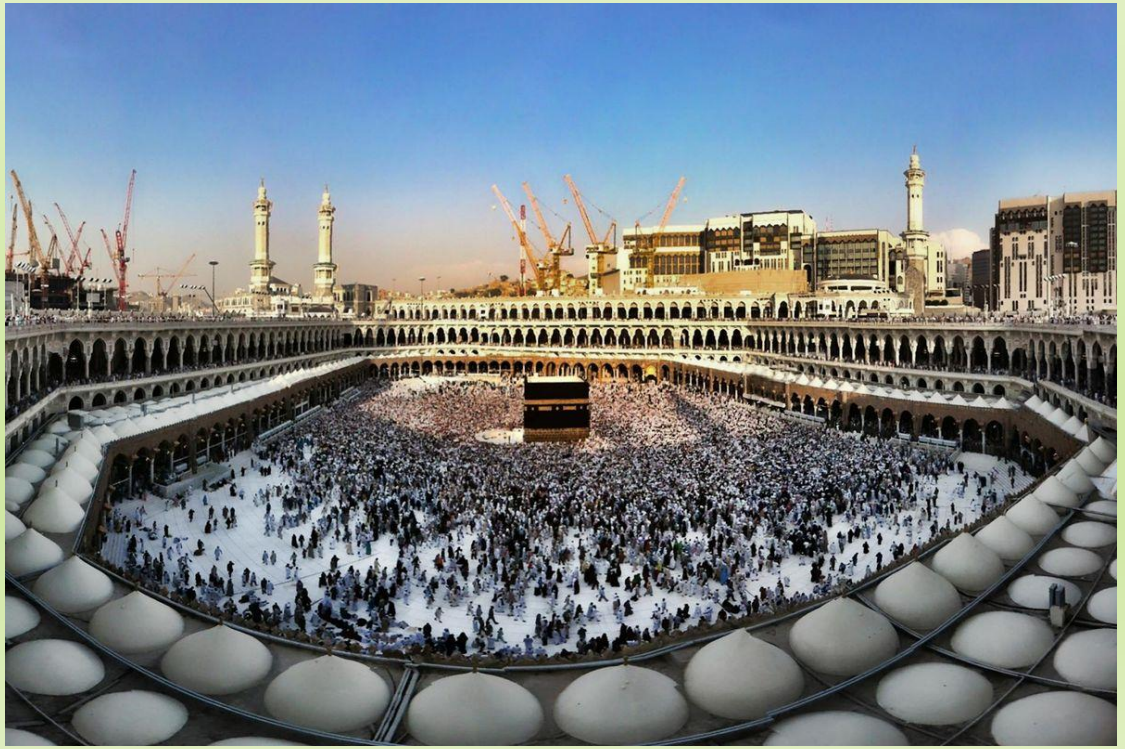
- **What messages did the angel bring to Muhammad?**
- **How can we help people who are poor, sick or hungry?**
- **What does it mean to try to do the right thing?**

Does anyone know the name of the man I am describing?



Islam, the Muslim faith, is now one of the world's great religions and like the other major faiths, its main beliefs are about peace and justice, about looking after each other and always seeking to do good.

Yes, his name is Muhammad! When Muslims, followers of his faith say his name they always add 'peace be upon him' after they speak it, as a mark of respect for a very special prophet and his very special message. And when they write it, they do the same thing by adding (PBUH) after his name.



Time for reflection

Dear God,
Thank you for the prophet Muhammad – peace be upon him,
and all that he taught about peace and looking after each other.
We thank you for all the good things
that Muslim believers have done through the centuries
as they have tried to put the prophet's words into action.
Help us to do what we can for others,
living in peace with each other.
Amen.

