# A Prayer Mat Beside Dad

Picture story • Ages 3–5 • B12

Yusuf was building a road from blocks while Dad read nearby. When it was time for the Maghrib prayer, Dad closed his book and placed a marker between the pages.

“Why did you stop now?” Yusuf asked. “Prayer is worship for Allah, and every prayer has its time,” Dad said. “Maghrib time has come, so I am getting ready.”

Yusuf followed him to the washing area and stood clear of the splashing water. He watched Dad make wudu, and then they returned to the room.

Dad wiped the drops that had reached the edge of the floor and returned the towel to its place. Yusuf saw that getting ready for prayer had calm, familiar steps.

Dad spread his prayer mat. Yusuf brought a small mat. “May I put mine beside yours?” “Yes, if you would like,” Dad said. “You can watch me pray. I will not turn it into a test.”

Yusuf copied some movements without counting or testing. After the prayer he asked, “Does Fajr have a time too?” Dad sat facing him, listened, and answered simply. A familiar scene had grown: a book closed at the right time and a prayer mat spread at the right time.

# Time, Readiness, and Familiarity

Question: Why did Dad close his book? Which calm steps did Yusuf notice before the prayer?

Safe activity: Answer one child question about prayer simply. If the child wishes, let them place a small mat beside you without counting movements or turning the moment into a test.

For the grown-up: Keep the wudu floor dry and safe. Allow free watching and imitation. Do not force the child or promise a worldly result; build familiarity through gentleness and example.

Original fiction inspired by “Until the Self Grows Steady — Worship and Models of Example,” physical PDF page 6 (printed page 5). No direct Qur’an or hadith quotation appears in the child text.