مدارج



The Napkin Mission

Picture story • Ages 3–5 • B24



Five-year-old Adam was at home with his mother. He carried his toy toolbox. “I want a big job!” Mum smiled. “What small thing would help right now?”



His mother pointed to the table. Hot and heavy things were for grown-ups, but the table needed napkins. “How many places are there, Mum?” Adam asked.



Adam became the “job inspector.” He counted: one, two, three, four. He picked up four napkins instead of carrying the whole box.



Adam carried the light napkins with both hands. The path was clear and dry. Mum watched from nearby without taking over his job.



He placed one napkin beside each plate. He checked again: four places and four napkins. Every napkin had a useful place.



After the meal, Adam returned the clean extras to the drawer. “That was a real, safe job,” his mother said. Adam rested beside Mum. Helping was not a race for the biggest task.

Ask: What small, safe job would help right now?

Question: How did Adam know how many napkins to take?

Activity: Choose one of two small, safe household jobs, such as arranging napkins or gathering books. Count what is needed, then do just that job.

For the grown-up: Keep hot, heavy, sharp and high objects for adults. Name the child’s useful action precisely, without comparison, and allow rest.

Original fiction inspired by “Begin with What You Can,” pages 11, 13 and 35–36. It contains no direct Qur’an or hadith quotation.