

# Marrying Outside the Jamaat

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# Shura Proposal Background

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This quarterly presentation is based on 2 Shura proposals (see appendix for full Shura proposals).

Hold this session in your next General Meeting.

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# Instructions for the facilitator

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## Time Management:

1. Review Islam's Marriage Principles (5 mins)
2. Scenario/Open Discussion (22 mins)
3. Action Items (3 min)

## Flow Management:

1. Encourage members to contribute on slide 9
2. Facilitator should facilitate discussion, talk the minimum possible
3. Finalize by stressing what Islam teaches, not one's opinions

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# Prophet Muhammad (saw)

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"A woman is married for four things, i.e., her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So you should marry the religious woman (otherwise) you will be a losers." (Bukhari).

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# Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba)

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[Video](#)

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# Data

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- Interfaith marriages experience more long-term conflict — especially around children — and are less likely to sustain shared values over time. (Pew; National Study of Youth and Religion; Journal of Marriage & Family)
- Destabilizing effect of interfaith marriages correlates with the level of disagreement in beliefs (PubMed)
- “Intermarried parents participate in fewer religious activities with their children” (Pew)

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# Research

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- “Affective forecasting” research shows people vastly overestimate how happy they would be if they won the lottery or received tenure
- In general, happiness levels return close to baseline.
- Basically, claims of “it’ll work out” often reflect a prediction error.

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# Scenario

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**Zaid and Zayna's** 28-year-old son wants to marry a girl he met in college. He' tried but cannot find a suitable match through regular processes. The girl he wants to marry is kind, financially responsible, and "better than most Muslim men I've met," he says.

She supports him practicing Islam, believes faith is a personal matter, and has no issue raising their future children as Muslim. He adds, "The Qur'an allows marriage to People of the Book. And you know X and Y couple — the husband wasn't Muslim but eventually converted. It'll work out."

Zaid worries that opposing the marriage will cost his relationship with his son. Zayna believes strong parenting can compensate for religious differences. Both feel uneasy, yet struggle to articulate any concrete harm — especially when everything seems fine *now*.

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# Questions

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- 1) What practical challenges might surface after marriage that are easy to overlook now?
- 2) How can the parents communicate clear religious boundaries without damaging the parent–child relationship?

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# Action Items

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1. Watch: Marrying "people of the book."
2. Watch: Consequences of marital mistakes
3. For parents like Zaid and Zayna, do not compromise and beg Allah for help.

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# Appendix: Shura Proposal

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*Create local Jama'at programs on marital harmony focusing on examples from Holy Prophet (sa) and Promised Messiah (as). In addition, testimonials of current couples who share how they successfully navigated through marital challenges based on Islamic teachings. These testimonials should be representative of early and middle-aged marriages. These can be done in a general body meeting on a quarterly basis. Scenario-based modules can be provided to local Jama'ats by the national department.*

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# Appendix: Shura Proposal

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*"Once a quarter a local parent's session should be held. The National Tarbiyyat department should develop resources and identify facilitators. attendance goal 50%"*