

Getting ready for Ramadan

The month is a guest. Preparing the house before the guest arrives, physically, in our schedule, and in our hearts.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Baqarah 2:185, Sahih al-Bukhari 1898

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The Companions prepared for six months

The Salaf would prepare for Ramadan for six months before it arrived, and then mourn its passing for six months after. Their love for the month was structural to their year, not just a thirty-day event.

2. Start fasting now

The Prophet (peace be upon him) fasted more in Sha'ban than any other non-Ramadan month (Bukhari 1969). Begin Monday-Thursday fasts in Sha'ban so the body adjusts before Ramadan arrives.

3. Pre-read what you will recite

If you want to read the whole Quran in Ramadan, review Surah al-Baqarah now. Six juz the first week of Sha'ban, five during the week, one on the weekend, means your tongue is warm when Ramadan starts.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to getting ready for ramadan.

Suggested closing: Allahumma ballighna Ramadan, O Allah, let us reach Ramadan.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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