

## What impact does Prophet Muhammad have on Muslims today?

### **Muhammad the individual:**

Muslims believe he is the perfect example of a man serving Allah without question. Firstly, that he was a man without godlike qualities, means there is no reason why they themselves cannot aim to live as good a life as Muhammad did. He did not have it easy; he had to be determined to succeed all his life. He had to have patience in his prophet hood before it brought results. He rejected the immorality he saw around him. He always focused on Allah. He was humble, modest, caring, prayed and knew Allah would help when difficulties arose. He is the best example to follow for all those reasons. HE was a better human being because of his sense of morality, of duty and his belief in the importance of his community. Regardless of a person's position in society, Muslims believe everyone could learn from him, then and now.

### **Muhammad the leader:**

Muslims claim that Muhammad was the greatest political and religious leader of all time, managing to combine the two roles perfectly. He set up a community where individuals were respected. He allowed religious freedom, have women rights, looked after the elderly and sick, welcomed strangers and created rules which allowed the best possible outcomes for everyone. He had charisma as a leader so that people followed him in religion, in ordinary life and militarily. Ten thousand men went into battle for him in Makkah. The Islamic Empire spread from southern Europe to northern Africa and across Asia, in his name and the name of Islam. Today, thirteen centuries later, 1.3 billion Muslim followers repeat his name daily and many people study his life worldwide.

### **Muhammad the family man:**

Muhammad was the ultimate family man, carrying on from other prophets. In the Qur'an there is a theme of good fathers: Adam, Noah, Lut, Jacob, Ibrahim and then Muhammad. Islam sees the family as the basic unit for the well-being of society. If family works well, society works well. Muhammad said 'the best of you is he who is best to his family' (Hadith). Muhammad led a strong family unit. He loved his wife, and still cared for the extended family after she died. He was as caring to his other wives, spending time with them, was never harsh with them and did his duties around the house. He kept all his wives happy, dealing with any issues justly. He had four daughters whom he educated (not the tradition at the time), marrying them to decent men, and he was a good grandfather. He also suffered the loss of his own sons and needed his faith in Allah to help him through this. As a loving father, he never forgot his sons.

### **Muhammad the teacher:**

He was the greatest teacher, because of what he said. He lived every aspect of Islamic life, so others could learn and follow. He spoke with authority, but made it easy for others to learn. He spoke clearly and precisely, making learning easier. He spent thirteen years in Makkah teaching people the Word of Allah. Many initially rejected his teachings and though he faced hatred and violence, he carried on with the right method and the patience to succeed. His determination to teach Allah's way meant he had the patience he needed.