

A brief guide to holding Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers at home in cases of necessity

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Praise be to Allah.

Assalam'alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh beloved brothers and sisters in Islam.

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“O you who believe (Muslims)! When the call is proclaimed for the Salaah (prayer) on Friday (Jumu'ah prayer), come to the remembrance of Allah [Jumu'ah religious talk (Khutbah) and Salaah (prayer)] and leave off business (and every other thing). That is better for you if you did but know!” [al-Jumu'ah 62:9].

Narrated from Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with them both) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“People should stop neglecting Jumu'ah prayers or else Allah will place a seal over their hearts, then they will be among the negligent.”** Narrated by Muslim, 865.

This guide is a humble and honest attempt at inshaAllah helping the Muslim brothers fulfill the religious obligation of attending Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers where possible to do so. This guide uses the provisions and concessions that are in accordance with the Qur'an and the saheeh ahadeeth to provide guidance on holding the Jumu'ah prayer at home whilst the masaajid are closed and there is no foreseeable end to the restrictions currently in place. The matter of holding the Jumu'ah prayers away from the masaajid is broad in scope but this guide will focus on the [minimum requirements](#) to inshaAllah make it simple for brothers to hold the Jumu'ah prayers at home and obtain its full reward until the masaajid open again. Indeed, the majority of scholars have deemed it permissible to perform the Jumu'ah prayer anywhere including in the homes during times of necessity, including general pandemics. This position is deemed valid due to lack of any contrary evidence.

For those who are unable to attend or hold Jumu'ah prayers, there is no blame on them to pray four raka'at of Dhuhr prayer instead, according to the consensus of the scholars.

And Allah is the Source of strength.

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STEPS FOR GIVING A BASIC KHUTBAH FOR JUMU'AH PRAYER

STEP 1 - KHATEEB GREETES THE PEOPLE

Just before beginning the khutbah (sermon), you as the khateeb (the person giving khutbah) stands up and greets people with **Assalam'alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh**. He then sits down.

STEP 2- MU'ADDHIN MAKES CALL TO PRAYER

The appointed mu'addhin (caller of prayer) stands up and calls the adhan (call). Once done, he sits down.

STEP 3 - KHATEEB COMMENCES FIRST KHUTBAH

The khateeb stands up and praises Allah, and invokes blessings on the Messenger of Allah (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam). After that, he may recite an ayah from the Qur'an with translation, **or** read a short hadeeth with a brief explanation in your language. Example below:

Innal-Hamdalillah was-Salaatu was-Salaam `alaa Rasoolillah (Verily all praise is for Allah, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah (sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam).

Allah says in the Qur'an, Soorat-al-Jumu'ah verse 9

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾

meaning: **"O you who believe (Muslims)! When the call is proclaimed for the Salah (prayer) on Friday (Jumu'ah prayer), come to the remembrance of Allah (Khutbah and Salaah) and leave off business (and every other thing). That is better for you if you did but know!"**

Jumu'ah prayers are an obligation on all Muslims except those who are exempted.

STEP 4 - KHATEEB SITS DOWN FOR A SHORT WHILE

The khateeb sits down for a few seconds. One may make du'a' in this pause.

STEP 5 - KHATEEB COMMENCES THE SECOND KHUTBAH

The khateeb stands up and repeats Step 3 with different/additional advice. Example below:

Innal-Hamdalillah was-Salaatu was-Salaam `alaa Rasoolillah

Narrated from Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with them both) that the Prophet (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam). said: **"People should stop neglecting Jumu'ah prayers or else Allah will place a seal over their hearts, then they will be among the negligent."** Narrated by Muslim, 865.

STEP 6 - KHATEEB LEADS PEOPLE IN TWO RAKA'AT OF PRAYER

The khateeb asks the mu'addhin to call the iqamah for Jumu'ah prayer, which is the usual two raka'at with recitation done loudly (like at Fajr).

FAQS

WHAT ARE THE OTHER SCHOLARLY OPINIONS ON THE MINIMUM PEOPLE FOR JUMU'AH?

This guide is based on the scholarly opinion that Jumu'ah requires a [minimum of three attendees](#), with the imam being one of them, along with a group (minimum of two) whom he addresses the khutbah to. This is also the chosen opinion of Shaykh al-Islam ibn Taymiyyah. Note - The minimum number of attendees must be the age of maturity (buloogh), free and have performing Jumu'ah obligatory on them (men).

In another opinion close to the above, Jumu'ah can be held with a [minimum of two attendees](#) including the imam. If the congregational prayer is valid with one person along with the imam, then the Jumu'ah prayer is a prayer from amongst the prayers; so whoever stipulates for it more than what allows for a congregation to be held must provide the evidence (*see pages 133 & 134 in Fiqh-us-Sunnah Vol. 2 by Sh. Sayyid Saabiq*).

The above two opinions are based on the scholarly position that there is no explicit text stipulating a specific number [of people] for establishing the Jumu'ah prayer, nor stipulating a specific place.

There are other opinions the scholars mention, some of which are:

- Shafa'ee and Hanbalee madhabs – minimum 40 attendees
- Hanafee madhab – minimum 3 attendees plus the imam
- Malikee madhab – minimum 12 attendees

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE MINIMUM NUMBER FOR JUMU'AH OR CAN'T HOLD JUMU'AH?

In absence of other options to pray in a congregation, you may pray [four raka'at Dhuh](#)r like on other days.

IS PRAYING JUMU'AH AT HOME VALID?

There is [no stipulation](#) that Jumu'ah prayer must be offered in a masjid or jaami'. This opinion is also supported by the majority of scholars of the Shaafa'ee, Hanafee, and Hanbalee madhhabs.

IS THE KHUTBAH MANDATORY FOR JUMU'AH PRAYER TO BE VALID?

By scholarly consensus, the [khutbah is a condition of Jumu'ah](#), and Jumu'ah prayer is not valid without it.

CAN THE KHUTBAH BE IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ARABIC?

The correct view is that it is permissible for the khateeb to deliver the Jumu'ah [khutbah in a language that the people present understand](#). If he recites verses of Qur'an though, they must be in Arabic in which the Qur'an was revealed, then after that he may explain them to people in their language.

I TRY MY BEST BUT I'M WORRIED I MIGHT MAKE MISTAKES

Do not worry as Allah says in the Qur'an (interpretation of the meaning):

“So keep your duty to Allah and fear Him as much as you can” [al-Taghabun 64:16]