

THEME 3 - KINDNESS TO PARENTS

بِرُّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ

Learning objectives:

- To learn that it is a duty to care for parents.
- To understand that by being kind to parents we will gain Allah's pleasure and our parents love.
- To demonstrate kindness to parents through various activities.
- To be able to explain that parent-child relationship is the most deep and everlasting friendship and love.

In this theme, you will learn:

Caring for parents means; listening and obeying them, helping and supporting them. Particularly when they are old, we must care for them and look after them. You will only enter paradise if you were kind to parents. It means to treat them with care, love and warmth especially when they become old and not left on their own. It is forbidden in Islam to be rude or talk back to them.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حُسْنًا﴾ [العنكبوت: 8]
﴿وَاخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا﴾ [الإسراء: 24].

Allah ﷻ says: “We urged humanity to treat their parents well” (29:8).

“And be kind; lower your wings with humility for them and pray: My Lord, be kind to them, as they cared for me in childhood” (17:24).

[1] عن عبد الله بن مسعود قَالَ: سألت النبي: أَيُّ الْعَمَلِ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى؟ قَالَ: «الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى وَفْتِهَا»، قُلْتُ: ثُمَّ أَيُّ؟ قَالَ: «بِرُّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ»، قُلْتُ: ثُمَّ أَيُّ؟ قَالَ: «الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. ‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud ﷺ reported: I asked the Prophet ﷺ, “Which deed does Allah love most?” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Salah at its proper time.” I asked, “What next?” He ﷺ replied, “Kindness to parents.” I asked, “What next?” He replied, “Jihad in the way of Allah.”

[2] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: جاء رجلٌ إلى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مَنْ أَحَقُّ النَّاسِ بِحُسْنِ صَحَابَتِي؟ قَالَ: «أُمُّكَ» قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: «أُمُّكَ» قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: «أُمُّكَ» قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: «أَبُوكَ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: A man came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and asked, “Who deserves my kindness the most?” He ﷺ said, “Your mother.” He asked, “Then who?” “Your mother”, the Prophet ﷺ replied again. He asked again, “Then who?” He ﷺ replied again, “Your mother.” He again asked, “Then who?” He ﷺ said “your father.”

COMMENTARY: Some people conclude from this Hadith that mother deserves respect and care three times more than the father. Others say this is metaphorical and the Prophet is stressing how we should be kind to both parents.

[3] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ عن النبي قَالَ: «رَغِمَ أَنْفُ، ثُمَّ رَغِمَ أَنْفُ، ثُمَّ رَغِمَ أَنْفُ، ثُمَّ رَغِمَ أَنْفُ مَنْ أَدْرَكَ أَبُوهُ عِنْدَ الْكِبَرِ، أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَيْهِمَا فَلَمْ يَدْخُلِ الْجَنَّةَ» رواه مسلم.

3. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “May he be disgraced! May he be disgraced! May he be disgraced, whose parents, one or both, reach old age during his life time, and he does not enter Paradise (by being kind to them).”

[4] عن أنسٍ أن رسول الله قَالَ: «مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُبْسَطَ لَهُ فِي رِزْقِهِ، وَيُنْسَأَ لَهُ فِي أَثَرِهِ، فَلْيَصِلْ رَحْمَتَهُ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

4. Anas رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “If you want a comfortable and long life then keep your relatives happy.”

[5] عن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص، قَالَ: أَقْبَلَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ، فَقَالَ: أَبَايَعُكَ عَلَى الْهِجْرَةِ وَالْجِهَادِ أَبْتَغِي الْأَجْرَ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى. قَالَ: «فَهَلْ لَكَ مِنْ وَالِدَيْكَ أَحَدٌ حَيٌّ؟» قَالَ: نَعَمْ، بَلْ كِلَاهُمَا. قَالَ: «فَتَبْتَغِي الْأَجْرَ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى؟» قَالَ: نَعَمْ. قَالَ: «فَارْجِعْ إِلَى وَالِدَيْكَ، فَأَحْسِنْ صُحْبَتَهُمَا» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

5. ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-’ as ﷺ reported: A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said, “I promise to migrate and I will take part in Jihad, for the sake of Allah.” He ﷺ asked, “Are your parents alive?” He said, “Yes, both of them.” He ﷺ then asked, “Do you want to seek reward from Allah?” He replied “Yes”. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Go back to your parents and look after them.”

[6] عن عائشة قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «الرَّحْمُ مُعَلَّقَةٌ بِالْعَرْشِ تَقُولُ: مَنْ وَصَلَنِي، وَصَلَهُ اللَّهُ، وَمَنْ قَطَعَنِي، قَطَعَهُ اللَّهُ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

6. ‘Aisha ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The womb attached to the divine throne said: ‘Anyone who keeps good relations with me, Allah will keep good relations with them, but, whoever breaks relations with me Allah will break relations with them’.”

[7] عن أسماء بنتِ أبي بكر الصديق، قَالَتْ: قَدِمْتُ عَلَيَّ أُمِّي وَهِيَ مُشْرِكَةٌ فِي عَهْدِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، فَاسْتَفْتَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، قُلْتُ: قَدِمْتُ عَلَيَّ أُمِّي وَهِيَ رَاغِبَةٌ، أَفَأَصِلُ أُمِّي؟ قَالَ: «نَعَمْ، صِلِي أُمَّكِ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

7. Asma’ bint Abu Bakr As-Siddiq ﷺ said: My mother came to me when she was still a polytheist, so I asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, “My mother dislikes Islam and has come to visit me, shall I be kind to her?” He ﷺ replied, “Yes, be kind to your mother.”

[8] عن البراء بن عازب عن النبي قَالَ: «الْحَالَةُ بِمَنْزِلَةِ الْأُمِّ» رواه

الترمذي

8. Al-Bara' bin 'Azib رضي الله عنه reported: I heard the Prophet ﷺ saying: "An aunt is like one's mother."

Activities:

- Discuss the importance of helping your parents with household chores and how that expresses your love for them.
- Keep a diary for a week by writing all the acts of kindness that you have shown towards your parents.
- Design a leaflet or poster showing how to be kind to parents.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Appreciate your parents and never raise your voice at them.
- Look after your parents especially when they are old and seek their forgiveness.
- Kindness to parents is greater than fighting in Jihad according to the hadith.
- It is a duty to be kind to your parents irrespective of what they have done.
- Listen to their views as they are more experienced than you are and show respect.