

THEME 5 - BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

تَحْرِيمُ الظُّلْمِ

Learning objectives:

- To learn that bullying is prohibited and unacceptable in Islam, the Quran uses the term unjust or 'Zalim' to describe the bully.
- To develop and demonstrate exemplary behaviour that is expected all the time.
- To learn signs of bullying and how to stop bullying.

In this theme, you will learn:

Bullying is bad behaviour that uses threats, force or abuse (emotional or physical). It is unfriendly and controlling. A bully is a person who frightens or puts pressure on another person by using strong or forceful language. No one should be put in a position to be forced to do what they do not want to. Bullies target a weaker person and must therefore be reported or stopped from causing harm or injury to others. A Zalim is someone who is unjust, oppressive and wrongful.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿مَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ حَمِيمٍ وَلَا شَفِيعٍ يُطَاعُ﴾ [غافر: 18]
وَقَالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ نَصِيرٍ﴾ [الحج: 71].

Allah ﷻ says: “The evildoers will have no friend or an intercessor who will be listened to” (40:18). “Such wrongdoers shall have no helper” (22:71).

[1] عن جابر: أن رسول الله قال: «اتَّقُوا الظُّلْمَ؛ فَإِنَّ الظُّلْمَ ظُلُمَاتٌ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ. وَاتَّقُوا الشُّحَّ؛ فَإِنَّ الشُّحَّ أَهْلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ. حَمَلَهُمْ عَلَى أَنْ سَفَكُوا دِمَاءَهُمْ، وَاسْتَحَلُّوا مَحَارِمَهُمْ» رواه مسلم.

1. Jabir bin ‘Abdullah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Beware of injustice, for it will be darkness on the Day of Judgment; and beware of greed as it destroyed those before you, it led them to shed blood and oppress others.”

[2] عن عائشة: أن رسول الله، قال: «مَنْ ظَلَمَ قِيدَ شِبْرٍ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ، طَوَّقَهُ مِنْ سَبْعِ أَرْضِينَ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. ‘Aisha ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Whoever unlawfully occupies even a hand span of land, a collar measuring seven times this will be placed around his neck on the Day of Judgment.”

[3] عن أبي موسى قال: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيُؤْتِي لِلظَّالِمِ، فَإِذَا أَخَذَهُ لَمْ يُفْلِتْهُ»، ثُمَّ قَرَأَ: ﴿وَكَذَلِكَ أَخْذُ رَبِّكَ إِذَا أَخَذَ الْقَرْيَ وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ إِنَّ أَخْذَهُ أَلِيمٌ شَدِيدٌ﴾ [هود: 102] مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

3. Abu Musa رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah gives respite to the oppressor. But when He seizes him, He does not let him escape.” Then he رضي الله عنه recited, “That is how your Lord snatches away towns that are steeped in evil: His punishment is severely painful” (11:102).

[4] عن معاذ قال: بَعَثَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ فَقَالَ: «إِنَّكَ تَأْتِي قَوْمًا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ فَادْعُهُمْ إِلَى شَهَادَةِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَنَّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِذَلِكَ، فَأَعْلِمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ خَمْسَ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِذَلِكَ، فَأَعْلِمُهُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُؤْخَذُ مِنْ أَعْيُنِيائِهِمْ فُتَرَدُّ عَلَى فُقَرَائِهِمْ، فَإِنْ هُمْ أَطَاعُوا لِذَلِكَ، فَإِيَّاكَ وَكَرَائِمَ أَمْوَالِهِمْ، وَاتَّقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمَظْلُومِ؛ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

4. Mu’adh رضي الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ sent me (as a Governor to Yemen) and instructed: “You will go to the people of the book. First call them to testify that ‘there is no true god except Allah, and that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah.’ If they obey, tell them that Allah has ordered them to pray five times in the day and night; and if they obey you, inform them that Allah has made Zakat obligatory upon them; that it should be collected from their rich and distributed among the poor; and if they obey you refrain from picking up (as a share of Zakat) the best of their wealth. Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.”

[5] عن أبي هريرة عن النبيّ قال: «مَنْ كَانَتْ عِنْدَهُ مَظْلَمَةٌ لِأَخِيهِ، مِنْ عَرَضِهِ أَوْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ، فَلْيَتَحَلَّلْهُ مِنْهُ الْيَوْمَ قَبْلَ أَنْ لَا يَكُونَ دِينَارٌ وَلَا دِرْهَمٌ؛ إِنْ كَانَ لَهُ عَمَلٌ صَالِحٌ أُخِذَ مِنْهُ بِقَدْرِ مَظْلَمَتِهِ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ حَسَنَاتٌ أُخِذَ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ صَاحِبِهِ فَحُمِلَ عَلَيْهِ» رواه البخاري.

5. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “If anyone maligned his brother, let him ask his forgiveness today before the time (i.e. the Day of Judgment) when he will have neither a dinar nor a dirham. If he has done some good deeds, a portion equal to his wrong doings will be subtracted from them; but if he has no good deeds, he will be burdened with the evil deeds of the one he wronged in the same proportion.”

[6] عن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص عن النبيّ قال: «الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ، وَالْمُهَاجِرُ مَنْ هَجَرَ مَا نَهَى اللَّهُ عَنْهُ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

6. ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-’as رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “A Muslim is one who keeps others safe from his tongue and hands; and a Muhajir (migrant) is the one who avoids the wrong that Allah has forbidden.”

COMMENTARY: In essence, this hadith underscores the holistic nature of Islam, focusing on inner purity, righteous conduct, and consideration for others. It is a call for Muslims to embody the true spirit of Islam by fostering a compassionate and tolerant society, as well as a personal commitment to self-improvement and adherence to the Divine guidance provided by Allah.

[7] عن أبي هريرة : أن رسول الله قال: «أتدرون من المُفلس؟» قالوا: المُفلسُ فِينَا مَنْ لَا دِرْهَمَ لَهُ وَلَا مَتَاعَ، فَقَالَ: «إِنَّ المُفلسَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مَنْ يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِصَلَاةٍ وَصِيَامٍ وَزَكَاةٍ، وَيَأْتِي قَدْ شَتَمَ هَذَا، وَقَذَفَ هَذَا، وَأَكَلَ مَالَ هَذَا، وَسَفَكَ دَمَ هَذَا، وَضَرَبَ هَذَا، فَيُعْطَى هَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ، وَهَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ، فَإِنْ فَنِيَتْ حَسَنَاتُهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُقْضَى مَا عَلَيْهِ، أُخِذَ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ فَطُرِحَتْ عَلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ طُرِحَ فِي النَّارِ» رواه مسلم.

7. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Do you know who is bankrupt?” They said: “The bankrupt doesn’t have money nor property.” He said, “The bankrupt of my Ummah will be the one who comes on the Day of Judgment with Salah, Saum and Sadaqah (charity), (but he will find himself bankrupt since his deeds will be given away to those he mistreated) because he disliked others, slandered, unlawfully took wealth, shed blood. His deeds would be credited to the account of those suffered at his hand. If his good deeds fall short to clear the account, then the other party’s sins will be entered in his account and he would be thrown in the hell fire.”

Activities

- Discuss how to overcome bullying.
- Design a poster to stop bullying and include a hadith.
- Role-play with friends to show that bullying is not allowed in Islam.

- Participate in National Anti-Bullying week.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Bullying in any form will not be tolerated and have greater punishment.
- Bullying harms others.
- Learn to report bullies and never keep silent.
- A bully can be anyone who treats others unjustly.
- To treat everyone the way we want to be treated.
- People are of different colours, body shapes, have different faiths, speak different languages and live life differently so we can experience different ways of living without changing our lives.
- Words have the power to deeply affect individuals, leaving lasting scars that may not be visible but are equally painful.