# Theme 26 - The virtues of maintaining family ties

## فَضْلُ صِلَة الْأَرْحَامِ

**Learning objectives:**

- To understand the importance of family and relatives.
- To learn that it is wrong to break up relationships.
- To learn how to develop relationships.

**In this theme, you will learn:**

Family ties are the way in which people are connected to each other by blood relations. Relationships are formed through family, friends, work and marriage. Some of these relationship are for life especially family relations. It is vital that these relationships stay strong and last forever. Maintaining good family ties will create peace and a better society. We must learn to seek forgiveness and reconcile immediately with your relatives and friends.

قَالَ الله تَعَالَى: ﴿إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ﴾ [الحجرات:10] وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿وَٱلَّذِينَ يَصِلُونَ مَآ أَمَرَ ٱللَّهُ بِهِۦٓ أَن يُوصَلَ وَيَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ وَيَخَافُونَ سُوٓءَ ٱلْحِسَابِ﴾ [الرعد :21].

Allah ﷻ says: “The believers are brothers,a so make peace between your two brothers” (49:10). “They maintain the ties of kinship as instructed by Allah, fear their Lord, afraid of an evil reckoning” (13:21).

[1] عن أنس قَالَ : قَالَ رسولُ الله: «لا تَقَاطَعُوا، وَلا تَدَابَرُوا، وَلا تَبَاغَضُوا، وَلا تَحَاسَدُوا، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللهِ إِخْوَاناً، وَلا يَحِلُّ لِمُسْلِمٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلاَث» متفق عَلَيْهِ.

1. Anas bin Malik ﷺ said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Do not cut off family ties or desert, hate or envy one another instead become brothers and become servants of Allah. It is forbidden to break off relations for more than three days.”

Commentary: This hadith holds profound wisdom and guidance on promoting unity and harmony within the community. The Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasises the importance of brotherhood among believers, discouraging any feelings of desertion, hatred, or envy towards one another. Instead, he calls upon Muslims to treat each other as brothers and sisters, united in their servitude to Allah.

[2] عن أَبي هريرة قَالَ: قَالَ رسول الله: «تُعْرَضُ الأَعْمَالُ في كلِّ اثْنَيْنِ وَخَمْيسٍ، فَيَغْفِرُ اللهُ لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ لا يُشْرِكُ باللهِ شَيْئاً، إلا امْرَءاً كَانَتْ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ أَخِيهِ شَحْنَاءُ، فَيقُولُ: اتْرُكُوا هذَيْنِ حَتَّى يَصْطَلِحَا» رواه مسلم.

2. Abu Hurairah ﷺ said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The deeds of people are presented to Allah on Monday and Thursday.

He forgives minor sins. But does not forgive anyone who associates with Allah nor the one who has animosity between him and his brother, so He says: Leave these two until they have reconciled."

[3] عن جابر قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رسول الله يقولُ: «إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ قَدْ أَيَسَ أَنْ يَعْبُدَهُ المُصَلُّونَ فِي جَزِيرَةِ العَرَبِ، وَلَكِنْ في التَّحْرِيشِ بَيْنَهُمْ» رواه مسلم.

3. Jabir ﷺ said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say "Satan has lost hope that he will be worshipped in the Arabian peninsula but has not lost hope in creating conflict amongst them."

[4] عن أَبي هريرة قَالَ: قَالَ رسول الله: «لا يَحِلُّ لِمُسْلِمٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلاَثٍ، فَمَنْ هَجَرَ فَوْقَ ثَلاَثٍ فَمَاتَ دَخَلَ النَّار» رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ.

4. Abu Hurairah ﷺ said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "It is unlawful for a Muslim to stop talking to his brother for more than three days and whosoever does so for more than three days and then dies, he will go to Hell."

[5] عَنْ جُبَيْرِ بْنِ مُطْعِمٍ عَنْ النَّبِيِّ قَالَ « لاَ يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ قَاطِعُ رَحِمٍ » متفق عَلَيْهِ.

5. Jubair bin Mutim ﷺ said: The Prophet ﷺ said: "He who breaks the ties of kinship will not enter Paradise."

Commentary: By linking entry to Paradise with upholding family ties, the Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasises the integral role that family plays in the life of a Muslim. Strong family bonds contribute to the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole, fostering love and compassion.

**Activities:**

- Role play: A situation where you have fallen out with your friend. How will you apologise? Can you explain why you behaved in this way?
- Design a poster to show the importance of family ties.
- Discuss the dangers of not maintaining family ties, what impact will this have on society?

**In this theme you have learnt:**

- Make peace between each other and help one another with what is good.
- Allah ﷻ forgives minor sins but does not forgive anyone who associates anything with Allah and neither does He forgive the one who has hatred against his brother.
- The believers are brothers, so make peace between yourselves.
- It is the work of Satan to create conflict amongst each other.
- Stay away from hostility, hatred and conflict amongst each other
- It is forbidden to break off relations for more than three days.
- Do not encourage hostility, hatred or envy towards each other.
- We should talk to friends and family over any differences and try to find a compromise.