Theme 28 - Virtues of Jihad (The struggle through life)

فَضْلُ الْجِهَادِ

Learning objectives:

- To learn the meaning of Jihad and its different types.
- To understand that standing up for the truth is a noble duty.
- To learn the virtues of a Mujahid.

In this theme, you will learn:

Jihad is striving, struggling and making efforts to do good for one's self as well as for others. There are different forms of Jihad such as; to defend Islam and one's homeland, to work in order to create a strong Muslim community and build a fair society, to spend money on the poor, to educate and teach others, The greatest Jihad is spiritual Jihad, fighting temptations and wrongdoings, which makes a better person.

قال تَعَالَى: ﴿انْفِرُوا خِفَافاً وَثِقَالاً وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ﴾ [التوبة :41]. وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَى تِجَارَةٍ تُنْجِيكُمْ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ * تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ [الصف :10-11].

Allah ﷻ says: “Mobilise whether you are lightly or heavily armed, and struggle with your wealth and your lives in Allah’s way” (9:41). “Believers, shall I show you a course of action that will save you from a painful punishment? It is to believe in Allah and His Messenger, and strive in His path with your wealth and lives.” (61:10-11).

[1] عن أَبي هريرة قَالَ: سُئِلَ رسول الله: أيُّ الأَعْمَال أفْضَلُ؟ قَالَ: «إيمَانٌ بِاللهِ وَرَسُولِهِ» قيلَ: ثُمَّ مَاذَا؟ قَالَ: «الجهادُ في سَبيلِ اللهِ» قِيلَ: ثُمَّ مَاذَا؟ قَالَ: «حَجٌّ مَبْرُورٌ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was asked, “Which deed is the best?” He ﷺ replied, “Faith in Allah and His Messenger.” He ﷺ was asked, “What else?” He ﷺ replied, “Jihad in the way of Allah.” Then he was asked: “What else?” He ﷺ replied, “Hajj Mabrur (which is accepted by Allah).”

[2] عن أَبي سعيدٍ الخدريِّ قَالَ: أَتَى رَجُلٌ رسول الله فَقَالَ: أيُّ النَّاسِ أفْضَلُ؟ قَالَ: «مُؤْمنٌ يُجَاهِدُ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ في سَبيلِ اللهِ» قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: «مُؤْمِنٌ في شِعبٍ مِنَ الشِّعَابِ يَعْبُدُ اللهَ، وَيَدَعُ النَّاسَ مِنْ شَرِّهِ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Abu Sa’id Al-Khudri ﷺ reported: A man came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and said, “Who is the best among men?” He ﷺ replied, “A believer who strives in the way of Allah with his wealth and life.” The man asked again, “Who next?” He ﷺ said, “Next is a

man who is engaged in worshipping his Lord in a mountain valley, leaving the people securing himself from their mischief."

[3] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: أنَّ رسول الله قَالَ: «إنَّ في الجنَّةِ مِئَةَ دَرَجَةٍ أعَدَّهَا اللهُ لِلْمُجَاهِدِينَ في سَبِيلِ اللهِ مَا بَيْنَ الدَّرَجَتَيْنِ كَمَا بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالأَرْضِ» رواه البخاري.

3. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "In Paradise there are a hundred grades, which Allah has prepared for the mujahid; and the distance between two grades is the distance between heaven and earth."

[4] عن أَبي عبسٍ عبد الرحمن بن جَبْرٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رسول الله: «ما اغْبَرَّتْ قَدَمَا عَبْدٍ في سَبيلِ اللهِ فَتَمَسَّهُ النَّارُ» رواه البخاري.

4. Abu 'Abs 'Abdur-Rahman bin Jabr ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "The feet soiled with dust from Jihad will not be touched by hell fire."

Commentary: This Hadith highlights the immense reward and protection bestowed upon those who actively participate in Jihad for the sake of Allah. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) reassures believers that the feet that have been soiled with the dust of Jihad, symbolising their dedication and sacrifice in the path of Allah, will be safeguarded from the torment of Hell fire.

[5] عن ابن عباس قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رسول الله يقول: «عَيْنَانِ لا تَمسُّهُمَا النَّارُ: عَيْنٌ بَكَتْ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللهِ، وَعَيْنٌ بَاتَتْ تَحْرُسُ في سَبيلِ اللهِ» رواه الترمذي.

5. Ibn ʻAbbas ﷺ reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saying, "Two eyes will never be touched by the fire of Hell; an eye which wept with the fear of Allah and an eye which spent a night guarding for the cause of Allah."

[6] عن أَبي أُمَامَة الباهلي قال: قَالَ رسول الله: «أَفْضَلُ الصَّدَقَاتِ ظِلُّ فُسْطَاطٍ في سَبِيلِ اللهِ وَمَنيحَةُ خَادِمٍ في سَبِيلِ اللهِ، أَوْ طَرُوقَةُ فَحلٍ في سَبِيلِ اللهِ» رواه الترمذي.

6. Abu Umamah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "The best charity is to give shelter, pay wages and provide means of transport for the mujahid."

Commentary: The Hadith encourages Muslims to actively participate in supporting those who engage in Jihad. It reminds believers that contributing to the needs of the mujahid holds immense spiritual merit and is highly regarded. However, it is essential to understand that the concept of Jihad is multifaceted and includes both defensive actions and personal struggles for righteousness.

[7] عن سهل بن حنيف أَنَّ رسول الله قَالَ: «مَنْ سَأَلَ اللهَ تَعَالَى الشَّهَادَةَ بِصِدْقٍ بَلَّغَهُ اللهُ مَنَازِلَ الشُّهَدَاءِ، وَإِنْ مَاتَ عَلَى فِرَاشِهِ» رواه مسلم.

7. Sahl bin Hunaif ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "He who prays sincerely for martyrdom, Allah will raise him to the status of a martyr, even if he dies on his bed."

[8] عن أَبي هريرة قال: قَالَ رسول الله: « مَنْ مَاتَ وَلَمْ يَغْزُ، وَلَمْ يُحَدِّثْ نَفْسَهُ بغَزْوٍ، مَاتَ عَلَى شُعْبَةٍ مِنَ النِّفَاقِ» رواه مسلم.

8. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "He who dies without having fought in the cause of Allah or without having thought of doing so, will die with one characteristic of hypocrisy in him."

Activities:

- List some examples of Jihad.
- Design a poster highlighting the rewards of striving and struggling in the path of Allah.
- Discussion: What is a martyr?

In this theme you have learnt:

- The best deed is having faith in Allah and His Messenger.
- The best person is the believer who strives in the way of Allah with his wealth and life.
- An eye which wept with the fear of Allah and an eye which spent a night guarding for the cause of Allah will not enter hell fire.
- The feet soiled with dust from taking part in Jihad will not be touched by hell fire.