

## THEME 31 - FOLLOWING THE SUNNAH

### المُحَافَظَةُ عَلَى السُّنَّةِ

#### Learning objectives:

- To learn the importance of the Sunnah.
- To understand that through the Sunnah Muslims are united.
- To learn that following the Sunnah is the way to success.

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

The Sunnah is the specific actions or sayings or description of the Prophet ﷺ. Sunnah is guidance and sets examples to be followed in everyday life. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the greatest role model for all of humanity. His way of life, speech, actions, noble state of heart and mind and his character are something that every Muslim should aspire to. A hadith is a report about the Prophet's ﷺ Sunnah or his way.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا﴾

[الحشر: 7]. وَقَالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ

يُوحَىٰ﴾ [النجم: 3-4] وَقَالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي

يُحِبِّبِكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ﴾ [آل عمران: 31].

Allah ﷻ says: “Whatever the Messenger gives you take it, and whatever he forbids you avoid it” (59:7). “He doesn’t speak from his desire. This is a Revelation sent down” (53:3-4)  
 “Say: “If you love Allah then follow me, and Allah will love you and forgive your sins” (3:31).

[1] عن أبي هريرة عن النبي قَالَ: «دَعُونِي مَا تَرَكْتُكُمْ، إِنَّمَا أَهْلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ كَثْرَةَ سُؤْلِهِمْ وَاخْتِلَافُهُمْ عَلَى أَنْبِيَائِهِمْ، فَإِذَا نَهَيْتُكُمْ عَنْ شَيْءٍ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ، وَإِذَا أَمَرْتُكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ فَأَتُوا مِنْهُ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. Abu Hurairah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “Do not ask about the details I leave out, people before you suffered for asking unnecessarily and for disobeying their Prophet’s. Whatever I forbid stay away and whatever I tell you to do, carry it out to the best of your ability.”

[2] عن أبي نجيح العرْباضِ بنِ سارية قَالَ: وَعَظَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ مَوْعِظَةً بَلِيغَةً وَجِلَّتْ مِنْهَا الْقُلُوبُ، وَذَرَفَتْ مِنْهَا الْعُيُونُ، فَقُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، كَانَتْهَا مَوْعِظَةٌ مُودِعٍ فَأَوْصِنَا، قَالَ: «أَوْصِيكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، وَالسَّمْعِ وَالطَّاعَةِ وَإِنْ تَأَمَّرَ عَلَيْكُمْ عَبْدٌ حَبَشِيٌّ، وَأَنْتَ مَنْ يَعِشُ مِنْكُمْ فَسِيرِي اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا، فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ عَضُوا عَلَيْهَا بِالنَّوَاجِذِ، وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَمُحَدَّثَاتِ الْأُمُورِ؛ فَإِنَّ كُلَّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ». رواه أبو داود والترمذي

2. ‘Irbad bin Sariyah رضي الله عنه reported: One day the Messenger of Allah ﷺ delivered a moving sermon, hearts trembled and eyes shed tears. A man said: “Prophet of Allah, is this your parting advice? If so give us more.” He ﷺ said, “I tell you to fear Allah, to listen and obey your leader. Those who shall live after me will see much conflict. So hold firmly to my Sunnah and the examples of the rightly-guided Caliphs who will come after me. Adhere to them and be firm. Beware of new things in religion because every bid’ah is a misguidance.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith highlights the profound impact of Prophet Muhammad’s words and his concern for the well-being of his followers even after his departure. The setting of the hadith takes place during a moving sermon where hearts were deeply touched, and emotions overflowed with tears. The eagerness of the companions to seek more advice from the Prophet demonstrates their love and respect for him as their spiritual leader. To navigate through these turbulent times, the Prophet emphasised the significance of holding on to his Sunnah and the examples set by the rightly-guided Caliphs who would succeed him. This guidance serves as a safeguard against deviations and innovations in religious matters (bid’ah). The warning against bid’ah highlights the need to preserve the integrity and authenticity of Islamic teachings, as any new religious practices not supported by the Prophet’s teachings can lead to misguidance.

[3] عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ: «كُلُّ أُمَّتِي يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَبِي» قِيلَ: وَمَنْ يَا أَبَى يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ: «مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ أَبِي» رواه البخاري.

3. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “All members of my community will enter Paradise except those who refused.” He was asked: “Who refused?” He ﷺ said, “Whoever obeys me shall enter Paradise, and whosoever disobeys me, refuses.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith highlights the pivotal role of the Prophet as the final messenger of Allah. His words and actions serve as a comprehensive guide for Muslims in all aspects of life. Obedience to his teachings signifies submission to Allah's will, which is the essence of true faith.

[4] عن جابر قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «مَثَلِي وَمَثَلُكُمْ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ أَوْقَدَ نَاراً فَجَعَلَ الْجَنَادِبُ وَالْفَرَاشُ يَقَعْنَ فِيهَا وَهُوَ يَذُبُّهُنَّ عَنْهَا، وَأَنَا آخِذٌ بِحُجْرَتِكُمْ عَنِ النَّارِ، وَأَنْتُمْ تَفَلَّتُونَ مِنْ يَدَيَّ» رواه مسلم.

4. Jabir رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “My example is like a man who lights a fire that brightens up the surroundings, the moths and grasshoppers gather around and fall in it. He tries to push them away, but they still fly into it. I am trying to keep you away from falling into the fire by holding you from the waist, but you are trying to run away from me.”

[5] عَنْ عَبَّاسِ بْنِ رَبِيعَةَ، قَالَ: رَأَيْتُ عُمَرَ بْنَ الْخَطَّابِ يُقَبِّلُ الْحَجَرَ - يَعْنِي: الْأَسْوَدَ - وَيَقُولُ: إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ حَجَرٌ مَا تَنْفَعُ وَلَا تَضُرُّ، وَلَوْلَا أَنِّي رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ يُقَبِّلُكَ مَا قَبَّلْتُكَ. مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

5. ‘Abis bin Rabi’ah رضي الله عنه reported: I saw ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab رضي الله عنه kissing the Black stone and saying: “I know that you are a stone that can neither harm nor benefit. Had I not seen the Messenger of Allah ﷺ kissing you, I would not have kissed you.”

**Activities:**

- Discuss the importance of having good qualities like those of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He was kind, patient, honest, gentle etc.
- Design a poster titled ‘The Prophet ﷺ as your role model’. Make a list of the character traits, and important sayings and actions of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Research and find quotes from famous people including non-Muslims about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

**In this theme you have learnt:**

- Accept whatever the Messenger ﷺ has given you.
- If you love Allah ﷻ, you will follow the Prophet ﷺ.
- Whatever the Prophet ﷺ forbid, stay away from it, and whatever he said then do it to the best of your ability.
- Keep hold of the Sunnah and you will not go astray.
- Try to be a better person than you were yesterday.