



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Taking Advantage of Our Free Time - Shaping Our

Children's Characters

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا  
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ  
وَصَفِيُّ اللَّهِ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبُهُ إِمَامُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ اللَّهُمَّ  
صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ  
مُسْلِمُونَ

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Alhamdulillah, we are grateful to Allah s.w.t. for giving us the opportunity to gather on this blessed Friday. Let us express this gratitude by increasing our taqwa to Him, and strive to ensure that we do not neglect Allah's commands and we do not transgress any of His prohibitions.

Beloved Jemaah,

For the past few weeks, we have been reminded about the importance of ensuring that every member of our family, and the community, does not forego the opportunities to receive religious education. This is because, our family is our amanah, or the obligation entrusted upon us from Allah, and we will be held accountable for them by Allah s.w.t. Each and every one of us will be questioned about the state of those under our charge and our responsibility.

Hence jemaah, let us take some time to reflect upon ourselves. Have we successfully dispensed our duties as parents? Is it sufficient to provide money and wealth for their education that will help their future in this world? Is it enough to just spend time with them? Or, can we play a different role, especially during the school holiday period?

To answer those questions, let us understand the guidelines that Allah s.w.t. has revealed in surah At-Tahrim verse 6:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ  
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ  
وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: *“O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones,*

*over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.”*

In this verse, Allah s.w.t. reminds us of the importance of protecting ourselves and our family from falling into hellfire. This serves to remind us of the importance of boosting our iman, as well as that of our family including our children. *Tarbiyah* or nurturing our children to know Allah and Islam, as well as shaping good akhlak, should be given full attention.

In fact, Rasulullah s.a.w. emphasised the importance of tarbiyah or nurturing children, even when they have entered adulthood. Nabi s.a.w. once said to his daughter: *“Oh Fatimah, Mount Uhud was once offered to me to be turned into gold, but I chose for our family to enjoy the pleasures in the hereafter.”*

In another hadith Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *“By Allah even if Fatimah binti Muhammad steals, I will chop off her hand.”*  
[Muttafaq 'alaih]

Clearly, both these hadiths point to the importance of parents educating their children to be successful not only in this world, but also the hereafter, which is eternal. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. started the tarbiyah toward his children from a very young age. When a child knows of his Creator, and is able to

differentiate between good and bad, then it is easier for him to achieve success in this world and the hereafter. In fact, in several other hadith, it was narrated that the Prophet s.a.w. continued to visit and advise his daughter, Saidatina Fatimah r.a., even after she was married to Saidina Ali ibn Abi Talib r.a.

Rasulullah s.a.w. is a person who truly loved children. He would spend time with them, listen to their grouses and led them to the path of Allah.

Blessed Jemaah,

Take advantage of this school holiday to spend time with our children and nurture them. Get close to them by organising family activities. Have beneficial discussions with them, get to know them better, listen to what they have to say – their grouses, opinions and thoughts. Get to know their developments, and the developments in their fast-paced lives.

When dealing with our teenage children, appreciate their intellectual capabilities and their maturity, and guide them as needed. If their behaviour or actions worry us, find time to discuss it with them and work out a solution together. Take heed from the many advice recorded in the Quran and sunnah of Nabi s.a.w.

Instil in our children true understanding of Islam, to guard them from negative and evil influences, as well as to guard them from easily believing in misinterpretations and misrepresentations of Islam. We can certainly see the effects if we fail to guide them. Do not let them to be influenced by skewed understanding of Islam which could lead them to extremist ideologies.

Encourage our children to participate in the various school holiday programmes organised by credible private Islamic education institutions or aLIVE programmes offered by the mosques, to increase their Islamic knowledge. Detailed listings and more information on the various school holiday programmes can be found on [www.tarbiyah.net](http://www.tarbiyah.net) and the aLIVE page on Facebook.

Surely we can do even more with our children during this holiday season. Each child has his own strengths and potential. Plan wisely with our spouse on the best way to nurture our children, to strive for the best possible results. Going on a family vacation, for example, is the perfect opportunity to do good and perform ibadah together as a family. If we are unable to pray in jemaah and perform tahajjud when we are not on vacation, then we should work hard to ensure that we set aside time to do so with our family while we are on leave from work, and on holiday. Perhaps we can squeeze in time during our vacation to participate in some welfare projects to contribute to

the community in the places we visit. That way, our holiday will be more meaningful. Hopefully when the entire family strives together to bring themselves closer to Allah, Allah will strengthen the bonds and improve the relationships within the family, and with Allah.

May all our efforts, guidance, time set aside for our children, make them righteous children and the coolness of our eyes. May they become children who will contribute positively to Islam, their parents, community and country. Amin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.