



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Building A Family With Iman And Takwa

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَ أَيْدِ النَّاسِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْبَيَانَ ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهِدَ لِنَفْسِهِ
الْوَحْدَانِيَّةَ وَ الْإِحْسَانَ وَ شَهِدَ بِهِمَا مَلَائِكَتُهُ وَ الثَّقَلَانِ ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَ الرِّضْوَانِ ،
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ
تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Let us strive together to increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. to achieve the highest level of God-consciousness (takwa). Obey all of Allah's commands and avoid His prohibitions. Hopefully by strengthening our faith (iman) and takwa, it will be a source of strength for us to face the trials and tribulations of this life.

Dearest Jemaah,

Family is a blessing, an extremely valuable gift from Allah to us. Hence we should do our best to ensure that we protect this

valuable blessing; and to ensure that our family remains in harmony and is blessed by Allah s.w.t. Remember that if Allah is pleased with our lives in this temporary world, our lives in the hereafter will also be happy and peaceful. We always hope that Allah s.w.t. will unite us with our families in the hereafter, in a state of serenity and tranquillity. Allah s.w.t says in surah At-Thur verse 21:

وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ
 ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَاهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ ۚ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ
 بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ ﴿٢١﴾

Which means: *“And those who believed and whose descendants followed them in faith - We will join with them their descendants, and We will not deprive them of anything of their deeds. Every person, for what he earned, is retained.”*

This is indeed a gift from Allah s.w.t. for families that obey Allah’s commands and the teachings of Rasulullah s.a.w; a family that strives to develop their spirituality and strengthen the faith (iman) of every family member; a family that strives to emulate the Prophet s.a.w. and his family.

Rasulullah s.a.w was not simply a messenger or Rasul who was bore responsibilities toward his ummah (his people). He

was also a father, a husband and the head of a family, and he was successful in carrying out all these roles. Therefore we should, as his ummah, try to emulate the Prophet's exemplary family life.

Friday Jemaah,

Here, I would like to share some suggestions that we may consider in our efforts to build our family, with a strong foundation in iman and takwa:

First: Every effort must start from us, as head of the family.

In a hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmizi, Rasulullah s.a.w said, which means: *“The best of you is he who is best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family.”*

This hadith captures the importance of the head of the family. If we want our children and our family members to uphold good manners and good akhlak, then we ourselves should lead by example – by being kind to our family. If we want a pious wife, we ourselves need to strengthen our iman and takwa, and deepen our religious knowledge; so that we will be placed among those who are righteous.

Remember, it all starts with us. Each one of us definitely wants a family that is a source of tranquillity and affection – sakinah and mawaddah – a family that is full of love and a source of serenity. Therefore, in order to achieve these values, the

foundation to work on is takwa. We need to instil in ourselves a deep sense of takwa, and this is done by constantly making doa (supplication) to Allah; asking for a family that is deeply grounded in takwa. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Furqaan verse 74:

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا
قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

Which means: *“And those who say, “Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.”*

The second guideline: We must try to find out the well-being of our family members.

It is the responsibility of every head of the family to find out the latest updates about our family members, to know their developments and so on. Just look at how the Prophet s.a.w. was always concerned with the developments of his family members. Even after his daughter, Fatimah r.a. got married, Rasulullah s.a.w. often visited her to find out the latest updates and news concerning her and her family. This is because it is utmost responsibility of every head of the family to know what is going on with those under his care.

How can one be a successful head of the family if one does not know the latest developments of his children and wife? If he does not know who are they mixing with and who their friends are and where do they normally go to? How can one be an effective leader if one does not know what are their needs and the problems they are facing?

Perhaps, due to our busy work schedules, we often overlook this aspect. However, we should not let the stress of work affect the bonds and the affection that we share with our family. As a father, we have an important role in guiding and disciplining our children. Ensuring that we build their confidence and identity is a key ingredient toward a resilient and strong family. No matter how tired we are, as fathers, we still have to make time to find out what is happening with our children.

Besides that, we also need to understand that our spouse has her personal needs and wants. Her likes may also change; she may not enjoy the same things that she enjoyed 20 years ago. As such, as a concerned member of the family, one must be wise in making changes as needed. When we neglect this aspect, our partner will feel neglected. And it is feared that a small problem that is neglected and pushed aside may become a bigger problem and result into a conflict that cannot be resolved.

The third suggestion: Carrying out acts of worship and religious activities with the family to keep the love within the family alive.

Carrying out activities with the family is a way to ensure that our children will always feel the warmth of family love and the joy of family life. In fact, if we reflect upon the lives of the Prophets, we will learn that they paid a lot of attention to this aspect of family life. Nabi Ibrahim a.s. built the Kaabah with the help of his son, Nabi Ismail a.s. Nabi Nuh a.s. and his family worked hard at building the ark, as commanded by Allah s.w.t. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. often included his children and wife in his affairs. It was reported that Rasulullah s.a.w. once prayed in congregation (jemaah) while carrying his grandchild, Umamah. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

These events are proof that including our children and wives in our affairs should not be neglected and overlooked. When was the last time we prayed together in congregation with our family? Or when did we last complete the recitation of the Quran or read the hadith and try to understand it, together with our wife and children?

At times, because of advancements in technology that lead to the ease of communication, these tools actually cause us to be further from our families. We start to neglect the personal, face-to-face interaction and instead glued to our digital devices.

As such, we should try our best to engage in activities that will involve the entire family, especially during this school holiday season. It could be religious activities such as reading the Quran together, listening to an Islamic lecture together, praying in jemaah and so on. Or it could be taking part in volunteer work that can then be a healthy and enjoyable family culture. For example, when we are involved in volunteer work or are attending a religious lecture or class, bring along our children. Insyallah, their hearts will be nurtured and they will become used to acts of charity and compassion.

Blessed jemaah,

Let us raise our hands together, and ask from Allah s.w.t to strengthen our iman, grant us and our family members the tranquillity, to help us manoeuvre the trials of this life. And hopefully, we will be able to build families that are sakinah, mawaddah and rahmah in this world. May Allah then grant us the gift of being united with each and every one of them in Paradise, insyallah. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ 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 اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.