

يَــاَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ قُوۤاْ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهۡلِيكُمۡ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا ٱلنَّاسُ وَٱلۡحِجَارَةُ "O you who believe! Ward off yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones,

قُوۤا أَنفُسَكُمۡ وَأَهۡلِيكُمۡ means we have to teach our **children and families** religious commitment and goodness, and what they cannot do without of etiquette.

وَأُمْرُ أَهْلَكَ بِٱلصَّلَوٰةِ وَٱصْطَبِرْ

"And enjoin As-Salaat (the prayer) on your family, and be patient in offering them [i.e. the Salaat (prayers)]"

[Ta-Ha 20:132]

And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"And teach them (children) to pray when they are seven years old."

Always remember

- The Muslim any Muslim is a daa'iyah (propagator)who calls people to Allaah,
- •So the first people whom he calls should be his children and family who are close to him.

•When Allah commanded His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to call people, He said (interpretation of the meaning):

"And warn your tribe (O Muhammad) of near kindred"

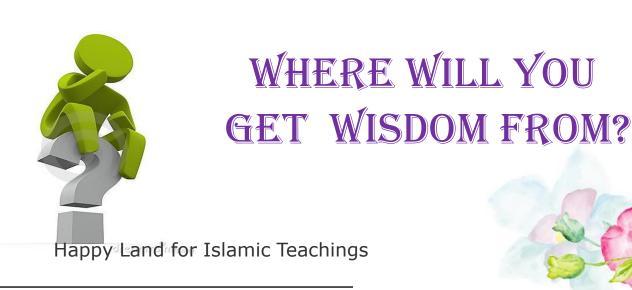
[al-Shu'ara' 26:214]

How can you do Da'wah at home

It is your duty to bring them up from a young age to

- Love Allah and
- His Messenger and
- To love the teachings of Islam.

Tell them that Allah swt has a Paradise and a Hell; that His Hell is hot and its fuel is men and stones. However you must do it with great wisdom.



Give your kids a good environment at home

You have to keep them away from the places of immorality and misguidance;

Do not leave them to grow up with evil things from <u>the</u> <u>television</u>, <u>computers</u>, <u>tablets</u>, <u>smart phones</u>, <u>bad company</u> <u>etc</u>, then after that expect them to be **righteous**

For whoever sows thorns cannot harvest grapes. That should be done when they are young, so that it will be easy for them when they grow up, and they will get used to it, and it will be easy for you to tell them what to do and what not to do, and it will be easy for them to obey you.

- The most important element of all is making the environment in which the children live a good one, by providing the means whereby they may be guided; this means that their educators should be religiously committed, including their parents.
- One of the ways in which a parent may be successful in raising his children is to use multimedia to play teachings, Qur'aan recitation, khutbahs (sermons)and lessons of scholars, for there are many available.

Disciplining your child

Discipline includes

- preaching,
- warning,
- threatening,
- smacking (lightly, if necessary)-not a good option.
- detaining,
- giving and being kind.
- Disciplining one who is good and noble is different from disciplining one who is difficult and ignoble.

Teach them examples of Muslim heroes

Instead of Batman or Superman, tell them about real heroes such as
Abu Bakr,
Umar ibn Khattab,
Othman bin Affan,
Ali bin Abi Talib and others.

Tell them how Muslim leaders brought a real peaceful change in the world and won the hearts of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Let children sit with adults

It is preferable for children to be among adults, especially when listening to Islamic lectures. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) would often put children in the front row when he spoke to the people.

Make them feel important

Consult them in family matters.

Let them feel they are important members of the family and have a part to play in the growth and well being of the family.

Praise them

Praise is a **powerful tool** with children, especially in front of others.

Children feel a sense of pride when their parents' praise them and will be keen to perform other good deeds.

However, praise must be limited to Islamic deeds and deeds of moral value.

Avoid humiliation

Similarly, do not humiliate them in front of others. Children make mistakes. Sometimes, these mistakes occur in their efforts to please the parents. If you are unhappy with your children, tell them in private.

Sports

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) encouraged sports such as swimming, running and horse riding.

Other sports that build character and physical strength are also recommended, as long as the children maintain their Islamic identity, wear appropriate clothes and do not engage in unnecessary mixing.

Responsibility

Have faith in their abilities to perform tasks.

Give them chores to do in line with their age. Convince them that they are performing an important function and you will find them eager to help you out again.

Don't spoil them

Children are easily spoiled.

If they receive everything they **ask** for, they will expect you to oblige on every occasion.

Be wise in what you buy for them. Avoid extravagance and unnecessary luxuries.

Take them to an orphanage or poor area of your city once in a while so they can see how privileged they are.

Don't be friends

It is common in the West for parents to consider their children as friends.

In **Islam**, it doesn't work that way.

If you have ever heard how friends talk to each other, then you will know that this is not how a parent-child relationship should be.

You are the parents, and they should respect you, and this is what you should be teaching them.

The friendship part should be limited to you and them keeping an open dialog so they can share their concerns with you and ask you questions when they have any.

Pray with them

Involve them in acts of worship.

When they are young, let them see you in act of salaah (salat). Soon, they would be trying to imitate you.

Wake them up for Fajr and pray as a family. Talk to them about the rewards of salaah so that it doesn't feel like a burden to them.

Emphasize halal

It is not always good to say "this is haraam, that is haraam".

While you must educate them on haraam things, Islam is full of halaal and tell your children to thank Allah (swt) for the bounties He has bestowed on them- not just for food and clothes. Tell them to be thankful for having eyes that see, ears that hear, arms and legs and, the ultimate blessing, Islam in their hearts.

Set an example

As parents, you are the best example the children can have.

If you talk to your parents rudely, expect your children to do the same to you.

If you are disrespectful to others, your children will follow too.

Islam is filled with Divine advice on the best ways to bring up your children.

That makes it an obligation upon parents to be good Muslims so their children will try to emulate them.

If you don't take Islam seriously, neither will your children.