

Keywords:
Child / Children
Responsibility / Amanah
Nurture / Guide
Character



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

3 October 2025 / 11 Rabiulakhir 1447H

Children: A Gift, A Trust, and A Test

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي اَرْسَلَ رَسُوْلَهُ بِالْهُدٰى وَدِيْنِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلٰى الدِّيْنِ كُلِّهِ
وَكَفٰى بِاللّٰهِ شَهِيدًا. اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَاشْهَدُ اَنْ
نَّبِيْنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ. اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ
وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوْتُنَّ
اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُوْنَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all of His commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions. Let us fulfil our responsibility towards our children and families in the best possible way. May Allah gather us all in His Paradise. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear brothers,

Have we ever been asked by a young child – *Why do we perform the five daily prayers? Why not just once? Or, if others wrong us, why should we not repay them in the same way?*

Behind these innocent questions that spring from the pure soul of a child lies the evident need and central role of guiding them with faith, good character, and responsibility. This is the challenge of raising children – a heavy trust that requires knowledge and wisdom.

Indeed, Allah s.w.t. has reminded us that children are a test. He says in Surah At-Taghabun, verse 15:

إِنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٥﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, your wealth and your children are but a trial; and with Allah lies a great reward.”*

Beloved congregation,

Children are indeed blessings, and at the same time, a test upon both parents. Through children, one is tested as to how steadfast he remains in obeying Allah.

However, obedience to Allah does not mean neglecting our responsibilities towards our children. Rather, by placing Allah at the centre of our lives and our relationships with one another, we are inspired to give our very best in educating and shaping the character of our children.

Al-Imam Ibn Qayyim, in his book *Tuhfatul Maudud*, explained that there are parents who are unjust to their children – by allowing them to follow their own desires, without discipline, and

without religious guidance – thinking that such is true love. In reality, this can be a form of neglect that ruins the future of the child, both in this world and the Hereafter.

Blessed congregation,

Upon realising that children are among the greatest trusts and blessings of Allah s.w.t., what aspects should we prioritise in nurturing them? The sermon wishes to share three main pillars:

Firstly: Religious Education

This is the foundation that forms the identity of a child. Parents play the role of guiding their children and explaining their questions – for example, about creation: Who is our Creator? For what purpose were we created? What awaits us after death? Truly, good explanations can shape their outlook on life.

Invite them to know the noble figure of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Guide them to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. Instil in them the practice of prayer, supplication, fasting, and so on. Do not merely remind or advise them, but embody these examples with our own actions and create an Islamic atmosphere in our homes. For example, starting each activity by saying “Bismillah”.

When their lives are infused with the spirit and practice of religion from a young age, it will shape the character of a true Muslim, and become the best provision for them to face the trials of life.

Secondly: Development of Ethics and Good Character

Noble character must be nurtured from young. Teach children values such as honesty, humility, and patience. Educate them to regulate their anger, prioritise good manners, and practise forgiveness.

Today, our children are faced with various pressures which may stem from peer pressure, competitiveness in education, and also the influence of social media. Here lies the importance of developing noble character. It will serve as a compass to better manage themselves and overcome pressures in whatever situation they may face.

Thirdly: Social Responsibility and Etiquette

Instil in them the virtue of respecting one another, beginning with family members, neighbours, teachers, and friends. Teach them not to belittle or insult others. Encourage them to share their advantages – so that they will always wish good for others just as they wish it for themselves.

Cultivate an awareness of the difficulties faced by others, through efforts such as communal work or community service. This way, we can develop a sense of empathy, thereby shaping a future generation that upholds *ihsan* – excellence, and justice.

Beloved congregants,

As a conclusion, remember that children are both a blessing and a trust from Allah. A child can be a source of happiness in this world, and, insya-Allah, a means of easing our journey towards Paradise. Therefore, let us look upon them with mercy and compassion, and provide them with an upbringing grounded in noble character and rooted in faith. May Allah, the Exalted, continue to grant us guidance in nurturing the next generation of Muslims. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْغَزِيرِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَآةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمَحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ

لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً،
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.