



**HOW TO TEACH A CHILD TO
LOVE ALLAH**

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How to Teach a Child to Love Allāh?

Ash-Shaykh Al-Imām Ahmad Mūsā Jibrīl (حفظه الله)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Question: What's the best way to instill the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger in our young children?

This would be a lecture or an entire series, but some quick, important points to keep in mind on this matter are, first of all, the parents need to start off by teaching them Tawhīd, and they teach Tawhīd in a simple, basic, easy way for the children to understand, dependent on their age and their level. Tawhīd was the first lesson that Luqmān taught his son.

وَإِذْ قَالَ لِقَمْنُ لِابْنِهِ ۖ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ وَيُنَبِّئُ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ ۖ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

And [mention, O Muḥammad], when Luqmān said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allāh. Indeed, association [with Him] is great injustice."¹

Luqmān advised his son, "O my dear son, don't worship others with Allāh." I gave a very long lecture on this matter in North Carolina. It was on the proper method of raising children, derived from the lessons in Surat Luqmān, and I'm not sure if it's available or not, but if it is, you can refer to that lecture. Look at his approach — يَا بَنِيَّ O my dear son. Gentle, soft approach, not a harsh approach nor with a stick over his head. One of my students recently authored a children's book on Tawhīd, the first of its kind in English, as I've been told.² It's beautifully illustrated in a simplified way, and it took that person approximately three to four years to compile, may Allāh سبحانه وتعالى reward them, and there are more chapters on the way. It's presented in a simplified way for children. Teaching Tawhīd to the children at a young age establishes love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى at that early age, and in order to love Allāh سبحانه وتعالى they need to know about Allāh سبحانه وتعالى, so

¹ [31:13]

² Available to download [here](#).

to be attached to Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. Allāh سبحانه وتعالى used that method in the Qur'ān countless times.

وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

*And if you should count the favors of Allāh, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, Allāh is Forgiving and Merciful.*³

وَمَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ ۚ وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا ۗ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ

*And He gave you from all you asked of Him. And if you should count the favor [i.e., blessings] of Allāh, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, mankind is [generally] most unjust and ungrateful.*⁴

وَأَسْبَغَ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَهُ ظَاهِرَةً وَبَاطِنَةً

*and amply bestowed upon you His favors, [both] apparent and unapparent...*⁵

Imagine when that's emphasized in detail, in a simplified way, for children and when they're brought up upon that.

When I was a child around the age of five or so, we had a car Alhamdulillah. We would pass by bus stops at times, and we would see people shivering in the cold and in the snow, and my father would frequently remind us to say Alhamdulillah that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى blessed us with a car and with the heat in the car while many others were unfortunate. Nearly every time since then, every time I see a bus stop, I remember that and say Alhamdulillah. Likewise, if they're taught the Ni'mah of their parents whom they love, their houses that they shelter

³ [16:18]

⁴ [14:32]

⁵ [31:20]

in, their eyes, and their hearing, this establishes their love to the One who gave it to them.

جُبِلَتْ الْقُلُوبُ عَلَى حُبِّ مَنْ أَحْسَنَ إِلَيْهَا

Hearts are predisposed to love someone who does them good.

Hearts are attached to the one who does good to them. After Luqmān taught his son about Tawhīd, he taught him *why* he has to follow Tawhīd and *why* he has to leave Shirk, *why* he has to do the deeds and abandon the sins. He taught him that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is watchful over everything. If a child is taught that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is watchful over every detail he does, every moment of his life, he attains the level of Ihsān with that, and attaining Ihsān is happiness in this Dunyā and Jannah in the Ākhirah. When they realize that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is watching them, and that registers in their mind, it encourages them to do good and it deters them from every bad sin. It shapes their entire life and it never leaves their minds. He told his son,

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يَبْنِي إِيَّاهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

[And Luqmān said], "O my son, indeed if it [i.e., a wrong] should be the weight of a mustard seed and should be within a rock or [anywhere] in the heavens or in the earth, Allāh will bring it forth. Indeed, Allāh is Subtle and Aware.⁶

⁶ [31:16]

He told his son, *“My dear son, if there’s anything that’s the weight of a grain of a mustard seed, and it’s inside of a rock or it’s in the heavens or in the Earth, Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is aware of its place and Allāh سبحانه وتعالى will bring it forth.”*

In every occurrence, you need to embed in their hearts that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is watching over them, Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is seeing them, Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is witnessing them, and Allāh سبحانه وتعالى is protecting them. And among the ways to establish the love for the Messenger ﷺ is to frequently mention him while mentioning the Salāh upon him — ﷺ — every time his name is mentioned, and to teach the significance of that. It leaves a great impact on instilling love of the Messenger ﷺ in their hearts. Teaching them how essential it is to follow the Messenger ﷺ in every detail, big and small, establishes love for the Messenger ﷺ. True love is following the most simple Sunan of the Messenger ﷺ before the major ones.

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Say, [O Muḥammad], “If you should love Allāh, then follow me, [so] Allāh will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allāh is Forgiving and Merciful.”⁷

Recite and teach the children the morning and evening Adhkār and the Adhkār after the Salawāt. They’re a Sunnah and they’re beneficial to the parents and the child in the Dunyā and in the Ākhirah. Something as simple as using a Miswāk is significant to a child. I remember when I was less than four or five years old, somewhere around that age, I saw my father using a Miswāk, something that was not common to see back then, and I asked him. His simple, meaningful way was to tell me that the Messenger ﷺ used it and he does it out of love to the Messenger ﷺ. Since then, till today, I fell in love with the Miswāk. Sharing with them the authentic, simplified stories, that are very easy to understand on our

⁷ [3:31]

stars, our role models, our mentors, our heroes, the Sahābah and the Tābi'īn رضي الله عنهم أجمعين — that establishes love for their Dīn. There are many stories of the Salaf that can be presented for children to follow. There's probably not a matter that you want to address with your children except you'll find in the lives of the Salaf an interesting story young children can relate to. The examples of the Sahābah's deep love to Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger ﷺ along with their dedication and sacrifice are more than sufficient to charge the hearts with the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and the Messenger ﷺ and the Sahābah as well until one meets Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. Take excerpts from simple Sīrah books like *Ar-Rahīq Al-Makhtūm*, which is presented in an easy, captivating way. Present it to the children before they sleep in your own words, in a way they can relate to, in a way they'll understand based on their level and comprehension.

Keep in mind, in all this, the most effective, successful method of raising children on loving Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger comes through the parents playing their proper, Islāmic role. The parents need to be role models for their children so that their children can imitate them and so that they can follow by example. A child is like clay that is easily shaped into what he's raised upon. The parents need to create an environment and a climate of Islām and Īmān in their households. When parents consistently, habitually practice, show, and express their love for Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger ﷺ and their reverence and glorification of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى in every small and big occasion, and then they praise the Messenger ﷺ consistently in front of their children and try to follow him in every possible way they can, it leaves a great impact on the children. It plays a major role in embedding the love for Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger ﷺ in the hearts and souls of their children. A household with parents who don't habitually recite and play the Qur'ān in their house, they can't properly teach the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى to their children. Reciting or listening to the Qur'ān with respect is essential in getting the kids to love Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. With "respect", we mean honoring the Qur'ān, applying, reading, listening attentively, and giving it your full attention. A few minutes a day with the word of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى goes a long way in establishing the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى in the hearts of children.

A dear family to me who have six children, may Allāh سبحانه وتعالى preserve them and put Barakah in them, they have a daily Halaqah every single day after Fajr for years and years. They sit after Fajr, the entire family, after they perform Salāt Al-Fajr in Jamā'ah. They sit after Fajr and discuss an Āyah or a Hadīth or something from the Sīrah, something pertaining to manners, or something to boost their Īmān. This week, they informed me that in one of the Halaqāt that they had, the mother mentioned the benefits of Istighfār in Dunyā and in Ākhirah.

قُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا

And said, 'Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver.

يُرْسِلُ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا

He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers

وَيُمِدُّكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَأَنْهَارٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا

And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers.⁸

The ten or eleven-year-old picked up on that and he performed Istighfār, from what I was told, ten thousand times that day. They have a minivan, and I saw that minivan. There isn't a handspan in that van except that it has a dent or a scratch. That's aside from the jammed doors, broken windows, and constant mechanical problems. The following day after that Halaqah on Istighfār, the husband, without any prior notice, surprised his wife with a new minivan. It was unexpected and unplanned by everyone, no one knew about it. Later that day the child told his

⁸ [71:10-12]

mother that he did Istighfār ten thousand times. She said, “Okay, now go make Du’ā so that Allāh *سبحانه وتعالى* will grant you what you want.” He said, “Allāh *سبحانه وتعالى* already answered my Du’ā. I made D’uā that you get a new car.”

When a ten-year-old was riding behind the Messenger ﷺ, the Messenger ﷺ took the opportunity to teach him an astonishing lesson he needs every moment of his life. Something we all need every day of our lives.

يَا غُلامُ! إِنِّي أُعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ: احْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ، احْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ، إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ، وَإِذَا
اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ،

“O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]: Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone].⁹

Protect Allāh, He will protect you. You can stay on that statement for weeks or for months telling them how you protect Allāh and how Allāh protects you. How to guard the commands of Allāh *سبحانه وتعالى* and how Allāh *سبحانه وتعالى* will guard you. *When you ask, ask Allāh. When you seek aid, seek the aid from Allāh سبحانه وتعالى.* *If the entire creation were to gather to try to benefit you, they wouldn’t be able to benefit you except if Allāh سبحانه وتعالى had written that for you. And if they all — all the creation — were to gather to harm you, you would never be harmed except if Allāh سبحانه وتعالى had written that you will be harmed. The pens are lifted and the pages are dried.* Every sentence can be weeks of lessons, presented to the children in a simple way that they understand it. The Hadīth, when taught and emphasized to a child, shapes his entire life and it establishes a special bond with Allāh *سبحانه وتعالى*. It was taught to ten-year-old Ibn ‘Abbās رضي الله عنهما, so look what became of him. He was around ten years old or so when he was taught this Hadīth, possibly even less than that. The Messenger ﷺ referred to him as “Ya

⁹ Tirmidhi: 2516

Ghulām.” Ya Ghulām is the term for a young boy from the age after weaning until the beginning of puberty.

If they’re brought up correctly on loving Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger, and then they’re swayed away by evil friends or the Shaytān as they grow up — which happens sometimes, may Allāh سبحانه وتعالى preserve your children from that — these lessons will remain deep in their hearts, and they’ll leave a profound effect in bringing them back to the right track. Other matters that help is:

- Memorizing the Qur’ān or portions of it.
- And [memorizing] Ahādīth, simple Ahādīth, that pertain to Tawhīd or manners that are essential to the upbringing of the children.
- Giving them an allowance and recommending that they give something in charity.
- Memorizing meaningful poems, poems that they can listen to or memorize that express Tawhīd or the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and the Messenger ﷺ.
- Visiting Makkah and Madīnah is also helpful for those who are able to

Parents need to make time for this, it's not something that should be done *if* they have spare time. Parents *must* make time for this matter, just as parents must take time out to nourish their children physically — they feed them, they give them water — they must nourish their souls spiritually with the proper upbringing. If you look at some who excelled in various fields, whether it's sports like football and soccer, or those who became engineers and doctors, or some Shuyūkh, sometimes they were influenced by their parents. The parents sometimes instilled in them love for that hobby or that job or that sport. They took time out to raise them on that and that led to their success in that field. Likewise, instilling the love of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Messenger ﷺ and Tawhīd and the love of Sahābah and the Dīn, it requires a lot of time and effort, especially when they're brought up in the Kāfir West.