

Question:

How can we help a child to know his Lord?

Answer:

Praise be to Allaah.

A child can be taught about Allaah in a suitable manner, according to his level of understanding. He can be told that Allaah is One and has no partner. He can be told that He is the Creator of all things, so He is the Creator of the earth, the heavens, people, animals, trees, rivers, etc. The educator can make the most of some situations by asking the child, whilst walking through a garden or in the countryside, about Who made the water, rivers and things in the natural scenery around him, to draw his attention to the greatness of the Creator. The father, mother or educators in general may be with a child or group of children in a car on a journey or a trip at the time of sunset, when the sun disappears from sight gradually. All that the educator has to do at that point is to draw the attention of those who are with him to the power of Allaah displayed in that.

A child can also be taught to understand the bounty of Allaah and the blessing of good health that He has bestowed upon him. For example, you could say to him, “Who gave you your hearing, sight and mind? Who gave you strength and the ability to move?” and so on. The child can also be encouraged to love Allaah and to thank Him for this blessing and bounty. Making a child love Allaah and the things that Allaah loves is a good action which

will bring educational benefits sooner or later, by Allaah’s Leave.

A mother opened a window on the second floor of the house to let some air in, but her child came and quickly closed it. When his mother asked him why he had done that, he said, “I saw the dish on one of our neighbours’ roofs and I don’t want to look at anything that my Lord does not like.”

A child may ask about his Lord, whether He eats or sleeps. In that case we have to answer and tell him that there is nothing like Allaah, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing; neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. Allaah is not like us, He does not need to sleep, eat or drink.

If these meanings are made simple for a child and explained to him in a way that is suited to his age, then the veneration of Allaah in his heart is one of the things that will help him to be aware that Allaah is watching him in secret and in public.

Question:

How can we develop love of the Prophet(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) in the hearts of our children? I have a young daughter – what can I do with her to achieve this?

Answer: Praise be to Allaah.

There are a number of ways to instill love of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) in the hearts of our children, such as:

• The parents can tell them the stories that have been narrated of the children of the Sahaabah at the time of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam), how they fought those who tried to harm him, how quickly they responded to his call and obeyed his commands, and how they loved that which he loved, and how they memorized the hadeeth of the Prophet(sallallahu alaihi wassallam).

The parents should help her to memorize as much hadeeth as she can of ahaadeeth, and reward her for that... One of the things that was narrated concerning that was the words of al-Zubayri: Maalik ibn Anas(R.A) had a daughter who memorized his knowledge – i.e. *al-Muwatta’*. She used to stand behind the door and if a student made a mistake she would knock on the door, and Maalik would be alerted and would correct him. And it was narrated that al-Nadar ibn al-Haarith said: “I heard Ibraaheem ibn Adham(R.A) say: ‘My father said to me, O my son, seek hadeeth, and every time you hear a hadeeth and memorize it, I will give you a dirham, so I learnt hadeeth in that way.’”

They should teach her – according to her level of understanding – about the life of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) and his military campaigns, and the lives of the Sahaabah, both men and women – may Allaah be pleased with them, so that she will grow up loving these noble people, and be influenced by their behaviour, and will be keen to strive and sincere in correcting herself and supporting her religion.

The Sahaabah and the (early generations were keen to teach their children about the life of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam), and they would teach it alongside teaching the Qur'aan, because his seerah is the interpretation of the the meanings of the Qur'aan, as well as stirring up emotions and demonstrating true Islam and having a wondrous effect on the soul. It also carries the meanings of love and jihad to save mankind from misguidance and bring them to guidance, from falsehood to truth, from the darkness of jaahiliyyah to the light of Islam.

When telling their daughter about the life of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) and the lives of the male and female Sahaabah (may Allaah be pleased with them), the father and mother must tell her about things that she can relate to, such as the childhood of the Prophet(sallallahu alaihi wassallam), some stories about his life with (his wet-nurse) Haleemah al-Sa'diyyah(R.A), and how Allaah bestowed goodness and blessings upon Haleemah(R.A) and her family because of him (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), the night of the Hijrah and how Allaah covered the eyes of the mushrikeen, and other stories which demonstrate how Allaah helped him. Thus the girl's heart will be filled with love for Allaah and love for His Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wassallam). It was narrated from 'Ali (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) said: "Train your children to acquire three characteristics: love of your Prophet, love of his family and reading the Qur'aan, for the bearers of the Qur'aan will be in the shade of Allaah on the Day when there will be no shade

except His, with His Prophets and His chosen ones." (Narrated by al-Suyooti in *al-Jaami' al-Sagheer*, p. 25; classed as *da'eef* by al-Albaani in *Da'eef al-Jaami' al-Sagheer*, p. 36, no. 251). It would be a good idea if the parents devote a suitable time for teaching the life of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) during the daily family lesson, when the children can read about seerah in simplified books, or the father or mother can tell them these stories in a manner that is appropriate to the child's age.

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"Their reward is with their Lord: Gardens of Eden underneath which rivers flow wherein they will dwell for ever; Allaah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him; this is (in store) for whoever fears his Lord." [Sooratul-Bayyinah 98:8]

It is our responsibility to distribute this important pamphlet to all and expect lofty rewards and pleasure of Allaah.

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And Other Mashaiekh

Instilling the Love of the Prophet(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) in the Heart of a Child ?



From Tanshi'at al-Fataat al-Muslimah
by Hanaan al-Toori

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