

# MIFTAAH SEMINAR

## PROPHETIC HOMES



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### SESSION 2

#### Family as a Fitrah (Innate Disposition)

- The feeling of love, closeness, and comfort toward family is part of our natural fitrah, embedded by Allah. We don't need to be taught to love our parents, siblings, and children—it is an inherent blessing from Allah.

#### Verse Recited in Friday Khutbah:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا (Surah An-Nisa, 4:1).

- **Lesson:** Allah reminds us of our shared origin through Adam and Hawa (AS), emphasizing the sacredness of familial bonds and the responsibility to deal justly with family.

#### The Balance Between Blessing and Responsibility

- The greater the blessing, the greater the responsibility. Family is a monumental blessing, and with it comes accountability.
- Parents, specifically, are a blessing second only to Allah's guidance. They are the reason for our existence, making them deserving of the greatest rights upon us after Allah.
- **Key Takeaway:** While family is a source of love and security, it can also be a test.

## Responsibility Toward Family

- Families require active care and guidance to ensure their spiritual safety.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

*"O believers! Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, overseen by stern and severe angels who never disobey Allah's commands and promptly carry out His orders." (Surah At-Tahrim, 66:6)*

- **Lesson:** This verse commands believers to actively shield themselves and their families from Hellfire by fulfilling their responsibilities of nurturing faith, encouraging good deeds, and avoiding harm.

## Perspective on Family Challenges

- Family relationships are not only a blessing but also a test of patience and responsibility.
- Many times, difficulties within families lead to larger crises of faith and identity. For example, broken households or abuse can distort a person's understanding of Allah's mercy and justice.
- Allah shows us through the Prophets (AS) that family challenges are part of life. Even the best of people, beloved by Allah, faced familial struggles, reminding us there is no such thing as a perfect family.

## Prophetic Examples of Family Dynamics

### No Perfect Family in the Qur'an

- Allah teaches us through the stories of the Prophets that even they, as the best of creation, experienced familial challenges.
- Rarely do we find a "picture-perfect" family in the stories of the Prophets.

- These narratives remind us that:
  - There is no such thing as an ideal family.
  - The Prophets teach us how to be ideal individuals within imperfect families, navigating challenges with grace, patience, and faith.

### Adam (AS) and the Test of Children

- **Key Challenges:**
  - As a couple, Adam and Hawa faced challenges against Shaytan.
  - Among their children, one son (Qabil) killed his brother (Habil).
- **Lessons:**
  - Parents may experience grief from both external trials (Shaytan) and internal ones (conflict among children).
  - The reality of loss and betrayal is part of human history, and Adam (AS) is a testament to persevering through such pain with trust in Allah.

### Nuh (AS): A Father's Love and Heartbreak

- **Situation:**
  - Nuh (AS) spent 950 years calling people to Allah, yet his own son disbelieved until the very end.
  - The Qur'an captures a heartbreaking conversation between Nuh (AS) and his son during the flood:

يٰبُنَيَّ اٰزْكَب مَّعَنَا وَلَا تَكُن مَّعَ الْكٰفِرِيْنَ

*"O my dear son! Come aboard with us and do not be with the disbelievers." (Hud, 11:42)*

- The son replies:

سَاوِيْ اِلٰى جَبَلٍ يَّغْصُمُنِيْ مِنَ الْمَآءِ

*"I will take refuge on a mountain to protect me from the water." (Hud, 11:43)*

- The waves separated them, and the son drowned.
- Nuh (AS) prayed for his son despite his disbelief:

رَبِّ إِنَّ أُنثَىٰ مِنْ أَهْلِي

*“My Lord! My son is from my family...” (Hud, 11:45)*

- **Lessons:**

- Parental responsibility lies in making every effort to guide their children, but results are in Allah’s hands.
- Even a Prophet as great as Nuh (AS) could not guarantee his son’s faith.

### Ibrahim (AS): Kindness to a Harsh Father

- **Situation:**

- Ibrahim (AS) faced rejection and threats from his father, Azar, who worshipped idols and opposed his son’s call to Tawheed.
- Despite the hostility, Ibrahim (AS) remained gentle and respectful:

يَأْتِبْتُ إِيَّيْ قَدْ جَاءَنِي مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَمْ يَأْتِكَ فَاتَّبِعْنِي أَهْدِكَ صِرَاطًا سَوِيًّا

*“O my dear father! I have certainly received knowledge which you have not received, so follow me, and I will guide you to the Straight Path.” (Maryam, 19:43)*

يَأْتِبْتُ لَا تَعْبُدِ الشَّيْطَانَ

*“O my dear father! Do not worship Shaytan...” (Maryam, 19:44)*

- Even after being threatened, Ibrahim (AS) prayed for his father:

سَأَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكَ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِي حَفِيًّا

*“I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness. He has truly been Most Gracious to me.” (Maryam, 19:47)*

- **Lessons:**

- Even when family members reject our beliefs or ridicule us, we are commanded to show kindness and maintain ties.
- Ibrahim (AS) provides an example of balancing firmness in faith with gentleness in communication.

## Generational Healing: Ibrahim (AS) and Ismail (AS)

- **Contrast with His Father:**
  - Despite the pain caused by his father, Ibrahim (AS) did not carry that trauma into his relationship with his son, Ismail (AS).
  - Their bond exemplified love, obedience, and shared faith.
- **Lessons:**
  - Ibrahim (AS) overcame his own family trauma and became a loving, supportive father to Ismail (AS).
  - His example teaches us to break cycles of harm and instead nurture healthy, faithful relationships with our own families.

## Takeaways for Our Own Families

- There is no such thing as a perfect family. Every household has its challenges, but the Qur'an provides examples and guidance for how to deal with them.
- We are responsible for our efforts, not the outcomes. Success lies in our sincerity, patience, and reliance on Allah.
- Maintain hope and trust in Allah, even in the most difficult situations, as the Prophets did.

## Complexity in Family Relationships Prophet Yusuf (AS)

- Yusuf (AS) faced immense betrayal from his brothers, despite their father being a prophet. They plotted to kill him, later deciding to throw him into a well (Surah Yusuf, 5). This highlights:
  - Families often have a mix of good and bad qualities.
  - Relationships can be complicated by jealousy, envy, and other struggles.
  - Yusuf's brothers, despite their sins, retained some good, shown by their eventual repentance and reconciliation.

## The Role of Shaytan

- Ya'qub (AS) warned Yusuf not to share his dream with his brothers, saying:

قَالَ يُبْنَىٰ لَا تَقْضُ زُءْيَاكَ عَلَىٰ إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا ۗ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ  
*“Surely Satan is a sworn enemy to humankind.” (Yusuf: 5)*

- Shaytan exploits weaknesses, such as jealousy, to sow discord among family members.

## Hope and Reconciliation

- Despite their actions, Yusuf's brothers sought forgiveness from both him and their father, Ya'qub (AS). Yusuf responded with profound mercy:

قَالَ سَوْفَ أَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ رَبِّي ۖ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

*“There is no blame on you today. May Allah forgive you! He is the Most Merciful of the merciful!” (Yusuf: 92)*

- Yusuf forgave them for the sake of Allah, emphasizing the importance of keeping the door to forgiveness open, even when it takes time to heal.

## Forgiveness Takes Time

- When Ya'qub's sons asked for forgiveness, he replied:

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ ۖ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۖ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّحِيمِينَ

*“I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness.” (Yusuf: 98)*

- Scholars note the use of “will” implies he needed time to process before making du'a, illustrating that forgiveness is a journey, not an instant act.

## Prioritizing Allah in Family Relations

- Yusuf forgave and treated his brothers with excellence (ihsan) by centering his actions around pleasing Allah. This teaches:
  - Treating family with ihsan becomes easier when seen as a form of worship.

- Even severe pain and betrayal can be overcome by focusing on Allah's pleasure.

### Recognizing the Blessing of Family

- Family struggles often overshadow the blessings they bring. Reflecting on the perspectives of others can remind us of these blessings:
  - Parents: Speak to someone who has lost theirs to appreciate their presence.
  - Children: Talk to someone who struggles with infertility.
  - Spouses: Compare struggles with someone longing for marriage or enduring a broken relationship.

### Jannah as the Ultimate Reward with Family

- Allah promises eternal family unity in Jannah for those who believe and strive in righteousness:
 

وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلَتْنَاهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ

“We will elevate their descendants to their rank, never discounting anything of the reward of their deeds.” (Tur: 21)

  - Family is a central joy of Jannah, while losing one's family in the Hereafter is described as a profound loss:
 

فُلْ إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۗ أَلَا ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ

“The losers are those who lose themselves and their families on Judgment Day.” (Az-Zumar: 15)

### Key Takeaways

- **Recognize family as a test and a blessing:** Challenges in family relationships are opportunities for spiritual growth and drawing closer to Allah.
- **Forgiveness is essential:** Yusuf (AS) exemplifies how forgiveness is a divine trait and an act of ihsan.
- **Centralise Allah in family dynamics:** Viewing family interactions as worship helps navigate even the most difficult situations with

- ihsan.
- **Keep hope alive:** Even in the darkest family conflicts, reconciliation and forgiveness remain possible with Allah's guidance.

