

Raising children

You will be asked about them. The Sunnah is concrete about it: a name, mercy, fairness, prayer, and an example worth copying.



Guard them from the Fire

قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا

“O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire.” Your own salvation and theirs come in one command.

Qur'an 66:6

You are a shepherd

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ، وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ

“Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is answerable for his flock” — the man for his household, the woman for the house and the children.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5200 · 7138

The seventh day

كُلُّ غُلَامٍ رَهِينَةٌ بِحَقِّقَتِهِ تَذْبُحُ عَنْهُ يَوْمَ سَابِعِهِ وَيُحْلَقُ وَيُسَمَّى

“Every boy is in pledge for his ‘aqiqah: it is slaughtered for him on the seventh day, his head is shaved, and he is given a name.”

Sunan Abi Dawud 2838 · sahih

Prayer from seven

مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ

“Command your children to pray at seven, discipline them for it at ten, and separate their sleeping places.”

Sunan Abi Dawud 495 · sahih

Mercy, visibly

He ﷺ kissed al-Hasan. A man said he had ten children and had never kissed one. He said: whoever shows no mercy will be shown none.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5997

Be fair between them

A father asked him ﷺ to witness a gift to one son. He asked whether he had given each of them the same, then said: fear Allah and be just to your children.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2587

Begin with tawhid

يٰۤاَيُّهَا بَنِيَّ لَا تَشْرِكْ بِاللّٰهِ

Luqman's first counsel to his son: “O my son, do not associate anything with Allah; association with Him is a great injustice.”

Qur'an 31:13

What to ask for them

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ

“Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes, and make us an example for the righteous.”

Qur'an 25:74

What outlives you

When a man dies his deeds stop but for three: a continuing charity, knowledge people benefit from, and a righteous child who prays for him.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Wasiyyah