



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

HOW TO
**SHARE ISLAM
WITH YOUR
FAMILY**
WITHOUT
UTTERING
A WORD





1


SMILES SPEAK TO THE HEART

The Messenger of God said:

"To smile in your brother's face, is a form of charity."

Life can get serious. Sometimes we get overwhelmed with the demands of life that we forget to smile. The devil comes to us when we want to smile, and makes us frown instead, reminding us of things that made us sad in the past. We forget to smile, and then when it is important to smile, such as when we greet someone in our family, we have to work to smile nicely.

Smiling has a profound effect on your state of mind, too. Someone once said, "Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy." Spreading smiles around can lift your own mood. So it's all good!



**People know
when you are
smiling
genuinely.**

They can tell even without seeing your face whether or not you are happily smiling as you communicate. A smile is something that speaks directly to the heart. It can take tension away from almost any tough situation. Often it is the most useful response to a sticky or personal question. And, when we read the above report from the Messenger of God, we can see **that we can get eternal rewards for smiling.** So, smile!



2

KEEPING IN 'TOUCH'

Perhaps your childhood habit to freely hug and kiss your parents may not have ever changed. Some may come from cultures that consider it odd to show this kind of affection past childhood. Whatever the culture, small physical acts of mercy and affection like these can communicate a lot of good feelings towards your parents.

If a great, big bear hug is odd for you, consider adding a little physical affection towards your parents the next time you see them. You might be pleasantly surprised with the reaction you will get from your father or mother if you just kiss them on the head, or hold their hand while speaking to them. Physical affection is a powerful way to draw people close to your heart. Don't be shy to initiate kisses and hugs to your parents and siblings. It is said that a good, strong hug is more powerful than a thousand meaningful words.



3

THE GIFT OF YOUR PRESENCE

Visit your parents as often as you can. The more difficult it is, the greater the reward. When visiting your parents, don't just offer to tidy up but roll up your sleeves and get to work without being asked! No matter how clean their house is, there will likely be something that you can tidy up, put away, or help repair around the house.

In the Quran, both Jesus and John the prophets of God are mentioned as being dutiful and good to their parents. This means that they were quick to obey their parents and loving towards them. The more helpful we are to our parents, the closer we are to the example of these two great prophets of Islam!

Make your visits memorable and something they look forward to. Imagine how valued you can make yourself to your parents when you do something to help out every time you visit. Nothing feels better than to be welcomed warmly by your parents.

We may forget that as we grow into adulthood, our parents are also growing older. They may put on a strong face, but they are fragile and in need of our attention.



4

RUN ERRANDS, OR ATTEND OUTINGS

God says in the Quran “We have commanded people to be good to their parents: their mothers carried them, with strain upon strain, and it takes two years to wean them. Give thanks to Me and to your parents - all will return to Me.” 31:14

Good treatment of parents is something that should be common knowledge but is not. Even when one thinks of good treatment of parents, we miss many opportunities. Of the things that you might not have thought of, is to help them on their errands or accompany them when they go out. Even if your parents are not at the age of depending on you to do errands for them or help them when they go out, they will appreciate your offer. Keep their schedules in mind, and attend them when they have doctors’ appointments or other meetings. Join them if even just for the company.

When you were little, you asked for candy or toys; when you are older, paying for their groceries is blessed and welcome. Your parents will enjoy your gracious offer to help or just tag along.



5

CORDIALLY INVITE

We know for ourselves how special we feel if someone treats us out to dinner, or cooks especially for us. Depending on your budget and ability, treat your parents to dinner (out or in) on a regular basis. Maybe save up if you don't have the funds available.

We are advised by the Messenger of God that if we believe in God and the Last Day, we should be generous to our guests. Who deserves our generosity and spending more than our parents, who spent on us our whole lives?



6

GIVE GIFTS

The Messenger of God told us “Give gifts and you will love each other.” Giving gifts, as a surprise or planned ahead, is a delightful way to show you care for your parents.

When we consider generously giving, we might think about those outside our family: poor strangers. An act of generous giving towards our parents has a greater reward.

When we make our intention to please God, we can be sure of His reward.



7

THANK YOUR PARENTS

Perhaps some of us have not had the greatest relationship with our parents. It may be the case that the only thing our mothers have ever done for us is carry us in their wombs, and give birth to us. Even in that sad, extreme case, our mothers deserve thanks. All the things that have been mentioned so far can demonstrate this thanks. Consider this story of a man who carried his mother on his back during the Pilgrimage to Mecca:

A man was going around the the Ka'bah (cube temple) in Mecca while carrying his mother on his back. The man asked a scholar from the disciples of the messenger, "I am like a tame camel for her! I have carried her more than she carried me. Do you think I have paid her back?" The reply was, "No you have not, not even one contraction during childbirth!!"

May God, the Gracious and Merciful, bless us with consideration regarding our parents and family. They don't need our preaching and our consistent advice and admonishing, they need us to be present in their lives, so that their hearts will be open to guidance.