

Rights of parents

After tawhid, the Quran's next command. What 'ihsan to parents' looks like when they are alive, hard to please, and after they have died.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Isra 17:23-24, Surah Luqman 31:14

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The Quran places it second to tawhid

'Worship none but Allah, and to parents do good' (Surah al-Isra 17:23). The grammatical pairing in the verse is intentional, the right of parents is mentioned immediately after the right of Allah.

2. Even with the difficult ones

'If one or both of them reach old age in your care, do not say to them so much as a sigh, do not scold them, and speak to them with honour' (Surah al-Isra 17:23). The verse specifically addresses the hard case, the aged, demanding parent, not the easy one.

3. After they die

The Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us that du'a, sadaqah on their behalf, maintaining their friendships, and fulfilling their unfulfilled obligations are how we keep honouring them after death (Abu Dawud 5142).

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to rights of parents.

Suggested closing: Rabbi-rhamhuma kama rabbayani sagheera, my Lord, have mercy on them as they raised me when I was small.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

Prepared by Sumit Sharma for Barakah Life. Updated 2026-09-03.