

Raising children

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said each of us is a shepherd, responsible for his flock. What that means for the souls under our roof.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 893

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Each of us is a shepherd

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: every one of you is a shepherd, and every one of you will be asked about his flock (Bukhari 893). For parents this means our children's deen, their adab, their understanding of the world. Not their grades or their salary, their hearts.

2. Teach by living, not by lecturing

Children notice what a household repeats. A parent who guards Fajr, speaks gently to elders, and admits a mistake gives faith a visible shape. Guidance remains with Allah, but a parent's example is one of the strongest means placed in the home.

3. The seven-year teaching window

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: teach your children to pray at seven, and discipline them on it at ten (Abu Dawud 495). Seven is when the heart is most open; ten is when habits cement. Most parents wait until twelve, and find they have lost the window.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to raising children.

Suggested closing: Rabbana hab lana min azwajina wa dhurriyyatina qurrata a'yun, our Lord, grant us spouses and offspring who are the comfort of our eyes.

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.