**Teaching Islam to Our Children**

**by Brother Nouman Ali Khan**

Assalamu'alaikum Wa rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

In shaa Allahu ta’ala in today’s brief conversation, first of all I’d like to thank the community for inviting me here, it’s a pleasure to be here. May Allah swt bless this community, and bless this masjid and keep it full for all the prayers, especially fajr and isha. And may Allah SWT fill it with young blood in the mornings and the evenings. Amin Ya Rabb. Ok, what I wanted to do in this talk with you today is make reference to some ayats that I have talked about before, and I’ve given ‘durus’ on them before but I’ve tried to come at them from different point of view this time. Also what I wanted to do is start from kind of outside the Qur’an, kind of disclaimer. And that is that the concern we have for our children is something built in to our deen. It’s not something we just came up with now. The concern, the worry about the future generation is something that was given to us by our father, Ibrahim AS. And actually, even before him the first time we learned about a concerned father, is Nuh AS. Nuh AS is worried about his son. And even he begs Allah swt in case of his son. So the concern of father has for his child in regards to deen is something that’s built into this deen. It’s a very fundamental part of this religion. And Allah swt teaches us something by telling us many-many times about prophets, who had problems with their children. Many time, I mean, Ibrahim AS is blessed with wonderful children. He’s got Ismail, he’s got Ishaq. He’s got wonderful children. Nuh AS, not so much. Yaqub AS, couple of great kids, couple of problem kids, majority problem kids. So you've got even prophets that had troubles with their children. And that's important to know because if even prophets have trouble with their children, there’s no guarantee that you and I, no matter how much we try, we can’t avoid trouble with children. That's from the Qadr from Allah swt. Allah will bless some of us with easy children, or some of our children will be easy and some of our children will be a test. And we have to work with all of them. And that’s just a part of this deen. And that’s just a part of life. No two kids are going to be the same. There’s not one formula that deal with all of your children. Like for instance, in the case of Yaqub AS, we don’t believe that he treated Yusuf AS better, and he treated the other kids worse, and that’s why they got that way. He’s a prophet. Obviously one of the first thing prophets do is to live by justice. And that’s not justice that you’re good to one child and you’re not good to another child. We don’t expect that from Yaqub AS, so he did his best as a father but he still had trouble with his children. Alhamdulillah in the end even they made tawbah. And that’s a gift Allah gave him. But Allah also talks about Nuh AS, whose son until the end did not make tawbah. Also just because they are prophet, you would think, you know, when you have a good job, they comes with benefits, like some of you had a good job, and you get health insurance for your whole family, right? So if the prophet’s pretty good job it’s the employer of Allah swt, maybe should come with some benefits, ‘my family should be guaranteed’. Not even the prophets get a guarantee of their family. Not even the wife, not even the child. And even in the case of Muhammad ar-rasul Allah sal Allahu alaihi wa salam, in one of the most incredible ahadith you find, when he’s talking to his child, he’s talking to the mother of the believers, he’s talking to Fathimah RA, he’s talking to her..and he says; “Ya Fathimah, daughter of Muhammad, watch out for Allah, be careful about Allah. I will not be able to help you. I will have no authority even in your case in front of Allah swt.” He’s telling this to his own daughter, Sal Allahu wa Alaihi wa Salam. In other words, he’s teaching us something very important. Just because we are Muslim, and just because we’re doing our best, we cannot doubt that the messenger of Allah, Sal Allahu wa Alaihi wa Salam, does anything sort of the best, He’s the role model of all fathers in the future. Especially fathers of daughters. Those of us that are sitting in this audience and have daughters, we are obliged, we are honoured, to be the continuation of the prophet’s sunnah because he was also the father of daughter we were raised. He had son also but they died in early age. But Allah gave him the gift of daughter, multiple daughters that he had the pleasure of raising all this time. So this is something that we should take honour in. That’s why our view of having a daughter is changed. Before Islam, in india for example, the culture of having daughter, the culture of having daughter even in Arabia, when you have a daughter, you made a face like ‘Huh..oh man, how am I gonna face the community now?’. Even to this day in a Muslim world, even in some of your families..you’re at the hospital with your wife, she almost died giving birth and then the child came out and immediately your mother sends the text message to the husband. “Is it good news?”. ‘Is it good news’ means, ‘is it a boy’?” And then you don't respond and she goes ‘Ok, next time in sha Allah.’ As those girl is a bad things..subhanAllah! How far we’ve come.. And Allah actually complains in the Qur’an about people who don’t honour their daughters. That when the daughter is born, “His face turns dark. Like a cloud is hanging over his face..He’s depressed, ‘I just had a daughter’” SubhanAllah..

So before we talk about worrying our kids, we have to worry about what are we like as a parents. We have to deal with that first. And that’s a pretty big problems we to deal with. But that’s not even the disclaimer I wanted to start with. The disclaimer I wanted to start with is, that I was saying before is concern for our children is built into our religion. It’s a very fundamental aspect of our deen. And it is something that a generation after generation of Muslims, we’re very good at. Alhamdulillah we’re very very good at raising children for generation after generation, after generation. Obviously the world has changed since the time of prophet Sal Allahu wa Alaihi wa Salam. But something, the success the Muslims have had in raising their children relatively has been great.

Until now. Something is changed in the world, so drastically, that it’s effected not just how governments are run, it has not just effected the economy works, it hasn’t just effected the nation deal with each other, it hasn’t just effected the industry, it’s also effected what happen inside the house. Not just the Muslim’s house, every house. The world has changed dramatically. What the family looks like now, it never looked like in human history. How children are raised now, it never looked like this in any human history in any culture. Not just Muslim’s culture, in any culture. Globalization and the advance of mass communication and on top of that the invention of the extreme form of consumerism. I don't even say the capitalism, I say the consumerism. That we’ve become just addicted customers of products. That mentality has made itself even inside our home.

I’ll give you a small example of what I’m talking about. You’re children, what are they ask you for, the most? What are they ask you all the time? (Candy!) Candy? Ma sha Allah you have some really the most righteous kids, they only ask you for candy? (Nintendo!) Ok, nintendo..you got to keep up a little. (Ipod!) Ipod..playstation.. (Car!) Car? Really they got older..toys.. Most of the time where they got the news about the ipad? Did they see it on their dream, like Yusuf AS saw a dream, eleven stars and the moon..so they saw a dream and saw the apple product? Like, ‘Dad I saw an apple on the phone..what is that dream mean?’ No, no..where did they see the Iphone? Either their friends have it, or they saw it on TV, they saw other friends have it..and they say ‘I want to get those sneakers’ ‘I want to get that shirt’ ‘I want to get that toy’ Where they got the toy’s idea from? Where the ilham came from? They came from media. We expose our children to media, and at that media, they are told to basically beg us to get them those toys..and we get them those toys. And btw they’re not just the only victims of that, we are the victim of that too. The brands we wear, actually you feel really, like a high class when you’re wearing a expensive watch, all of the sudden. All of the sudden, you’re more worth of the human being. The moment you walk out from the apple store, with an iphone on your hand, all of the sudden you just start looking more handsome. Something happened..’I don’t know how I got cooler like this, but it just happened’ We actually assume that we are worth as a human being, beings is related to these products, And if you’re not wearing brand name clothes and you don’t have that kind of a phone, or you don't have this toy or that toy..that you’re worth less.. Somehow you’re not equal to others. Others are better than you. Just because the thing they have in their hand are better than the thing you have in your hand. So we, even Muslims, we have become pretty much ‘Zombie Consumers’. That's what we’ve become also. When we talk about raising children in this society, we have to first understand what’s happening with the world. What’s happening with all of us and with the world. Before we can think about raising our children effectively. That's one big problem. The second big problem is, ‘What is the success mean, what are you worth?’. Now a days, our children are being raised to think all they are worth is these products. The brand of clothes, the kind of house, the kind of car your parents drive drop you off to school at, the brand of the book bag you’re wearing..that sort of things. That’s all you’re worth. And then on top of that, the additional problem is, ‘What is it mean to be successful?’ Our idea of success, even 20, 30, 40 years ago was, for the fast majority of the Muslim world, maybe some of you didn’t have the good opportunity for education, or your parents didn’t have the good opportunity to education. And they put all of the effort to getting you the education. And you’ve learned that lesson in your life so you say ‘My children might better have top notch education’ If that means they have to go to private school, if that means that we have to rent a house, rent an apartment, and live uncomfortably so that they can get a good education, we will do it. If that means we have to take an insane amount of money for loans to put them in an ivy league school and to put them in to an expensive med school or to put them into a lead program, we will do it. Why? Because the most important part of your success is..what? Your education. And the children here, they’re told by their parents this over and over again. You have to have the education. You will be a failure in life if you don't get education. You have to finish college and you have to finish this and that and you’re from the hindu-paks of continent, obviously if you’re not a physician, then you have failed. And you should not expect anything from this dunya. Now the only thing that left for you is akhirah. Because you know, your parent will not be happy with you now because you are not a surgeon. Or even don’t be a dentist. Dentists are humiliating. Don't even bother with that. That's what we’ve done. By they way, why is it that being a physician is so important than the in a certain segment of our community? You know why? Because it pays the most. It’s not because you get to save life, or you serving humanity. That has nothing to do with it. If doctors were paid the same salary as the bus drivers, Desi community wouldn’t be crazy about making their children doctors. There’s no zeal to get our children to become saviors for the world. Nope, parents are so happy when their son becomes a doctor. Then he say ‘I’m going to doctors without border for 3 years’ ‘I’m gonna go serve doctors without borders in flooded areas for 3 years, I’m gonna go to Somalia, and then I’m gonna go to Pakistan and then I’m gonna go to Bangladesh and then I’m gonna go to Malaysia and I’m gonna serve no salary, none for profit work.’ These parents are going to say ‘Ya Allah, we put all this money in to make you a doctor. And this is what you do? You should have been part of the same blood’s sucking machine that the insurance company in a pharma-seutical companies are a part of. That’s what we wanted you to do. Why are you saving life? What’s wrong with you?’ That’s what we’ve become.. And then we say something’s wrong with our children. We have to look in the mirror, what are we creating.

Something has fundamentally changed. Our idea of success has become money. Our idea of education has become a carrier that makes a lot of money. Everything comes back to money. If you’re successful, that means you have a lot of money. If you’re successful, it means you have an education, education in what field? A field that will give you a good carrier, which means you will have good money. And that's what success is now. Everything comes back to this, that’s it. Now this is different from old times. In old times, to have an education means to understand yourself, to understand the world around you, and to contribute to making the world a better place. And to make the world a better place, sometimes you have to study history. Sometimes you have to study sociology. Sometimes you have to study political science. Sometimes you have to study media. Sometimes you have to study journalism. You have to study a variety of fields to contribute to society. Not one field. And btw the most successful by any measure, the most successful community in the US are the ones that did not limit their children to one field. One of my friends tells me, ‘If Steven Spielberg was in a Pakistani house hold, he would’ve been a doctor.’ Why? Because you know, ‘What do you mean you want to go to Film school? What’s wrong with you? Are you failing medicine?’ You’re going to give your parents a high blood pressure.

Now let’s talk a little bit about raising our children. First of all our mentality has to change. If they don't see in us the right definition of success, if they don't see that in our personality, our conversations…we cannot expect them to have the right definition of success for their life. They have to see that coming from us. In what we talk about all the times. And what is important for us most of the times. When husband and wife are talking to each other, are the children listening or no? Always. Their ears are always on. Now if you’re two are talking about the bills, and you’re talking about paying off the house, or you’re only talking about movies, or you’re only talking bad about the these other families, what are they did, whatever you’re talking about. They will come to know these are the things that adults, this is what my parents do. This is what’s important in life. That’s it. If you and your wife are talking about Qur’an, talking about akhirah, you’re talking about doing good to others, you’re talking about helping somebody, and they see that from you. You don't have to give them a talk about it, they just see it. The most effective parenting is not even telling your child to do anything, they just see it. They just see it all the time. Inside the home. A lot of you think ‘If I just bring my child to brother Nouman’s lecture and sit them down and in sha Allah after that they will be righteous after that.’ ‘Just a couple of youtube videos and the problems of them will be solved.’ It ain’t gonna help. And you probably have already discovered that. And you, you are the real counselors to your children. I’m the real counselor to my child. We have to become their best friends. And that’s the next thing that changed in the world. You know, parents and children had a very organic natural relationship in the old world. In the new world, Daddy’s at work most of the day. And he comes home tired. And by the times he comes home tired, most of the time children are already asleep. And by the time he goes to work, he probably, dad leaves to work before even the kids wake up. And if he doesn't leave before the kids wake up, he sees them only for 5 minutes while they’re having breakfast and he goes and they go. So basically for 5 out of 7 days in a week, father and children have no conversation with each other. If there’s any conversation; ‘Did you do your homework?’ ‘Ok, now get me some water.’ That’s it. That’s the conversation. Now comes the weekend. But on the weekend you have adult over here, and the party over there, and you got to sleep until 12 o’clock and you got things to do around the house, etc. You don’t spend the times with your kids either. You don’t really talk to them. You don’t really communicate with them. This is the real problem. We have to make time for our children during the week and the weekends. That’s the practical advice I’m giving you, and for myself. We have to make time for our children, just to talk to them. Just to listen to them and talk to them. Even they’re talking non-sense. We should be a part of their life, a big part of their life. For a lot of you, the only role you have to your children, you’re like the wall on the house. It’s always there but you don’t talk to it. You will need it, it’s there, you know it’s important; it’s paying the bills. Other than that I have no relationship with it. You know what happens to parents like that? You will find the consequences of that in the moment they become teenagers. Once they hit 14/15, and they become a little independent, and they ask you for a car, and you say ‘No, why do want a car?’ ‘Fine, I’ll just go with my friends. I’ll go get a job, I’ll save some money and buy myself a car.’ And then all of the sudden you hear the news ‘Dad, I’m moving out.’ ‘Moving out? Where are you going?’ ‘Doesn’t matter, I’m an adult now.’ And now you come running to the masjid. ‘Imam, give me a surah, give me a du’a that can fix this boy.’ It doesn't work like that. You can’t have the state of the emergencies when they’re 17, 18, 19, 20. It’s got to be built way, way before.

Now I’ll come to some practical bits of advice. For the parents who have children under 10 years old, show hands please, children under 10 years of age. Ok, quite a few, Alhamdulillah. My self included. My eldest is ten. So for us, our biggest job is, to us to teach our children Islam. Us, teaching our children Islam. When the prophets AS teaching deen, they were teaching everybody deen. But when Allah swt talks about children learning Islam and the Qur’an, it’s a very few times Allah talks about children learning, children receiving advice. But whenever talks about it, it’s from the parents. Listen to that again. Whenever Allah talks about children getting guidance in the Qur’an, it’s always from parents. And within the parents it’s always from the fathers. Because the mother is always there. The mother doesn't have to do the extra works to be there for the child all the time and to care for them all the time and to give them advice all the time. You don’t have to give moms training on how to be a mom, it comes naturally, Allah put that inside them. Fathers however are horrible. We have to go through training to become real father. It doesn't come naturally to us. Just because you had a baby when a mother has a baby, her feelings, her emotions, everything changes immediately. It changes. A father? It’s like 3-4 days go by, and friend says ‘Hey I heard you had a baby’ ‘Yeah, he hasn’t hit me yet’ (Chuckle) Somebody needs to hit you, so it hits you. You know what I’m saying? ‘It hasn’t hit me yet.’ Because the feelings of fatherhood, they’re not natural to us. We have to build them, we have to work on them, right? So Allah mentions, Luqman (RA) making the time, finding the right opportunity and then talking to his son. We find Yaqub (AS) talking to his sons *‘Ya baniyya inna Allaha istafalakumu addeena fala tamootunna illa waantummuslimoon’* -(2:132). We find Ibrahim (AS) saying this to his sons the same exact advice Yaqub (AS) gave to his sons. That’s pretty amazing. Because that told you that father did a job to his child not just on how to raise himself but to be a father. We’re going to teach our children how to be a good father one day. Because Ibrahim taught Ishaq, and Ishaq taught Yaqub. What is the Qur’an says? Ibrahim and Yaqub, meaning a grandfather and a grandson, said the same exact thing. Did they say it at the same time? No. They said it on two generations apart from each other. Ibrahim (AS) was talking to Ismail and Ishaq. Yaqub AS was talking to his 11 sons. But they said exactly the same thing () and that’s incredible. That Allah says the grandfather and the grandson gave the same exact advice, why, because the ‘tarbiyah’ was passed down. Not just on how to be a good son, but one day how to be a good father. That’s the kind of ‘tarbiyah.’ In other words we’re going to be giving the tarbiyah to our children even when they become fathers. Even when they got older, we’re going to give them advice about raising children. And they’re going to see that from us. And if we do our job right, we’re going to look back, you know, a lot of parents, they were abusive. A lot of parents were abusive. And they yelled at their children and they insulted them and they put them down and all these kind of things. And so when they have children they say ‘I’m going to be different from my father. I’m not going to be like my Dad. I’m going to love my child. I’m going to be this way, and that way or the other way’. We’re end up being exactly like our father whether we like it or not, by the way, in one way or the other way. But here what we’re learning is the power of a generation after generation if you do your job right with your children.

And by the way, another important question, are Ibrahim’s children the same quality as Yaqub’s children? Who are Ibrahim’s children? Ismail, Ishaq. Who are Yaqub’s children? Yusuf AS, Benjamin, and the rest of the brothers. Same quality or no? No. But the advice is the same, right? The advice’s exactly the same. How come? What Allah is telling us, teaching us here is, it doesn’t matter if you had easy kids or difficult kids, you have to do your job. There are some parts of parenting that don’t change it all. Other things have to change. But this part of parenting that will not change at all. You have to give your children the teaching of deen. It will come from you. It will not come from the Qari shab, it will not come from the Imam, or the khatib. It will come from you.

And so I come now to, as my talk winds down, I wanted to share with you some very practical immediate things that all of us can do, my self also. I personally believe that Islamic education needs to experience a revolution. That's my personal beliefs. That the Islamic education needs to experience a revolution. What do I mean by that? There’s Islamic studies for the ‘Alim. The ‘Alim will study fiqh, hadith, tafseer, aqidah, they will study all of these things and they will become an ‘Alim. And they will study them at the very high level. But there’s a level underneath that, we need to create actually, it doesn’t really exist too much yet. We need to create it, a level of learning Islam just for daily practice, daily life. Now I’m not talking about fiqh, I’m talking about advice for fathers. I’m talking about advice for wives. Just a curriculum. ‘How to be a good Muslim wife’ ‘How to be a good Muslim husband’ ‘How to be a good Muslim father’ ‘How to be a good son’ ‘How to be a good daughter’ ‘What advices Allah have’ Entire curriculum just based on making us good human beings. This is education. Real education is not that you know how to do C++ and your Microsoft’s something-something certified, and your cisco’s certified. And on top of that you have an accounting degree. And you got an MBA. All of that means you can make money. That doesn’t mean you’re educated. That just means you can make money. That's it. That’s all that means. That doesn't make you a better human being. I know plenty of physicians that are terrible human beings. I know plenty of programmers that are horrible human beings. They’re very jahil, they’re very uneducated on how to be a husband. They’re uneducated on how to be a father. What good is their education? All that is a skill labor. You’re just a better worker at the factory. That’s all it is now. It’s a virtual factory but that’s all you are. We have to revolutions our Islamic education and that we have to create this, you know, Islamic education revolving around becoming better human beings, Adam. Specific areas that need help now that are never needed help before. I told you what’s happening inside the homes that are being targeted. Most Muslim fathers don't even know what it means to be a Muslim fathers anymore. These things came naturally to us. They were not difficult for us in the past. But now, because of the change of the world and the change of our lifestyle, we have to re-educate ourselves in these things. We have to come back and do them all over again. How to raise kids specifically. There’s one set of CD’s. I think you might be able to find MP3 online also. I want everybody here to listen to them. They’re not by me. They’re by a person I really really admire, brother Hisham al-wadi. “Children Around The Messenger”, that’s one series. And “Mother of The Believers”. These 2 series, I want every person, especially every father here, and the entire family to listen to both of these series. It’s really really important that you do. It benefited me tremendously and they can benefit parents in general. These are few resources we have but they’re gold. They’re really really valuable, we should take advantage of them. And we should, In sha Allahu ta’ala try to have our entire family listen to them. Put them on your ipod, put them on your car, listen to it everyday, you will benefit tremendously.

Recite Qur’an with your children. Don’t hire a Qari to recite Qur’an, recite Qur’an with your children. Maulana Shab comes, reads Qur’an and goes home. What about you? You don’t have time? If you don’t have time for Qur’an why does your child has to have time for Qur’an? Sit down with your child, make those 20 minutes happen. Shaytaan will come, he will make you yawn, he will make you thirsty, he will make you sleepy, he will make you remember you had a meeting, all of that will happen in those 20 minutes. Why? Because you gave those 20 minutes for Qur’an. He hates that. He can’t stand it. But make those 20 minutes happen. Commit to it. Commit to it your children. Get the entire family, there’s one part of a day, we’re going to sit and we’re going to recite Qur’an. Listen to the explanation, at least the translation of the Qur’an together as a family. If you can’t do it for one hour, do it 10 minutes. It’s okay. Just listen to it. Just a little bit of 10 minutes of Qur’an. Beyond the recitation. The recitation, I told you, how many minutes? 20 minutes. Listening to translation, some tafseer, some explanation, how long? 10 minutes. So how long everyday? 30 minutes. 30 minutes everyday you and your family just did something for Allah. My recommendation between Maghreb and Isha. And my recommendation, you know, right, you’re going to say ‘You know, kids have exams, it’s May, let the semester end’ Fine, you know what? I’ll give you that. This whole summer. This is what you do. 30 minutes everyday. Don’t say ‘Which program should I put my child in?’. You’re the program. Everything else is secondary. We have to come to terms with that.

Islam is not on auto pilot. And I end with this. What do I mean by that? We were raised in a Muslim, many of us, including my self, we’re raised in a Muslim country. Our parents did not have to worry about our beliefs. They didn’t worry, ‘Is my child going to become a Christian, is he going to become Atheist, is he going to become Jewish?’. They didn’t have to worry about that. They didn’t have to worry ‘Is my child going to go somewhere else and not pray jum’ah?’ They didn’t have to worry about that. That thought never came in their mind. They don’t have to worry about you, that you’re going to end up in a gang or drugs or runaway from home. They don’t have these issues. So Islam, they didn’t have to worry about teaching you too much ‘cause the entire society in somewhere and another was teaching you. The school was teaching you, the adhaan was being heard all over the neighborhood. Society was giving you Islam. Are we in that situation now? No. So you cannot raise your kids the way your parents raised you. ‘Cause you’re not in the same world. Everything you assume will just be okay. ‘It’ll be okay. We came out okay.’ You came out okay because you lived in the different world, buddy. This is a different world. We have no guarantee our children will be holding on to Islam. We don’t have that guarantee. We don’t. The pollution outside is not just of cars’ smog. The pollution outside is of ‘Kufr’. People are becoming doubtful. I cannot begin to tell you how many teenagers I hade met, who are not so sure about Islam. They’re just not sure. They hear so many bad things about the deen all the time. We’re in Texas, afterall. You hear so many terrible things. To this morning, two Mormon teenage boys came in to my house before jum’ah. Knock on the door, teenage boys. It’s amazing right, teenage boys doing da’wah. I was like, Man, if we had that, that’ll be awesome. Which teenage boys you, get dressed up, they got dress really nicely, like a uniform. They grab their bikes, it’s 92 degrees outside, and they go house to house. They wanted to tell you about the word of God. You know how much courage that takes? Before I start ripping their religion apart, I’m going to say ‘Man, I really appreciate what you’re guys doing.’ That’s amazing. They don’t even have the truth. And they’re so dedicate and they were able to put that in to the kids. Why? Because the Mormon community decided our children are on the top priority. Forget everything else. We’re not going to preach our religion, we’re not teach it to anybody else, we don’t have to build a huge centers, all we have to worry is about our kids. That’s it. We make sure they understand our religion. So, they’re teenage boys, carrying this religion. And I’m sitting, and I’m talking to them, you know, and they believe this is the word of God, and it’s a miracle. I was like, ‘Wow, guys..’ It’s not a miracle, but I really appreciate your dedication. I really really appreciate your dedication. I don't say that we become Mormon or be like the Mormons. I am saying, Man, when you see something good, you should appreciate it. And they’ve got the good qualities it is to be appreciated. We have something to learn from other communities, we do.

And I tell you very quickly; the world is shifting. It’s going to be people who believe in God in one side, and people who don’t believe in any God on the other side. Right now we have disagreement among each other different schools of thought, even Muslims versus Christians versus Hindu etc etc. Pretty soon the world’s polarizing along two lines. ‘I don’t believe in any God and any religion’ and ‘I believe in God’ That’s the shift that’s going to be happening. That’s the polarization that’s happening in every corner of the United State. And it’s happening like a wild fire. Don’t you for a second, think, that it’s not going to affect the Muslims community. It is, it absolutely is. You and I have to learn Qur’an, as parents. Not for our children, for ourselves. We have to learn Qur’an, we have to love it so much, that our children as they are raised, they know, ‘My dad..’ Somebody ask ‘What is your Dad like to do?’ and they say ‘He loves to learn the Qur’an. He’s always talking about the Qur’an. I learned everything about the Qur’an, I learned most of it from my Dad. He’s always listening to the explanation of it. He’s always telling me to recite more. He’s always memorizing it. He loves the recitation of it, all the stuffs.’ We have to become the Nation of Qur’an. Why? Because the prophet (SAW) was surrounded by people who doubted, just like we are surrounded by the people who doubt. And the only thing that gave them belief was, what? Qur’an, The word of Allah. It kept them strong. We have to become that nation again. Us and our children, we have to become the generation of the Qur’an. It has to become center in our life. 30 minutes of a day is a starting point. 30 minutes a day. But for yourself, the parents, I don’t care if you’re 45, 55, 65 or 75…start memorizing Qur’an! Start doing it! Allah didn’t put an age limit on it. Allah did not. That’s you. Allah didn’t do it. Show Allah you love His book and Allah will put blessings in your life you didn’t even see. You would have to ask somebody else for advice for how to raise your children, but Allah will give you that advice in His book. He will have those answers for you and me in His book. We have to have that direct relationship with this book. I tell you, most of our problems in the Muslims community are because we are disconnected from the Qur’an. We don’t feel for it, we don't feel love for it, we don’t have the relationship with it, we don’t go to it for advice, we don’t recite it everyday, we don’t care to memorize it, we don’t care to learn more and more of it, we haven’t shown it enough love. This word Allah gave, honour this Ummah way and we haven’t given it enough love. If we did, I tell you, our problems will start disappearing. I guarantee you. Allah SWT talk about the people of the book, He says “If they only establish the Taurat and the Injil, they would’ve eaten from above and below.” Their dunya would’ve become Jannah. If they only establish Taurat and Injil. What is Allah saying to us then? If we only establish what? Qur’an. You will eat from above and below. Allah will make dunya into Jannah. Just come back to His book. This is the real advice to parents. The memory we leave our children with, ‘My Dad loved video games, My Dad loved movies, but he meant more than anything else..He loved Qur’an.’ ‘He really liked basketball, but He Loved Qur’an. Qur’an, he really really loved. And he make sure, he wanted us to love it too. He used to tell stories from it. He used to give advice from it.’ Tell your children the amazing stories from the Qur’an. And you won’t be able to tell them, if you yourself are not amazed by them. If you’re not in awe of the story itself, you won’t be able to impress your children. But Man, from early childhood, you, not anybody else, tell the stories from the Qur’an. You will have to do it. I was teaching one of my daughters the stories of Yusuf AS on the other day and I didn’t finish the story, and she’s asking for days ‘Abah, what happened?’ ‘Ok he got thrown into jail’ ‘Then what happened?’ ‘I can’t tell you. I tell you later.’ And she’s been asking about it, I’ll tell her on the way back to the hotel later today in sha Allah. ‘What happened after he got thrown into jail?’ But we have to make it creative and interesting to our children. And the stories are so beautiful. They’re so remarkable. Especially when you tell them from the Qur’an’s point of view. They’re so beautifully put together.

May Allah SWT make us the people of the Qur’an, and instill that gives us the ability to instill that to our children, have an honest, direct, open conversation with your children, and ask them about, you know, about what they heard in school, what problems they have, and then you yourself seek the answers from Allah’s book. ‘You know, the thing your friend just told you, or this terrible thing you saw, you know what Allah says about that? Let me show you’. Literally teaching your children how to go to Allah for answers. That’s what we have to do. We have to create that generation. May Allah SWT help all of us do that, May Allah SWT put the barakah in the lives of every muslims, and May Allah add barakah on top of the barakah, by means of our love and affection and time and dedication to this Qur’an.

I wanted to take this opportunity quite a few of you are here to make two quick announcements in sha Allah. The first of them is immediate and that’s tomorrow. For our campus in Irving, we’re having an open house. And we’re inviting the community to come check out the Bayyinah Campus and meet some of the students for this year. Many of you know, and many of you don’t know we got about 60 students every year from all across America that study Arabic and Qur’an with us at the program. And we have a small, like mini college, type of campus set up there. So we love for you to come and check it out and meet with the students. That’s tomorrow from 2 o’clock to 5 o’clock. It’s all the way in Irving, I know that’s say ‘Hijrah’ for you but look I made ‘hijrah’ here, so you can make ‘hijrah’ there, it’s fine. That’s right across the Irving Masjid and fell on 2300 valley view lane. I know you won’t remember the address, just remember this email address; openhouse@bayyinah.com. Just remember that email address and we’ll send you the information. That’s a small announcement. The big announcement, however, that I’m very excited to share with you is that Bayyinah’s actually putting together its first conference. And I decided, we had a lot of offers, we had offers in LA, in New York, in other places to put the conference together. But since this is home, I decided to do the conference here. So, In sha Allahu ta’ala on June the 30th, is going to be the first Bayyinah’s Nation wide conference and it’s going to be held here in Dallas. It’s at the Irving Convention Center. In sha Allahu ta’ala. Once again, June the 30th. My self, Shaykh Abdul Nasir Jangda, and Imam Suhaib Webb from Boston is going to be there. So we’re the 3 presenters. It’s a one day program. And I’d like you to sign up as soon as you can, yourself and your family. The website address, if you can try to remember it, is amazedbythequran.com. That’s the name of the conference. All the 3 of us are going to be presenting our favourite passages from the Qur’an from this year’s studies. That’s the 3 of us are going to be doing, in sha Allahu ta’ala. And there are other kids activity and other programs there too. So I hope all of you will join and help me spread the word in the area about the conference and help people sign up for that. Once again, what’s the website address? Amazedbythequran.com. Jazakumullah khairan katsiran, so very much for listening attentively. If you folks have any question I don’t know if we have time before salah.