UNIT C
CHAPTER FOUR
LESSON TWO

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Learn and memorize ayaat 4-7 of Surat-ul-Mumtahinah.
2. Learn how Prophet Ibraheem put his faith before family.
3. Learn the du’aa’ of Prophet Ibraheem and his followers.
4. Understand that hostile non-Muslims are not necessarily Muslims’ permanent enemies.
5. Learn the wisdom of Ali Ibn Abi Talib about being balanced in your love and hate of others.

VOCABULARY

Uswah

Al-Masjid Al-Ibraheemi
سورة الممتتحة
Surat-ul-Mumtahinah 4-7

(60:4) You have a good example in Ibraheem and his followers. They told their [hostile] pagan people: We reject your way of life and what you worship instead of God. You are our clear and abhorred enemies forever until you believe in God alone. Except for what Ibraheem said to his father, “I will ask for your forgiveness but I can’t protect you from Allah (if you remain a pagan).” Then Ibraheem and his followers said, “Our Lord upon You we depend and to You we have turned in repentance and to You we will return (on the Day of Judgment).”

(60:5) Our Lord, do not make us a test for those who disbelieve. Forgive us, our Lord You are All-Powerful capable of defeating anyone and You are All-Wise.

(60:6) In them is a good example for those who want (the pleasure of) Allah and the reward on the Day of Judgment. Whoever turns away should know Allah does not need them and Allah is deserving of all praise.
(60:7) Allah (might lead them to Islam) and make the relationship between you and those whom you took as enemies to turn into a relationship of love. Allah can do anything and Allah is forgiving and continuously merciful (with the believers.)

Background History

Remember that many of the Muslims in Madinah had family among the kuffar of the Quraysh who were at war with the Muslims. So Allah in these verses commanded the believers to disown their pagan relatives from among the Quraysh. Knowing that this would be hard on the believers, Allah promised them that this firm approach would help lead their relatives to Islam. This in fact happened. Makkah submitted to Prophet Muhammad with almost no fight. Most of the people converted to Islam and the believers of Madinah were reunited with their families and friends from Makkah. Thus, they returned as brothers and sisters in Islam.

Lessons Learned

1. Prophet Ibraheem puts faith first.
He tried his best to convince his father, family, friends and society to accept Islam without much success. When it was clear to Ibraheem that his father was persisting in worshipping idols, he avoided him. When he had to choose between his family and his faith, he chose his faith. Therefore, Prophet Ibraheem gave us a great example of putting faith before anything else.

One thing that Allah did not approve of was when Ibraheem prayed to Allah to forgive his father. He did this without receiving permission from Allah. Prophet Ibraheem only did this because he promised his father he would pray for him. When he realized that his father was hostile to the true faith and he was going to Hell, he stopped asking Allah to forgive him.

As Muslims we should reject in our hearts acts of disbelief and work to guide the disbelievers to the true faith. As much as the Muslims abhor all acts disbelief and disobedience, they truly wish that all disbelievers would see the truth and join them on the straight path.
Allah teaches us an important *du‘aa‘*. We should always ask, “do not make us a test for those who disbelieve.” This has two meanings:

A- Do not give the disbelievers victory over us so that our condition becomes a test and a temptation for them to think that they are doing the right thing:

B- Do not make our hatred for their disbelief push us into treating them unjustly so that they are tempted to think that Islam is not the right religion.

As Muslims, we represent Islam in our dealings with non-Muslims. So if we are too accepting and silent against what they do, we could be misleading them to think Islam accepts what they are doing. On the other hand, if we are not polite and tactful in the way we address them, we could also turn them away from Islam.

Muslims should not take hostile non-Muslims as permanent enemies. Allah says in ayah 7, “Allah (might lead them to Islam) and make the relationship between you and those whom you took as enemies to turn into a relationship of love.” So, Allah directs us to wish that one day God may guide them to the straight path.

**Related Wisdom**

احبِ حَبِيبُكَ حُبُّكَ مَا عَمِسَ أَن يَكُونَ بِغَيْضِكَ يَوْمًاٰ مَا،

وأَبْعَضُ بِغَيْضِكَ حُبُّكَ مَا عَمِسَ أَن يَكُونَ حَبِيبُكَ يَوْمًاٰ مَا.

Imam At-Tirmithi reported that Ali Ibn Abi Talib once said,

“Love the person you love in a balanced way because he might become someone you hate one day. And hate the person you hate in a balanced way because he might become someone you love one day.”
1. List ten Ayaat in the Qur’an about Prophet Ibraheem.

Can someone be rude to his parents because they are not Muslims? Support your answer with an ayah.

Study Questions

1. In what way is Ibraheem a good example for us according to the ayaat of this lesson?
2. Why did Ibraheem and his followers reject their people?
3. What condition did Ibraheem and his followers put in place to have their relationships with their people get back to normal?
4. What was the du’aa’ that Ibraheem and the believers used to say according to these ayaat?