

Activity for Kids: **Doing Good Deeds on The First 10 Days of Dhul Hijjah**

1. Be a Good Neighbour

Hadith: "He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him be kind to his neighbor" [Muslim]

Activities/Ideas: Bake cookies, buy some flowers or just go say hello! Meeting neighbours isn't always on my priority list, but inshaa Allah this is a great opportunity to go over and say hi.

2. Smile

Hadith: "Your smile for your brother is charity" [Tirmidhi]

ʿAbd Allah ibn Hārith (may Allah be pleased with him) said about him, "I have never seen anyone smile more than the Prophet

Activities/Ideas: The importance of greeting those around us with a pleasant face can't be emphasized enough. Have a quick discussion about the fact that smiling is a good deed and it's something the Prophet (salallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) did all the time. Smile at your kids all day! Or as long and as often as possible :P and when Dad comes home, make sure that smile is extra wide! :)

3. Keep in touch with Family

Hadith: "The word 'Ar-Rahm' (womb) derives its name from Ar-Rahman (i.e., one of the names of Allah) and Allah said: 'I will keep good relation with the one who will keep good relation with you, (womb i.e. Kith and Kin) and sever the relation with him who will sever the relation with you, (womb, i.e. Kith and Kin)" [Bukhari]

Activities/Ideas: Keeping ties of kinship can take many forms. Get your child to make a card or write a letter/email or it could be as simple as taking the time to call or visit or to helping around their houses. We can practice this in so many ways iA.

Here's a good article from Productive Muslim on rebuilding ties of Kinship (**Note: copy and paste it in a browser to read**):

<http://productivemuslim.com/9-practical-tips-to-rebuild-our-ties-of-kinship-this-ramadan/>

4. Visit the sick

Hadith: *‘When a man goes to visit his sick brother in the morning, a group of seventy thousand angels prays for his forgiveness till the evening and a garden is prepared for him in Paradise. And when a man goes to visit his sick brother in the evening, a group of seventy thousand angels prays for his forgiveness till the morning and a garden is prepared for him in Paradise. [Ahmad]*

Activities/Ideas: When I first watched this video by Omar Suleiman (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgdalPPbOt8>) on the huge reward for visiting the sick I just HAD to visit someone. If it's not possible (or Alhamdulillah no one around you is ill) potentially have a mock patient set-up where your child's favourite toy isn't well and you 'visit' it.

Make sure to learn/say the du'aa: for visiting the sick:

لَا بَأْسَ طَهُورٌ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

Transliteration: Laa ba'sa tahoorn 'inshaa'Allaah

Translation: "Never mind, it will be a purification for you, if Allah wills." [Bukhari]

5. Be Kind to Animals

Hadith: *“A man felt very thirsty while he was on the way, there he came across a well. He went down the well, quenched his thirst and came out. Meanwhile he saw a dog panting and licking mud because of excessive thirst. He said to himself, “This dog is suffering from thirst as I did.” So, he went down the well again and filled his shoe with water and watered it. Allah thanked him for that deed and forgave him. The people said, “O Allah’s Apostle! Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?” He replied: “Yes, there is a reward for serving any animate (living being).” [Bukhari]*

Activities/Ideas: Most kids love animals but this is a chance to talk about how much the Prophet (salallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) emphasized the kind treatment of animals. There are hadith that discuss the high status of those who helped animals. Feeding the birds, not chasing birds (or any animals) etc. are all examples of kindness to animals.

6. Spreading the Salam

Hadith: *'Abd-Allaah ibn 'Umar narrated that a man asked the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him): "What is the best thing in Islam?" He said, "Feeding others and giving the greeting of salaam to those whom you know and those whom you do not know."*

Activities/Ideas: This goes hand in hand with the big smile. I've found that kids love to practice shaking hands too.

7. Removing Harm from the Pathways

Hadith: *"And removing a harmful thing from the path is a charitable act." [Muslim]*

Activities/Ideas: This Hadith really does instil the idea of community service, to take it upon oneself to remove something harmful/dangerous rather than waiting for someone else to do it. A potential activity: Go out into one's neighbourhood park armed with a rubbish bin and gloves and pick up any trash/harmful things lying around.

8. Being good to one's parents

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honour." (Quran 17:23)

Activities/Ideas: An opportunity to teach/tell the kids about the du'aa in the Qur'an for parents. I like telling my kids that I ALSO need to treat my parents i.e. their grandparents in the best way and I need to be making this du'aa for them often. Potential activity idea: Mum can sit down with the kids and think of something nice to do for Dad and vice versa.

The Du'aa:

“My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was small.”
[Quran; Surah Al-Isra, Verse 24]

Transliteration: Rabbiir hamhuma kama rabbayanee sagheeran”

9. Cleanliness

Hadith: "Cleanliness is half of faith" [Muslim]

“Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean...” [Al-Baqarah (2): 222]

Activities/Ideas: Cleanliness is a huge part of our faith, in fact so much so that Allah LOVES those who are clean. That refers to keeping ourselves, our homes and general surroundings clean. An activity I'm considering: Setting up a roster where the kids help me clean up, I think they're old enough now!

10. Exchanging Gifts

Hadith: “Exchange gifts, as that will lead to increasing your love for one another” [Bukhari]

A'ishah radi Allahu anha narrated that the Prophet sal Allahu alayhi wa sallam used to accept gifts and reward people for giving them. [Bukhari]

Activities/Ideas: I wouldn't normally choose to have anything on Eid day, but this is the perfect hadith! Also a good reminder when our kids give gifts to others that this is something the Prophet (salallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) encouraged us to do.