



Preaching By Women

Q: If a woman would like to work in the field of propagating Islaam, what books would you recommend that she reads and discusses with both educated and uneducated women?

A: Teaching the Qur'aan, or what is easy of it, is the most important thing to start with because it is Allah's Book in which there is guidance and light. Allah, the Almighty, says

"Verily, this Qur'aan guides to that which is most just and right (or stable), and giveth the Glad Tidings to the Believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward"

And also,



{...Says: for those who believe it is guidance and a healing...}

Therefore, my advice to women involved in inviting to Allah, is to give importance to correct understanding of the Qur'aan and the ruling contained therein, and teaching it to other women. In addition, they should concentrate on the small soorahs and the teaching of al-Faatihah together with its meaning, because it is "the Mother of the Qur'aan" and it contains: { You alone we worship, and you alone we ask for help,} and also, { Guide us to the straight path.} These are some of the most important things which must be explained: the meaning of " the straight path" , "You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help" "the path of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace" . Similarly, whatever the Qur'aan contains of rulings and statements should be

taught according to his or his or her ability. The student of knowledge should be taught one thing while women in general should be taught something else.

Next comes the teaching of the tenets of belief. What is the meaning of "There is no god but Allah"? What is the meaning of the testimony "Muhammad is the messenger of Allah"? In this way they will have a correct understanding of Allah together with discernment. They will understand that the meaning of "There is no god but Allah" is that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah. And so worship, prayer, fasting, charity and so forth must be preformed solely and sincerely for Allah. Then follows the teaching of the prayer. How to pray. How to purify herself from major ritual impurity from menstruation from postnatal bleeding. How to pay zakaat on her money and on her jewelry. How to make Hajj if the time of Hajj arrives. How to obey her parents. How to obey her husband and what her husbands rights are upon her, and so forth.

Suitable books to read are those dealing with the subject of women, as well as what is contained in Allah's Book and the Sunnah about her matter. **Buloogh al-Maraam**, for example, is a short, concise and beneficial book. Others include 'Umdat ul-Hadeeth fee Ahaadeeth ar-Rasool, 'Umdat ul-Fiqh fil-Fiqh ul-Muwatta' by Ibn Qadaamah, **Risaalat ul-Usool** by Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Abdul-Wahaab, **Kitaab ut-Tawheed and al-Aqeedat ul-Waasiteeyah** and others such short books which be valuable and beneficial to women. These could be summarized so that ordinary women and young female students who are in need of such knowledge, but who have not studied in school might also benefit. Books increase the knowledge, understanding and guidance of both preachers and students alike and teach ordinary women what they must know and what there is no excuse for not knowing about sincere worship of Allah, prayer, purity, zakaat, fasting and the rights of the husband, parents relatives and neighbors. Some other excellent books are **Zaad ul Ma'aad** by ibn al-Qayyim, and although somewhat lengthy it is very useful and beneficial book. **Fath ul Majeed Sharh Kitaab ut-Tawheed** is also a very beneficial book dealing with the subject of the tenet of belief (Aqeedah). There is also **Aadaab ul Masheelas- Salaat** a beneficial and brief exposition of the prayer, zakaat and fasting by Shaikh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhaab, may Allah be merciful to him. All these books are brief, succinct and very beneficial

This question was answered by Shaikh Ibn Baaz

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