**Children’s Class Ruhi Grade 2 Materials**

**Theme: Adhering to the Laws of God**

**Lesson 4: God’s Laws Protect Us**

Slightly modified from Ruhi Grade 2 Material

**4-4:10**

**Opening Prayers:**

Say prayer by memory

Two children offer prayers by memory

**Practice previous quotes and prayers**

New Prayer:

“O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy great purpose. May they follow Thy commandments and abide in Thy law. Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee. O God! Leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of Thy knowledge, and cheer their hearts by Thy love. Verily, Thou art their Helper and their Lord.”

**Discuss with children and sing prayer set to music. (At First Light CD available at:** [**http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/soulrisemelodies2**](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/soulrisemelodies2)**)**

**Youtube link to a video with prayer set to music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ivCNbvkbX8**

**4:10-4:25**

**Intro. to Lesson**

All of humanity has been created out of God’s love for His creation, and we are constantly nurtured and protected by His love. If for even a moment we did not receive the blessings of God, we would be lost. God’s love is like a fortress. A fortress is a mighty building with strong, thick walls that nothing can break through. When we are inside a fortress, we are safe from harm. Protected and nurtured in the fortress of the love of God, we try our best to do what is pleasing to Him and allow our hearts to be filled with the sweetness of His love.

Abdu’l-Baha tells us that life was created for happiness, not for sorrow, for pleasure, not for grief. It is through following God’s guidance and living according to His teachings the we find true happiness, a happiness that will last forever. Otherwise, we will assuredly be weighed down by sorrow and trouble. One of the ways we know what God wants us is by looking to Abdu’l-Baha’s example, for He reflects perfectly all of God’s teachings. To help us remember that it is God’s love that always keeps us safe and happy, let’s memorize one of the beautiful passages of Baha’u’llah:

HAND OUT QUOTE- Who would like to read it?

**“O Son of Being! My love is My stronghold; he that entereth therein is safe and secure, and he that turneth away shall surely stray and perish.”**

My love is My stronghold. M is capitalized here, so it is referring to God. God’s love is like a stronghold for us. What is a stronghold- let’s listen to two sentences and then you can tell me what you think a stronghold is.

1. To protect themselves from their enemies, the people built a large wall around the town. The town was made into a stronghold. (SHOW A PICTURE OF FORTRESSED CITY)
2. The farmer put his chickens in a coop to keep them safe from the foxes. The coop served as a stronghold for the chickens. (SHOW PICTURE OF A CHICKEN COOP)

What does stronghold mean? What does it say is OUR stronghold? God’s love. When we enter into the stronghold of God’s love, what are we? Safe and secure.

Let’s read two sentences about being safe and secure.

1. The sheep got lost in the brush, and Marie had to find them so that the wild dogs would not get them. Now the sheep are back in the corral, safe and secure.
2. Billy got separated from his mother in the marketplace. He was afraid when he saw he was alone. But then he spotted her through the crowd and ran over to her. He was glad to be back with his mother, safe and secure.

How does God’s love keep us safe and secure?

And what happens if we turn away from the stronghold of His love and forget about God? Then it is easy for us to stray (which means to go off a path) and perish.

Let’s read to sentences about the meaning of perish.

1. The village had seen little rain for many months, and everyone feared that the crops (the plants that were growing) would perish without water.
2. After leaves fall of a tree, they gradually crumble and disappear into the soil. The leaves perish.

So just like when a leaf is not connected to the tree, it may look green for a little while, but you know without that life giving force from the tree it cannot survive, we too are like that. God is the source of life for us and it is very important that we connect our hearts to Him so that He can fill our soul with the spirit of life and help us to be light-givers in the world.

**4:25-4:35 SONGS:**

* **Teach the children the QUOTE from this lesson set to music**
* **Tim Urbonya- Comfort and Strength**
* **Rely upon God Song**
* **Love Song**
* **Humility Song from last week’s lesson**

Can choose other songs from songbook if there is time

**4:35-4:50 Game and Drama**

**Game: Cooperative juggling**

**Setting up the juggling:**

* Ask for whoever would like to play to form a circle, others can sit and observe if they are quiet
* Share with the group that they care going to learn cooperative juggling

**Juggling Round 1:**

* Say: Your goal in juggling is to keep the balls in the air and not let them hit the ground
* (Then quickly start tossing the balls in the air in the general direction of the students in the circle)
* After a few moments of chaos, tell everyone: FREEZE

**Pause, reflect and make a plan:**

* Ask: **What is going on?** (chaos)
* Ask: **What could we do to make this work better?** (invite the group to offer suggestions. These will include things like: make a pattern, make eye contact, call someone’ name before a ball is thrown, throw gently

\*If they don’t suggest CREATING A PATTERN, it is important to suggest it\*

* Review the group’s ideas (including yours if it is needed)- **What I heard was that you want to try…**
* Ask the students to return the balls to yo

**Juggling Round 2:**

* Ask: **Would you be willing to try incorporating the suggestions by starting with just one ball to establish a pattern and get some practice?**
* Say: **Let’s make sure that each person only gets the ball once. One easy way to do this is to hold your hands out if you have NOT had the ball, and to put them down once you have received it**
* Start by throwing the ball to one person
* Finish the pattern by having the last person throw the ball back to you
* Ask: **Can everyone remember who they got the ball from and to whom they threw the ball?**
* Ask: **Do you want to practice one more time with just one ball?** (follow their decision)
* Begin juggling again using the pattern and the other guidelines, ADDING BALLS so that the whole circle is active again

**Pause and reflect:**

* Ask: **How did we do?**
* Ask observers (the other students in the class): **What did you notice?**
* **What did you learn from this process?**
* **How many of us did it take to be successful?**
* **What happened after we took time to practice?**
* **Can you think of some things even now that could make our juggling better?**

**You could try it one more time (even adding in a plastic wrench among the balls- this can lead to some good processing afterwards about routines, and practice)**

**Drama:**

Stand in your imaginary squares. You should have enough space that you can move your arms out on all sides without hitting each other. Okay. Walk the borders of your imaginary square so you are clear on where it is.

Now we are going to stretch like we usually do! Raise up your arms and stretching from the tips of your toes to the tips of your fingers, reach towards the sky. Now you are going to relax and let your arms and head hang freely. *Repeat this several times.*

For this next activity, you are going to work outside of your imaginary squares. You are going to walk randomly around, but as you do this, I want you to make broad sweeping motions with your arms and large flowing movements, HIGH AND LOW, with your bodies. (SHOW THEM) You should move freely AND be careful not to bump into anyone. When I say FREEZE, you should INSTANTLY stand still in whatever position you find yourself. I will come around and ask a couple of you what you are doing. You need to think about the position you are in, and then given an answer that has to do with that position (Show an example- Hand up- painting a fence! And then pretend you are painting a fence! (or picking apples). Any questions? Okay-Ready- Go! (Say freeze on occasion- when you do, ask a few people- one at a time- **what they are doing?)**

**Repeat this exercise several times, making sure that every child is given at least 1 opportunity to say what he/she is doing**

Okay- we are going to do one more activity. Let’s all sit down and we are going to have a couple people come up and act out a scenario:

1. The first scenario is that **one child has fallen down and two others are passing by and see him or her.** You are going to act this out, and then I am going to say FREEZE. (do this. When you say freeze, then **ask the children to end the scene in a way that they think would be PLEASING TO GOD)**
2. **Somebody is sitting by themselves at lunch and there is a second table nearby with several students laughing and having fun.** FREEZE- end this in a way that you think would be PLEASING TO GOD.
3. **A child lost their favorite toy in the park and can’t find it**. **You walk by and see her looking for something.** FREEZE- end this in a way that you think would be PLEASING TO GOD.

Who can think of another scenario? Let’s act it out.

Another? Let’s act it out.

**4:50-5:00**

**Story:** I am going to tell you a story about a king and a minister, which will help you to remember that, surrounded by the love of God and grateful for His protection, **we always want to do what is pleasing to Him**.

A king once said to his minister, “I do not care for the smell of cabbage.”

To this, the minister replied, “Fine, Your Majesty. I will forbid the cooks from ever cooking cabbage and serving it in the household.”

Sometime later, the king said to the minister, “I have had the occasion to eat some cabbage and found it to be delicious.”

To this, the minister replied, “Fine, Your Majesty. I will run and tell the cooks to prepare a dish of cabbage for you now and to serve it to you often.”

“And what if the cooks ask you why you have changed your mind about the cabbage?” inquired the king.

To this, the minister replied, “I will tell them that it is because I am a servant of the king, not the servant of the cabbage. What is pleasing in your sight is pleasing in mine.”

**5:00-5:17**

**Drawing:** You can draw a picture of a fortess, or any other image that reminds you of today’s lesson about the importance of following God’s guidance and living a life that is pleasing to God.

**5:17-5:22** Give children a chance to share their drawings with the group if they would like to share.

**5:22-5:27**

**Review: LOVE and HUMILITY**

**“O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love…”**

and

**“O Son of Man! Humble thyself before Me, that I may graciously visit thee.”**

LOVE and HUMILITY are important in living a life that is God-centered. Why do we need LOVE? It is like a light in our life that guides our way. We need to nurture our LOVE for God in our hearts. How do we do that? We commune with Him in prayer, we study His Writings, and strive to live our lives according to His Teachings. Why do we need HUMILITY? We need to know that God is the All-Powerful and the All-Knowing. We are totally dependent on Him and we adjust our lives according to what HE wishes of us. We seek His guidance by praying and reading His Holy Writings, and try to learn from His Teachings. We know that He knows what is best for us, and we submit to His Will.

**Have children read through the quotes again** and then begin closing prayer.

**5:27-5:30**

**Closing Prayer: Blessed is the Spot**