**Ruhi Grade 2 Lesson 14**

**The Importance of Being a True and Trustworthy Friend**

*Slightly revised from Ruhi Grade 2 material*

**Prayers:**

Opening prayers

**Review and discuss prayer introduced last class:**

"0 Lord! Unto Thee I repair for refuge, and toward all Thy signs I set my heart. 0 Lord! Whether traveling or at home, and in my occupation or in my work, I place my whole trust in Thee. Grant me then Thy sufficing help so as to make me independent of all things, 0 Thou Who art unsurpassed in Thy mercy! Bestow upon me my portion, 0 Lord, as Thou pleasest, and cause me to be satisfied with whatsoever thou hast ordained for me. Thine is the absolute authority to command."

See [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under Lesson 13 for this prayer in a 4 x 6 format as well as links to youtube videos of this prayer set to music.

**Intro to Lesson:**

Today’s lesson is continuing our theme of being a good friend. Last class we talked about how God is more a friend to us than we are to ourselves. He is always there for us and we can always call on him and rely upon Him. Today, we are going to look at the qualities of a true friend.

True friends trust each other. A trustworthy person is honest and truthful and can be counted on to keep his or her word. True friends know that they can rely on each other to do what is right, that one would never lie to the other or deceive him or her in any way. They see what is good in each other and do not focus on their shortcomings and faults. Of course, they know that their friend may sometimes make a mistake, but they show forgiveness and kindness to their friend. Each wants to help the other to do what is pleasing in the sight of God; a true friend is careful not to ask us to do that which is unacceptable before God.

How does the trust between friends grow? The TRUST that is shared between two friends becomes stronger and stronger the more they know each other. We are, of course, kind and courteous to all people and look for the good in everyone, but the bonds of trust that exist between friends are strengthened over time, as each shows that he or she is worthy of the trust of the other and wants what is best for him or her.

Is everybody trustworthy? (no) Do you think it is important to choose close friends who ARE trustworthy? (yes) We should all be trustworthy and learn to choose friends who are trustworthy, those who wish to please God, who are striving to follow His path, and who will help us to stay on the straight path. We should not allow ourselves to be cheated or deceived by those who are not trustworthy. 'Abdu'l-Baha was the essence of kindness and courtesy, but He never allowed those who were dishonest or deceitful to take advantage of His kindness. Once a driver who brought 'Abdu' 1-Baha to a meeting in his carriage demanded an unfair price for the ride. The Master paid what He rightly owed to the driver and told him that, had he been honest, he would have received a handsome tip as well. Trust is a special bond between friends, and we should take care not to do anything to break it.

**Memorization:** So that we each remember the importance of being a true and trustworthy friend, let us memorize the following quotation:

"0 ye beloved of the Lord! Commit not that which defileth the limpid stream of love or destroyeth the sweet fragrance of friendship."

Commit

1. When one is learning how to write, one will surely make a few errors. It is not unusual to commit errors when one is learning how to write.

2. Portia does her best to obey the laws of God. She does not want to commit any act that would displease Him.

Defile

1. The garden had once been beautiful, but some of the people who visited it left garbage and litter when they departed. The visitors defiled the garden with garbage they left.
2. The stream always ran clear and clean from the mountain. But a lot of chemicals and waste have been dumped into it recently. The stream has been defiled by waste being dumped into it.

Limpid

1. The water in the pond was perfectly clear, and it was possible for Timothy to see many fish swimming along its bottom. Timothy could see to the very bottom of the limpid pond.
2. The water from the well is very clean and pure. Everyone felt refreshed to drink from the limpid waters of the well.

Destroy

1. The young boy built a huge castle out of sand on the seashore, but when a wave came in and covered it, the castle was completely destroyed.
2. The farmers built a dam to stop the river from flooding onto their crops during the rainy season. Without the dam, their crops would be destroyed by the floods.

# **Songs**

# Looking for Good by David Hunt

# See Me Beautiful by Red Grammer

# Trustworthiness by Red Grammer

# Trustworthiness by Los Nice Guys

**Story**

*The story in this lesson has been reformatted as a play to make it a fun experience for the kids!*

Narrator:

King Dionysius:

Pythias:

Damon:

There is a well-known legend of two friends, Damon and Pythias, that has come to symbolize trust and loyalty in friendship. It is suggested that you tell the story to the children today, explaining that it is a very old tale from the early history of humanity.

Narrator: Ever since they were children, Damon and Pythias had been friends. They played together and studied together and shared many of their thoughts with each other. They were so close that they trusted each other completely. Theirs was a true friendship; they would do anything to help each other.

Now, Damon and Pythias traveled to a city called Syracuse, which had a powerful king named Dionysius. There Pythias began giving public speeches that called into question the king's unlimited power. Any king who took power without the permission of the people was an unjust tyrant, he told the crowds that stopped to listen. When he learned of Pythias' growing influence among his people, Dionysius became convinced that he was trying to overthrow him. Angry and fearful, the king had Pythias and his friend Damon brought before him.

Dionysius: *questioning Pythias says:* "Why are you causing unrest among the people?"

Pythias: "There is nothing wrong in what I do, "I speak only the truth. "

Dionysius: "I do not believe you. You are trying to overthrow me. Tell the people you were not speaking the truth.”

Pythias: "Iwill not.

Dionysius: "Then you must die. What is your last request?"

Pythias: I would like to be allowed to return to my family to say good-bye and put my things in order.

Dionysius scoffed at him: “I would be a fool to let you leave Syracuse and expect you to return.

Pythias: I give you my word that I will return.

Narrator: But the king would not hear of it.

*Just then Damon breaks in*

Damon: "Pythias will return if you keep me as your prisoner while he is away, and if he breaks his promise, you may kill me instead. Surely you have heard of our friendship. You must believe, as I do, that Pythias would never allow his friend to be executed in his place.”

Dionysius: Hmmm. Let me think about this. Ok. I accept this unusual proposal, but I give you a warning. Pythias must return by a week from tomorrow; otherwise Damon will be killed.

Narrator: As the days passed and Pythias did not return, the king was sure that Damon would regret his selfless act. He decided to visit Damon in jail to see whether he thought himself a fool for trusting Pythias.

Dionysius: How are you feeling Damon? Pythias has not come back yet.

Damon: (said confidently) “Pythias must be delayed. He will return. "

Dionysius: *laughing scornfully*, "We shall see."

Narrator: On the appointed day, Pythias still had not returned. The king had Damon brought before the executioner.

Dionysius: "The time has arrived, and yet your friend has not come for you. What do you say now? "

Damon calmly replied, "I trust my friend completely. "

*At that very moment, the doors opened and a bruised and breathless Pythias staggered into the room towards Damon's open arms.*

Pythias: "Thank God, you are still alive! I was afraid I would not reach here in time. My ship was wrecked in a storm and bandits attacked me on the road, but still I could not give up hope that I would make it. " *Turning to the king*, I am ready to die.

Narrator: The king was so astonished by the fidelity and steadfast trust of the two friends that he could not bring himself to carry out the unjust execution.

Dionysius: "Never in my life have I seen such devotion and faith in friendship. Because you have shown me that I was wrong to have doubted you, I have decided to pardon you Pythias-on one condition. "

Pythias and Damon say together: "What is that?"

Dionysius: "That you teach me how to be such a friend.”

**Drama**

To help the children continue developing the skills and abilities of creative drama, you may have them carry out the following activities:

l . Begin by having the students do the stretching exercise in their imaginary squares. Ask them to remain in their squares and pretend to change from: an elephant into a mouse, a snake into a lion, a frog into a horse, a fish into a whale, a ballet dancer into a football player, an old man or lady into a young boy or girl.

* 1. Now ask the children to purse their lips together and say: 0000 00000 000000.

Tell them to take a deep breath and see how long they can make it last: 00000000 00000000000000000000000

Ask them to make a short sharp sound: a. a. a. a. a. a. a. a.

Now tell them to put the two sounds together: 00000 a.a.a. ooa. ooa.a. oooooooooa. oa. ooooa. ooa.a.a.a.a.

Let the children experiment with making different combinations, and then divide the youngsters into pairs. Tell them to use only these sounds, "oooo" and "a", to talk to each other in the following situations:

* Two children are trading marbles for crayons.
* Two children are bathing a puppy.
* One child is teaching another to skip.
* A mother is getting a child ready for school.
* Two people are harvesting com.
* A child is telling a bus driver that he or she has no money.
* Someone who is lost is asking someone else for directions.

Divide into groups- one teacher with one and the other teacher with another To help the children gain further understanding of the theme of this lesson-that true friends trust each other-you may wish to have them re-enact the story of Damon and Pythias. Depending on the number of children in your class and the time available, you could either divide them into groups for this purpose or have all the children participate in one large re-enactment. In the latter case, some of the children could be part of the crowd to whom Pythias spoke or members of the king's court, while others could be Damon's jailers or the bandits that attacked Pythias.

Both teachers- Bring children all back together first and then: Following the re-enactment, you could ask the children a few questions such as:

* Why was Damon willing to be in prison for his friend?
* Why did Damon trust that Pythias would return?
* Why was the king astonished when Pythias returned for the execution?
* What qualities did Pythias demonstrate by returning as he did?
	+ - Why do you think the king changed his mind about the execution?
		- What do you think Damon and Pythias could teach the king about friendship?

## Drawing

Ask the students to draw a scene or an image that will reinforce the ideas that they have learned in this lesson. A picture from the story of Damon and Pythias might be a suitable choice.

## Have children share their drawing, and then do review quotations

After reviewing the quotation from today's lesson with the children, you can help them recite the following quotations that they learned in Grade 1 related to **patience and purity of heart**:

## "He, verily, shall increase the reward of them that endure with patience."

"O Son of Spirit! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart . . ."

**Closing prayer**