**Grade 2 Lesson 16**

**Theme: Devoting One’s Life to Service**

*Slightly modified from Ruhi Grade 2 Children’s Class Material*

**Reciting and memorizing prayers**

The first activity is, as always, the memorization of prayers. Therefore, after opening class with devotions in the usual manner, you can assist the children in learning the prayer below. Most of them will be able to learn it by heart in three class periods.

**"O Thou kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness. O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity. O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving."**

Chelsea Lee Smith has set this prayer to music on her CD entitled “At First Light: Volume 2” available at: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/soulrisemelodies2>

**Memorizing quotations**

The following ideas will assist you in explaining to the children the quotation they are expected to learn today:

God loves us and always wants us to be near Him. One way that we are able to draw nearer to God is through service. We serve God when we serve His loved ones. There are many ways in which we can serve our fellow human beings. We can, for example, visit the sick, help those in need, and share what we learn with others. We should strive to serve all people, whether rich or poor, friends or strangers.

'Abdu'l-Bahá was our perfect Exemplar. He showed us what it means to walk a path of service to humanity. His entire life was dedicated to helping other people. In fact, His very name means "Servant of God". He was never concerned for His own needs or comfort. He did not seek after wealth or power. He never wanted any titles or recognition. His only desire was to serve God and humanity. "My station is the station of servitude," He often told the friends. This is the highest station-to place oneself in the service of others. This is the station that we are all trying to achieve. What greater joy than to bring joy to another soul. What greater honor than to be seen as a true servant of God and humanity. That we may all follow in the ways of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, let us memorize the following quotation:

**"That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race."**

*Dedicate*

1. Dervi always pays close attention during art class and spends many hours preparing herself for each class. Dervi dedicates much of her time to the arts.

2. Hung Wei's father has a vegetable garden. Everyday Hung Wei helps his father weed and water the garden. Hung Wei is dedicated to helping his father.

*Service*

1. Mumbi, Apiyo and Tocho cleaned the schoolyard after the storm had left it full of broken branches and leaves from the trees. They were happy to render this service to the school.

2. Sachiko walks four kilometers to give a children's class. She is happy to walk this far each week because she wants nothing more than to be of service to the community.

*Human race*

1. At school we saw pictures of people from many different countries. All of these people belong to the human race.

2. The museum has musical instruments from all over the world. Looking at their many shapes and sizes, the children were reminded of both the diversity of the human race and of the love of people everywhere for music.

**Discuss about service project**

**Songs**

Here are some songs to choose from. Feel free to select any song that supports the theme of this lesson, not just those from the list below.

* **Strive** by Tim Urbonya
* **Service** by Virtues In Us- School Age Songs
* **Hands of Service (Service/Helpfulness)** by Virtues in Us
* **I Like to Serve My Friends (Service/Helpfulness)** by Virtues in Us
* **Kindness** by Red Grammer
* **Think Ye At All Times of Rendering Some Service (Service)** by Virtues In Us- Quotation Songs
* **Love, Service, Joy and Gentleness (Service)** by Virtues in Us
* **Arise thou to serve God and Help His Cause (service quotation)** by Chelsea Lee Smith- At First Light Volume 1

**Story**

You can remind the children of the story of Lua Getsinger they heard in Lesson 2 regarding prayer and then tell them the following story about her, which will help illustrate for them what it means to be a servant of God.

You remember from our lesson on prayer that Lua Getsinger was one of the early Bahai's in the West who visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the prison-city of 'Akka. One day during her visit, the Master took her aside and explained to her that He had many pressing matters to attend to and would not be able to call upon a friend who was very sick. He wished Lua to go in His place. He told her to take some food to the sick man and care for him as He had been doing.

Lua learned the address of the man and immediately set off to do as 'Abdu'l-Bahá had asked. She felt proud that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had entrusted her with a task that He would usually have carried out Himself. But, only a short while later, she returned to 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a state of excitement. "Master, "she exclaimed, "surely you cannot realize to what a terrible place you sent me. I almost fainted from the awful stench, the filthy rooms, the degrading condition of that man and his house. I fled lest I contract some terrible disease."

'Abdu'l-Bahá gazed at her sadly and sternly. If she wanted to serve God, He explained, she must serve her fellow man, because in every person she should see the image and likeness of God. Then He told her to go back to the sick man's house. If the house was dirty, she should clean it. If he was hungry, she should feed him. He asked her not to come back until all of this was done. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had done these things for His friend many times, and she should be able to do them this once, He told her with firmness. That is how Lua learned an important lesson about what it means to serve her fellow human beings.

**Drama**

This period of the class can begin with the usual stretching exercise. You may then lead the class in the next set of activities related to the theme of this lesson, that is, the spirit of service. Explain to the children that today they will improvise a situation that will help them gain further understanding of what it means to serve humanity. Divide the youngsters into groups of three and then describe the following scenario for them:

Ask the children to imagine that they arrive home one day and their mother tells them that their aunt is sick. Their mother has prepared some soup for her, and the children ask whether they can take it to their aunt and look after her for a while. Their kind offer brings joy to their mother's heart, and the three children set off with the pot of soup. Have the children show you how they would carry the soup carefully to the aunt's house, making sure not to spill it. When they arrive at the house, they greet their aunt and inquire after her health. First, they take care of her needs. Ask the children to tell you what specific things they would do for her. Perhaps she is cold and needs more blankets, or requires water or a book, and they bring these things to her. They can demonstrate for you how they would carry out these tasks. Next, they look around the aunt's house to see what chores need to be done, for example, washing the dishes, sweeping the floor, or doing the laundry, and they practice performing these tasks. Once they are familiar with all the elements of the scenario, each of the groups can act it out in its entirety.

**Drawing**

Have the students draw a scene or an image that will reinforce the ideas they have learned in this lesson. A picture of Lua Getsinger caring for the sick man might be a suitable choice.

**Review**

You can review with the children the quotation from today's lesson, before helping them to recite the following passages they memorized in Grade 1:

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

**"We should at all times manifest our truthfulness and sincerity ..."141**

**Closing prayers**