

LESSON 16

A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

Begin the class with opening prayers, and then help the children finish memorizing the prayer presented in Lesson 13. They should be able to recite it in its entirety in the next class.

B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

God's Creatures

C
The creatures of this big world
Dm
Whether they walk or fly, or fly
G7
Are part of God's creation
C
Like you and I

CHORUS:

C
That's why we treat them with kindness
Dm
Remember when you do, you do
G7
To care for God's creation
C
Brings blessings to you

The dog on our front doorstep
He is our faithful friend, our friend
We also thank our milk cow
And bees in the wind

CHORUS

The donkey carries his burden
The kitty purrs on our lap, our lap
And the bird sings sweetly
When we take our nap

CHORUS

C. Memorizing quotations

The ideas below will help you introduce the quotation that the children will memorize in today's class.

God created all of humanity to live together as one family. If we are to do this, we cannot let differences come between us. Instead, we should mingle with people of every religion, race, nation and class with love and kindness in our hearts. To help us remember this, let us memorize the following quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

“Blessed is he who mingleth with all men in a spirit of utmost kindness and love.”²⁴

Mingle

1. Egrets and cowbirds are two kinds of birds that live in the meadows. They are often seen together. These two kinds of birds mingle.
2. At the devotional meeting, people of different races were so intermingled that you could tell they all felt as members of one family.

D. Story

Hakím Áqá Ján, a Jewish doctor, hurried behind Muhammad-Báqir who, lamp in hand, ran towards his home through the narrow streets of Hamadán. His wife was having convulsions and was at the edge of death. A few hours earlier Hakím Áqá Ján had seen her and had given her some pills to lower her fever, yet her condition had worsened. Upon arriving again at her side, he paled as he became aware of the grave error he had committed. In place of the quinine pills, he had given her strychnine, which is a powerful poison. The woman was seriously ill, and there was a very great possibility that she would die because of the doctor's mistake. Remembering the mistreatment that the Jews always received at the hands of the Muslims in that city, Hakím Áqá Ján feared that if the woman died, he and his entire family and the other Jews of the city would be killed. These thoughts caused him to tremble and he almost could not hear Muhammad-Báqir who was asking him why he was shaking and so upset. The doctor decided to confess the truth and explain his error. To his great surprise, Muhammad-Báqir responded: “Everyone can make a mistake. You have not done so on purpose. Even if my wife dies, no one will blame you.”

The doctor could not believe his ears. It seemed impossible to him that a Muslim could speak like that to a Jew. But as he had to act quickly, he ran to the nearest pharmacy and bought the medicine with which he hoped to save the woman's life. He spent the whole night with her doing everything possible to save her. Muhammad-Báqir helped the doctor as much as he could and showed the utmost courtesy, friendliness, and kindness. Finally, as morning came, the woman showed signs that the danger had passed and she would recover.

Hakím Áqá Ján was very perplexed by the courtesy and kindness that Muhammad-Báqir had shown towards him. He could not hide his surprise and finally asked Muhammad-Báqir why he had treated him with so much kindness. “The reason”, explained

Muhammad-Báqir, “is that my wife and I are Bahá’is and we love people of all religions.” This is how Hakím Áqá Ján was attracted to the Bahá’i Faith. Later he became a believer. That is how Hakím Áqá Ján came to know about the Bahá’i Faith and to accept its teachings.

E. Game: “The Hidden Quality”

Tell the children to form a circle with their hands out in front of them. Stand in the middle of the circle, holding a coin or another object, like a stone. The coin represents a quality, for instance, “kindness”. Then, as you walk along, pass your hand over the hands of each child and say, for example: “John is kind, Martha is kind, Dervi is kind, and so on.” Each child should close his or her hands, acting as though you have given him or her the coin. You should actually leave the coin in the hand of one of the children. When you have gone around the entire circle, one child should try to guess who has the coin by saying, for example, “Kenji is very kind.” Then Kenji should open his hands and show whether or not he has the coin. The child is given three tries to guess who has the coin, after which the game is repeated using another quality.

F. Coloring: Drawing 16

G. Closing prayers



**“Blessed is he who mingleth with with all men
in a spirit of utmost kindness and love.”**