

LESSON 18

A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

Beginning with this lesson and continuing through the next six lessons, the children will be memorizing the prayer below. After starting the class with prayers, you will need to explain to them the meaning of the words and sentences in the prayer and then help them memorize the first couple of phrases.

“O my Lord! O my Lord! I am a child of tender years. Nourish me from the breast of Thy mercy, train me in the bosom of Thy love, educate me in the school of Thy guidance and develop me under the shadow of Thy bounty. Deliver me from darkness, make me a brilliant light; free me from unhappiness, make me a flower of the rose garden; suffer me to become a servant of Thy threshold and confer upon me the disposition and nature of the righteous; make me a cause of bounty to the human world and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer.”²⁶

B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

There’s a New Wind Blowin’

CHORUS:

G F G F G F G F
There’s a new wind blowin’ across the sea
G F G F G F G F
There’s a new wind blowin’ a callin’ me
B^b G B^b G B^b G B^b G
It’s a new way for a new Day, gonna set all men free

C D
It makes you strong as a mountain
C D
You move like the sea
C D
With wings like a bird flying
C F D D7
Through eternity

CHORUS

(continued next page)

It sings of love and one world
And one mankind
With no more war we will
All have peace of mind

CHORUS

C. Memorizing quotations

Below are some ideas you can use to introduce the quotation that the children will memorize in this class.

God's love is always with us. He will never leave us alone and promises to help us throughout our lives. Though we do not know what will happen from one day to the next, we remember that the gifts and bounties of God are all around. And so we are hopeful when we look to the future, confident that we will receive a share of His infinite blessings. With hearts full of hope, we constantly anticipate the outpouring of God's bounties upon us. To help us remember the importance of the quality of hopefulness, let us memorize these words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

“Be thou ever hopeful, for the bounties of God never cease to flow upon man.”²⁷

Hopeful

1. Ming planted a seed in a sunny spot and watered it each day. She looked forward to seeing it grow. Ming was hopeful the seed would one day become a strong plant.
2. Matt's good friend Antonio moved to another town. Matt missed his friend, but he was hopeful that they would see each other again soon.

Bounties

1. Every night when Lilian prays she thinks about the many things she is fortunate to have. She thinks about her parents, her friends, her teachers, and even the bed in which she sleeps. Lilian is always thankful for the bounties she has been given.
2. Rajesh has many friends and relatives who love him and help him grow. Rajesh is grateful for the bounty of their love and support.

Cease

1. When Tahir turns off the tap, the water stops coming out; the water ceases to flow.
2. Even on cloudy days, the rays of sun warm the earth. The sun's rays never cease to reach the earth.

D. Story

There was once a man with no home, who lived alone on the banks of the River Thames in London. He was very sad and had lost all hope for happiness in life. One day, he walked past a shop and a photograph in a newspaper caught his eye. It was the face of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. The man stood frozen, staring at the face. He had never seen ‘Abdu’l-Bahá before and did not know who He was, but he was certain that he must meet Him. The address of a house was given in the newspaper, so the man started walking, hoping to find Him there. It was a very long distance—thirty miles—but he kept walking until he reached the house.

The man was tired and hungry when at last he arrived, and the lady of the house kindly invited him in, gave him some food, and let him rest for a while. As he rested, he told his story to the woman and then asked her whether ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was there.

“Will He see me?” he asked. “Even me?”

Just as the woman replied that she was certain ‘Abdu’l-Bahá would see him, the Master Himself appeared at the door. The man stood up, and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá stretched out His arms to greet him. It was as though the man was an old friend whom ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had long been expecting. He welcomed him with love and compassion and asked him to sit down next to Him.

Then ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, who always knew how to bring lost joy back people’s hearts, began to speak to the man. He encouraged him to let go of his sadness, reminding him that he was rich in the Kingdom of God! As ‘Abdu’l-Bahá showered the man with compassion, His comforting words began to heal his heart and give him strength. Little by little his sadness drifted away. Before he departed, the man told ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that he would not let his poverty bring him sadness anymore; instead he would find work in the fields and save his money so that he could buy a bit of land, on which he would grow violets to sell in the market. His despair had been changed into hope.

E. Game: “Rainmaker”

Have the children form a circle around you. To introduce the game, ask the children to imagine that they are in the desert longing for a rainstorm. Then start rubbing your palms together and instruct the children to begin making the same motion, but only in turn as you look at each one of them. After you have gone around full circle and all the children are rubbing their palms, tell them they should continue doing so, until you look at each one with a new motion. You could snap your fingers as the next motion and then clap your hands, slap the tops of your legs, and stomp your feet. The sound made by all the children together should resemble the first few sprinkles of rain in the beginning and a great storm by the end.

F. Coloring: Drawing 18

G. Closing prayers

“Be thou ever hopeful, for the bounties of God never cease to flow upon man.”