**Ruhi Grade 1 Lesson 20- Enkindlement- Knowing and Loving God**

**PRAYERS:**

Prayer Sharers

Review prayers

Continue learning prayer by heart

**INTRO TO VIRTUE: ENKINDLEMENT**

When you think of darkness- what do you think of? (hate, meanness, sadness, etc.) When you think of light, what do you think of? (kindness, forgiveness, joy, etc.) Today we are going to talk about having the light of God in our hearts. (can light the heart candle). Every human being was created to know God and to love Him, and we all have the spark of His love in our hearts. It is important that we feed the flame of the love of God by **praying** **to Him daily**, **reading and thinking about the Writings** given to us by the Messengers of God, and **putting them into practice by serving others**. (this is something you can do in your home each day if you don’t already- prayers, read sacred writings, put them into action. Not just meant to be read, but to be lived!)

And as this flame burns with greater and greater intensity (become really strong), it can be felt by all those who cross our path and its light can illumine their hearts and minds. When we are so enkindled (on fire with the love of God), we become like burning candles that cannot help but to give forth light.

Have up on poster- **“Let the flame of the love of God burn brightly within your radiant heart, feed it with the oil of divine guidance and protect it in the shelter of your constancy. Guard it within the globe of trust and detachment from all else but God…”**

-Show Oil Candle- explain how it worked.

What does this quote say is the oil- Divine guidance

and what is this glass and globe that protects it- the shelter of our constancy, putting our trust in God and being detached

What does constancy mean? Being unwavering- unchanging in our love for God. And we show that love through deeds- actions

Ex. Look- let’s take an extra cookie- mom is not looking! Who is always looking? God. Being constant in our love for him would be doing the right thing in that moment because we want to please God.

Our hearts should be on fire with the love of God

**SONGS: (see** [**www.supportingthecoreactivities.org**](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) **under this lesson for videos of the songs)**

* **Let the flame…(call and response)- DO WITH DRUMS**
* **(Be on fire with the love of the Kingdom)- DO WITH DRUMS**
* **Ye are even as the fire…**

**COOPERATIVE GAME**

FIRST BRAINSTORM VIRTUES

**Name Three**

**Description:** Students **sit in a circle** and one is chosen to be the pointer in the **center of the circle who closes their eyes** while the others pass any small object from one to the other. When the **center player claps hands**, the player who is caught with the object in hand must keep it until the center player **points at him or her and names a virtue.** Then the player with the object must begin to pass the object on its way around the circle so that it passes through the hands of each player in turn. **By the time it returns, the player must have named three things related to that virtue**. If the player does not succeed in the time it takes for the object to make the round of the circle, that player must change places with the one in the center. If the circle is small, the object should be passed around two or more times. **For example**, for courtesy, the person might say kindness, holding a door, shaking hands, etc. If six is too many to name, the number of ideas named may be lessened.

\*The person sitting to her left and right can help with suggestions if she gets stuck

Could also play “Help the Sick” game described in Ruhi Book 3 Lesson 20

**STORY: (show pictures of Thomas Breakwell)**

Thomas Breakwell was a young Englishman who lived at the turn of the 19th century. He held an important position in a cotton mill in the southern United States and spent his vacations in Europe. On his way to Europe in the summer of 1901, he met a woman on a steamship and began talking with her about spiritual subjects. When they arrived in Paris, the woman took him along to meet a friend of hers who lived in an apartment in the city and who, she knew, had similar interests. The young woman welcomed them, and the three talked for some time. Before leaving, Breakwell asked his hostess whether he might return to speak further. He was invited to come back the next morning.

When he arrived, the young woman noticed that his eyes were shining brightly and his voice was full of emotion. She asked him to be seated. Breakwell looked at her intently for a moment, and then described for her a strange experience. After he had left her home the day before, he had walked along an avenue, alone, in the warm and heavy evening air. Not a leaf stirred around him. Then, all of a sudden, a great wind came up and he could hear in that wind a voice, sweet and powerful, speaking of the coming of a new message from God.

The young woman urged him to be calm. You see, she knew of the message to which Breakwell referred. During the next three days, over the course of many hours, she told him everything she could about the Bahá’í Faith—its history and its teachings—and about the Son of Baha’u’llah, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Who was the Perfect Exemplar of those teachings, who was still living in the prison-city of ‘Akká, in the Holy Land.

By the end of three days, Breakwell’s heart was so filled with joy and hope that he wanted nothing other than to travel to ‘Akká and visit ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. It happened that there was another young man who had already made plans to go to the Holy Land for this very purpose and who was most pleased to have Breakwell accompany him. So, a message was sent to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá requesting permission for him to come and, in a short time, they were on their way.

This is the message Thomas sent to the Holy Land:

"My Lord, I believe, forgive me. Thy servant Thomas Breakwell."

When the two men arrived at ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s home, they were taken into a room where several other men were gathered. Looking around, Breakwell became deeply troubled. There was no one in the room to whom his heart was drawn, and thinking that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá must be among those present, he feared that he had failed to recognize that special Soul about whom he learned in Paris. He sat down in despair. At that moment, a door opened, and Breakwell looked up. He saw there a brilliant light, from which the figure of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá emerged. He immediately knew that his dearest wish had been fulfilled.

Breakwell spent two glorious days in the presence of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, during which the fire that had been enkindled in his heart grew stronger and stronger. When Breakwell told ‘Abdu’l-Bahá about his job at the cotton mill, where children were used as workers, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá advised him to resign from his post, which he did without hesitation. At the end of his visit, he returned to Paris, his spirit ablaze. He no longer had income from his well-paying position in the cotton mill, and he suffered greatly from illness. But these things did not dim his joy in the least. He burned like a bright candle, sharing his light with everyone he met until at last, overcome by his illness, he died.

Upon his passing, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá revealed a Tablet in his honor, which includes the following verse: **“O Breakwell, O my dear one! Thou hast lit a flame within the lamp of the Company on high, thou hast set foot in the Abhá Paradise, thou hast found a shelter in the shadow of the Blessed Tree, thou hast attained His meeting in the haven of Heaven.”**

**MEMORIZATION**

SHOW EXAMPLE OF ART WORK. Before we do this, let’s look at the quotation on the card. (see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for example of art that incorporates this quote)

Let us memorize the following quotation:

**“Verily, I supplicate God to enkindle in thy heart the fire of His love...”**

Supplicate

1. One day, George, a most trusted servant, went to his King in need of assistance. George’s daughter was very ill, and he asked whether the King’s doctor might come to see her. George supplicated the King to send the doctor to help his daughter.

2. At school Tatiana heard about children in another part of the world who were suffering greatly because a flood had washed away all their homes. Tatiana was very concerned for her far away brothers and sisters, and that night she remembered them in her prayers, asking God to help them. Tatiana supplicated God for His assistance.

Enkindle

1. The house was cold, so Axel’s father decided to start a fire. He put large logs in the stove and lit some small twigs below. The wood soon became enkindled, and the fire warmed the room.

2. A scientist came to the school and explained to the students many interesting things about the workings of the universe. They began to ask her various questions after the talk. She had enkindled in the students a desire to know more about the world.

**CRAFT- Punch art with quote and coloring sheets**

**There are other art options at** [**www.supportingthecoreactivities.org**](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) **under this lesson.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**