**Ruhi Grade 2, Lesson 21- slightly modified from original content**

 **RECITING AND MEMORIZING PRAYERS**

Begin the class, as always, with the recitation of prayers. The children can then finish memorizing the prayer introduced in Lesson 19.

 **"0 my God! 0 my God! Thou seest these children who are the twigs of the tree of life, the birds of the meads of salvation, the pearls of the ocean of Thy grace, the roses of the garden of Thy guidance.**

 **"0 God, our Lord! We sing Thy praise, bear witness to Thy sanctity and implore fervently the heaven of Thy mercy to make us lights of guidance, stars shining above the horizons of eternal glory amongst mankind, and to teach us a knowledge which proceedeth from Thee. Ya Baha'u'l-Abha! "**

 SING WORDS WITH SONG “The Twigs of the Tree of Life” Song from Tender Years CD

 **INTRO TO LESSON**

 We have been learning about consultation… what do you know about consultation? Listen carefully to what I am going to share with you, because at the end, I am going to ask you what qualities are important for true consultation to take place, based on the lesson.

 When people come together to consult, they share their ideas with purity of heart and radiant spirits. They all know that, in order to discover the right way forward, they must each contribute their thoughts and understanding. They speak courteously to one another and use kind and gentle words. More important, they know that they must listen carefully to one another and think about what each person is saying. It is in listening and thinking, not just speaking, that ideas come together; new and wonderful ideas are born. Think of making a soup. Many different ingredients are put together in a pot, like carrots and beans, salt and water, and as they cook over the fire, all the separate things melt together into one whole and become a delicious meal for everyone to enjoy. In consultation, as all the participants share their thoughts lovingly, listen patiently and think carefully, with their hearts turned to God and confident in His blessings, the most beautiful ideas emerge. (That is why we are making consultation soup tonight- as a symbol of what we are learning. Then we will have the chance to have the delicious product at the end with our families!)

 (SHOW PIC OF ABDUL-BAHA) We often talk about Abdu’l-Baha because we look to Him as an example of how to live our lives. In the way 'Abdu'l-Baha spoke to others, we see the perfect Example of how people should consult together. He was detached, patient and humble. He always encouraged others to talk and listened with calm attentiveness. He never argued or insisted on an idea. One friend who lived at the time of the Abdul-Baha wrote that He spoke "as if offering a gift to a king".(HAVE PRESENT FOR DISPLAY- inside says the gift of consultation). Imagine you were giving a gift to a king. With kindness and gentleness, you would present your gift. When we share our ideas with one another, we do the same, wherever we are, whatever we are doing-in our classes here together, with our family and friends, at home and school. What virtues did you hear me mention in relation to consultation? As you are called to say a virtue related to consultation, please put your contribution to the soup in the pot! (HAVE CHILDREN PUT THEIR CONTRIBUTION INTO THE POT AS THEY SHARE A VIRTUE RELATED TO CONSULTATION- then get it cooking!)

 **MEMORIZATION:**

 To help us remember some of the beautiful qualities we try to show when we speak with another one, let us memorize the following quotation:

 **"They must then proceed with the utmost devotion, courtesy, dignity, care and moderation to express their views."**

 *Proceed*

1. Paulo saw that there was a large tree blocking the road ahead. He could not move forward because of the tree. He could not proceed.
2. After children finish their classes for Grade 1, they move on to those for Grade 2. After Grade 1, children proceed to Grade 2

*Devotion*

1. When Soraya prays, she shows her love for God and her wish to follow His teachings. When she prays, Soraya shows her devotion to God.
2. Mark gets up early every morning and works hard all day. Mark shows great devotion to his work.

*Dignity*

1. When Lillian recites prayers, she sits up straight and uses a calm, clear voice, knowing that the Word of God is precious. When Lillian says prayers, she shows dignity.
2. Amos was playing a game with other children, and one of them knocked him over by mistake. Amos did not get upset and told his friend not to worry. Amos responded with dignity.

*Moderation*

1. The human body must have the right amount of nourishment. If we eat too much or too little, our bodies will not be healthy. We must eat with moderation.
2. Bhojraj likes to ride his bike very fast down the hill. His mother told him to slow down or he might fall and hurt himself. Bhojraj's mother wants him to use moderation when riding his bike.

**SONGS**

**See options at** [**www.supportingthecoreactivities.org**](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org)

**STORY**

I am going to tell them a story which will help them understand the importance of exercising moderation in one's speech.

 *During His visit to the West, 'Abdu'!-Baha and a group of friends met with a man who was writing an article about the Baha'i Faith. The man had many long and complicated questions, mainly about the history of the Bahai Faith. Throughout the interview, Abdu’l-Baha sat quietly, listening with patient attention to the man's inquiries. Now, his questions were quite lengthy indeed, and the man seemed to talk on and on. He did not seem to realize the importance of moderation. Only every so often did he pause long enough for others to say a few words, sometimes no more than a yes or no. Most of the friends in the room grew impatient-but not 'Abdu'l-Baha. He sat perfectly relaxed, His eyes full of love and understanding. If the man hesitated for a moment, 'Abdu 'l-Baha spoke briefly in reply to his question and then waited courteously for him to continue.*

*At last the man finished speaking, and there was a long silence.*

*Then 'Abdu'l-Baha addressed the man with great dignity and care. His melodious voice filled the air. In only a few short minutes, the man was transformed. His heart had been touched by Abdu’l-Baha’s gentle and loving words. Now he could see the spirit of the Faith. 'Abdu 'I-Baha rose, warmly embraced the man, and walked with him to the door. At the doorway He paused. A large bunch of roses brought by one of the friends had caught His eye. So large was the bunch and so long the stems that they had to be placed in a stand for umbrellas. No vase was big enough to hold them. 'Abdu'l-Baha gathered the flowers in His arms and presented them to His guest. The man's head could barely be seen peeking out above the mountain of flowers, but the joy radiating from his face could not be missed. Sometimes a few words said with thoughtful care are all that is needed.*

 **DRAMA**

After carrying out some warm-up exercises, similar to those in previous lessons, the children can undertake the following activity, which is intended to help them think about the qualities mentioned in the quotation they memorized earlier.

First ask the children to imagine they are offering a gift to a king or queen. How do they hold the gift? How do they approach the king or queen? What tone of voice do they take? What words do they choose? Then divide the children into pairs, and have one child in each pair pretend to be the king or queen and the other the gift-bearer. They can then switch roles. Afterwards, gather the children together and ask them some questions: How did they show courtesy? How did they demonstrate care? What did it mean for them to conduct themselves with dignity? Help them think through how their words and actions became a reflection of these qualities.

Next ask the pairs to improvise a few short scenarios, in which they will demonstrate the same qualities discussed above. You should think of some situations suited to the capacity of the students in your class. For instance, one child could pretend to be an older brother or sister helping a younger sibling in his or her efforts to learn a short quotation by heart. In another scenario, two children could be trying to decide what game to play-one wanting to play a particular game and the other wanting to play something else. With your help, the pairs can embellish the scenarios with the relevant details before acting them out. Remind them, as they do so, how they spoke and acted when offering the gift to the king or queen. **(HAVE SCENARIOS READY)**

 **(NO DRAWING TODAY- FINISH ELEPHANT PAINTING by putting in background)**

**Drawing**

Many of the images used in today's lesson lend themselves to this period of the class, and you should choose one that will reinforce in your students' minds the ideas they have learned.

**REVIEW**

It is suggested that you review with the children the quotation they memorized earlier today, before asking them to recite the two below they learned in Grade 1 related to sincerity and detachment.

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

**"Know that thy true adornment consisteth in the love of God and in thy detachment from all save Him. .."**

**CLOSING PRAYERS**