**Ruhi Grade 1 CC- Lesson 3: LOVE**

*Modified slightly from the Ruhi Grade 1 Curriculum*

**Opening Prayers: Say a prayer, and ask prayer sharers to share a prayer.**

**PRAYER memorization**- O God Guide me…

God loves us more than we love ourselves! He is the Most Powerful and so we ask him to guide us or lead us to what is best for us, and we also ask for His protection.

When there is no light, there is darkness. Where there is darkness, we cannot see and we become lost. A lamp can give off light, but someone has to turn it on. Our hearts are like a lamp, which can give off spiritual light- that is why we pray for Him to make us a shining lamp.

God has given us lots of virtues in our hearts- all those special qualities like love, kindness, service, peacefulness, joy- and He wants us to be like brilliant stars, shining out those gifts of virtues to the world- and guiding the world of humanity- so we ask Him to make us brilliant stars.

Finally we end the prayer saying that God is the Mighty and Powerful.

**SING the prayer**

**Songs:**

Purity of Heart Song

Justice

Love Song- INTRODUCE

Love, Love, Love -

Love, love, love, love

Love your fellow man,

Love, love, love is

How the world began.

God loved creation,

So He created thee to

Love, love, love Him

And humanity.

Love, love, love the

Everlasting good

Love, love, love the

Seed of brotherhood

Love all creation

For He created thee to

Love, love, love Him

And humanity

Love God's creatures

Be they near or far

See each human

As a shining star

Love all creation

For He created thee to

Love, love, love Him

And humanity.

**INTRO to virtue of LOVE:**

The love of God shines upon humanity like the rays of the sun.  The sun's rays fall on deserts and gardens alike.  Our love should be like the rays of the sun: we should love everyone, even those who mistreat us.

**STORY:** While 'Abdu'l-Baha was a prisoner in 'Akka, there was a man in that city who behaved very badly towards Him.  The man believed that he was following the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.  He thought that 'Abdu'l-Baha was not a good man and that God did not care how badly the Baha'is were bad.  In fact, he believed that he was showing love for God by showing hatred to the Baha'is.  He hated 'Abdu'l-Baha with all his heart.  That hate grew and festered inside him, sometimes spilling out of him the way water spills out of a broken pot.

In the mosque, when people came to pray, this man would cry out against 'Abdu'l-Baha and say terrible things about Him.  When he passed 'Abdu'l-Baha on the street, he would cover his face with his robe so that he would not see HIm.  Now, this man was very poor and had neither enough to eat nor warm clothes to wear.  What do you think 'Abdu'l-Baha did about him?  He showed him kindness, and sent him food and clothes, and made sure he was being taken care of.

For example, once when this man became very ill, 'Abdu'l-Baha sent him a doctor, paid for his medicine and food, and also gave him some money.  He accepted the gifts from 'Abdu'l-Baha, but did not thank him.  In fact, he held out one hand to the doctor to take his pulse, and with the other hand, covered his face so that he would not have to look upon the countenance of 'Abdu'l-Baha.  And so it went on for many long years.  And then, one day, the man's heart finally changed.  He came to 'Abdu'l-Baha's house, fell at His feet and with a very heavy heart and tears flowing down his face like twin rivers, cried, "Forgive me, Sir!"For twenty-four years I have done evil to You.  For twenty-four years You have shown only goodness to me.  Now I know that I have been wrong.  Please forgive me!"  Thus did the great love of 'Abdu'l-Baha triumph over hatred.

**When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.**

In order to help us love all of humanity, let us memorize this quotation of Baha'u'llah:

**"O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love..."**

In this quotation, the only word that may require explanation is naught, which means 'nothing'.

1. Aden loves to sing songs about the sun and the flowers, and he does not sing songs about anything else.  Aden sings of naught but sunshine and flowers.

2. Miguel wanted to go down to the river, but had not done his household tasks.  Miguel said he could not leave until he finished his work, and unfortunately Miguel became angry.  His grandmother said, "Dear, all your plans will come to naught if you don't obey your father."

**GAMES:**

**Loving hands- hide and seek.**

Hide the hands around the room in areas that are not too hard, but not all easy either.

It is great to fell love and caring and to tell others you love them, but it is really more important to show love with actions.

Our hands are the perfect tools to show our love. Our hands are one of the tools we use to show what is in our hearts. We can use our hands to bring sadness or happiness to others. For example, we can use our hands to grab something away from someone or we can use our hands to give a gift, or a hug. So for this game, you are going to show love with hands!

I am going to hide these hands, and then you are going to hold hands with another person, and go around the room looking for hands. Once you have found two hands, bring them back to the poster board. You are trying to spell love. Keep going out again until you find all the letters you need to make the word LOVE. If you are missing one, or have to many of another, you might trade with another pair.

**Love Straw Pass**

One straw for each player. You will need to work together in harmonious way to be successful at this game. Think of the ring as representing God’s love- and that one of our main goals in life is to pass that love on to others, so they feel it through us.

For this game, you will sit in a circle, and each puts a straw in their mouth. Without the use of hands, try to pass the ring around the circle just using straws. You cannot touch the ring or straw with your hands at any time. If the ring falls, or someone uses their hands- the ring has to go back to the starting player- but the ring can go around either way, which makes sure that all playters get a turn.

Tips: Do not lower the straw until you are sure the other person has it hooked. You can raise or lower your bodies physically to use gravity.

**Love, List & Listen Game**

Using a timer have each child tell the group as many things as they can that they love in 15-20 seconds. After everyone has had a turn to share their loves go around and ask how many things the group can remember about what each one said. Don't tell the children ahead of time that you'll be going back to ask them what they remember from their friends lists. This is a great way for the kids to learn more about each other.]

**ARTS and CRAFTS:**

Making roses out of tissue paper, with quote on leaves

