**Stories for Lesson on HUMILITY**

Humility was one of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s most notable qualities. The friends wanted to give Him great titles, but He only wanted to be called “‘Abdu’l-Bahá”, which means “Servant of the Glory”. He also liked simplicity.

**Story of Abdu’l-Baha and Handwashing**

One time, some wealthy friends from the West made an elaborate plan for Him to wash His hands before a meal. They arranged for a specially dressed boy to carry a fancy bowl with “crystal water”, and they also had a perfumed towel waiting for Him. When Abdu’l-Baha saw the group of friends with the little boy, the bowl, and the towel approaching Him from across the lawn, He knew their purpose. He hurriedly found some water nearby, washed His hands, and dried them with a piece of cloth the gardener had. Radiantly, He then turned to meet His guests, and asked them to use the water and towel to wash their own hands.

**Story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Isfandíyár**

In April 1920, in the garden of the Military Governor of Haifa, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was invested with the insignia of the Knighthood of the British Empire. That knighthood was conferred on Him in recognition of His humanitarian work during World War I for the relief of distress and famine. He accepted the honor as a gift of a "just king", but he never used the title. Lady Blomfield writes:

The dignitaries of the British crown from Jerusalem were gathered in Haifa, eager to do honor to Abdu’l-Baha, Whom everybody had come to love and revere for His life of unselfish service. An imposing motor-car had been sent to bring 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the ceremony. Abdu’l-Baha, however, could not be found. People were sent in every direction to look for Him, when suddenly from an unexpected side He approached alone, walking His kingly walk, with that simplicity of greatness which always enfolded Him.

The faithful servant Isfandíyár, whose joy it had been for many years to drive Abdu’l-Baha on errands of mercy, stood sadly looking on the elegant motor-car which awaited the honored guest.

'No longer am I needed.'

At a sign from Him, Who knew the sorrow, old Isfandíyár rushed off to harness the horse, and brought the carriage out at the lower gate, whence 'Abdu'l-Bahá was driven to a side entrance of the garden of the Governorate of Phoenicia.

So Isfandíyár was needed and happy.