**Story about Justice from Grade 2 Lesson 11**

To live in harmony with others, we strive to treat all people fairly, without thought of their religion or background, their age or circumstances. Of course, there are times in our lives when we encounter injustice. I am going to share a true story of Abdu’l-Baha when He encountered injustice, and we will learn from His example what to do about it.

In the days of Baha’u’llah and Abdu’l-Baha, the people of Akka had been misled about the Bahais and did not think they deserved to be treated fairly. But Abdu’l-Baha, with His great wisdom and love, changed the hearts of many of these people. He showed kindness to the people of all religions and helped them become united.

There was a Christian merchant in Akka who, like his fellow citizens, did not respect the Bahais. One day, outside the gates of the city, the merchant saw a camel-load of charcoal that belonged to the Bahais. (HAVE CAMEL statue and pretend coal out as prop- can explain what charcoal was used for- burning it for heat, etc.). He stopped the driver and said, “This is better charcoal than I can get!” Without paying any money, he took the charcoal for himself.

When Abdu’l-Baha heard of this incident He went to the merchant’s shop to ask for the return of the charcoal. There were many people in the office, and the merchant did not pay Him any attention. Abdu’l-Baha sat there and waited patiently. Finally, after three hours, the merchant turned to Him and asked coldly, “Are you one of the prisoners? What have you done that you were imprisoned?” Abdu’l-Baha replied that His crime was the same one for which Christ was persecuted. The merchant was surprised. “What do you know about Christ?” he asked. Then Abdu’l-Baha calmly and kindly began to talk to him about Christ and His teachings. As Abdu’l-Baha spoke, the merchant’s heart began to melt, and his pride and arrogance disappeared. At last, he explained to Abdu’l-Baha that unfortunately the charcoal was gone, but he would gladly pay for it. Then Abdu’l-Baha rose and walked with Him to the street, treating Him with great respect and honor.

**What did you learn from the way that Abdu’l-Baha dealt with injustice?**

Courage to confront it, but He also had patience, spirituality, calmness, kindness and love. It says something very special in the Bahai Writings about love. It says that love is “**a most potent elixir that can transform the vilest and meanest of people into heavenly souls**.”

We can learn from Abdu’l-Baha’s example and strive to be like Him!