**Virtue: Generosity**

**Lesson Plan 1**

**Children ages 3-5**

**A light snack** will be offered to those arriving a few minutes early (fruit, wholesome homemade muffin, etc.)

**Opening Prayers:** Invite children to practice reverence by asking them to sit in their parent’s lap while the following prayer is said and then sung. We always start with a prayer, because God is the source of all spiritual qualities, and we want to call on Him to aid us in our spiritual development.

**Prayer: Tender Plant**

(CD: Tender Years Vol 2, Julie Iraninejad, song 08 Tender Plant)

**O Lord! I am a child;**

**enable me to grow beneath the shadow of Thy loving-kindness.**

**I am a tender plant;**

**cause me to be nurtured through**

**the outpourings of the clouds of Thy bounty.**

**I am a sapling of the garden of love;**

**make me into a fruitful tree.**

**Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful,**

**and Thou art the All-Loving, the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing.**

~ 'Abdu’l-Bahá

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **O Lord** | both hands up toward the sky, as you look up |
| **I** | point to yourself |
| **am a child** | put your right hand out to your right side with palm facing down, as if touching the head of a small child |
| **enable me to grow** | move both hands, with palms facing towards your body, from your hips all the way to above your head, while you move your body from side to side |
| **beneath** | put both hands on your head and put your chin down to your chest as you look down |
| **the shadow** | keep chin down and move both hands and arms until they are outstretched to both sides in a T position, with palms down |
| **of Thy loving-kindness** | look up and make a heart with both hands and arms, rounding your hands above your head so your fingers come together at the top of your head, forming the top part of a heart |
| **I am** | point to yourself |
| **a tender plant** | put left hand out in front of you with palm up and then put your right index finger up against the side of your left hand, where your pinky is (as if your index finger is a little plant coming out of the soil) |
| **cause me to be nurtured through** | put both hands together, palm to palm, and then wiggle your fingers as you move them upwards towards the sky |
| **the outpourings of the clouds of** | move both hands down, with palms facing down and elbows bent, wiggling your fingers as you move your hands until they are at your side (as if you are mimicking rain falling) |
| **Thy bounty** | move both hands out to your side, with palms facing up and elbows bent, while you smile |
| **I am** | point to yourself |
| **a sapling** | put your right thumb and index finger close together |
| **of the garden** | move both hands to both sides, with palms down in front of you while wiggling your fingers |
| **of love** | form a small heart with both hands in front of you |
| **make** | clasp both hands together in front of you |
| **me** | point to yourself |
| **into a** | move both hands from your sides all the way to above your head, keeping your palms facing out |
| **fruitful tree** | move both hands from side to side above your head, while moving your hips from side to side |
| **Thou art** | point with both fingers up to the sky |
| **the Mighty** | put both arms out and show your muscles |
| **and the Powerful** | elbows bent but both arms in front, hands up, and slightly bow your head toward your hands |
| **and Thou art** | point with both fingers up to the sky |
| **the All-Loving** | form a heart with your hands in front of your chest |
| **the All-Knowing** | put your right index finger up to your right temple on your head and tap it several times |
| **the All-Seeing** | put both index fingers up to your eyes and move your head from side to side as you look from side to side |

Any child is then welcome to share a prayer with the group, if they have been learning one at home. This is a good time to review any previous verses they have learned as well.

**Welcome: Hello Song** (Music Together, Bongos CD)

*(Actions: Clap hands to knees in time with the music)*

Hello everybody! So glad to see you!

Hello everybody, we're so glad to see you!

Hello to \_\_\_\_, so glad to see you!

Hello to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so glad to see you too!

*(Repeat the second couplet as many times as necessary, singing each child’s name, until everyone has been greeted, include mommies/ daddies and teachers)*

*(For the last line, below, slow the last phrase, while slapping knees faster and faster, and end with "yoooooooou!" on a rising note)*

Hello everybody! So glad to see you!

Hello everybody, we're so glad to see yooooou!

**Introduction to the Virtue of Generosity:** Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving because we want to, not because we want to get attention or praise. When we practice generosity we show love, and our spirit develops. Generosity is being happy to share what we have with others and not being afraid to give things away. For all of us to live happily, we must share what we have. When we share, we feel happy because we have caused others to be happy.

**Book:**

**Virtues in Action: Generosity by the Children’s Virtues Development Project**

**“What if” Scenarios…**

1. **What if we were walking down the road on a very cold day and we noticed a little boy sitting on the ground shivering because he had no coat? What should we do?**

Possible answers: -Give him our coat

-Ask our mom and dad if we can buy him a coat

1. **What if a friend comes to our house and wants to play with the same toy that we are playing with? What should we do?**

Possible answers: -Let him play with it

-Play a different game while he is playing with our toy

-Count to 100 while we wait for him to finish playing

1. **What if there is only one cracker but there are two of us? What should we do?**

Possible answers: -Give the cracker to our friend

-Break the cracker into two pieces and give our friend the bigger piece

**Songs:**

**Song: Generous Black Sheep** (CD: Radha and the Kiwi Kids, Virtues in Me)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WORDS | ACTIONS |
| Generous black sheep, | Both hands out in front of you (as if offering something) |
| Have you any wool? | Both hands out to the side and shrug shoulders  (as if asking the question) |
| Clip clip clip, | With pointer finger and middle finger of your right hand make and open and close gesture like scissors |
| Three bags full. | Hold up three fingers with the back of your hand facing out |
| Two to the factory, | Turn your hand around so palm is facing out, and hold up two fingers, moving hand across body from right to left |
| For socks and mats | Touch feet and then ... |
| And one for the children's' | Hold up one finger |
| Mittens and hats. | Rub hands together, then bring both hands over your head and pull down as if putting on a hat |
|  |  |
| Thank you, it's so | "Sign" for "thank you" |
| generous to share | Both hands cupped and held out in front of you as if offering something |
| All your wool so we can wear | Bring hands together over your body, then make a circle up over your head and back down again |
| colorful woolies | wiggle fingers |
| Warm and snug | Cross your arms in front of you as if you are trying to keep warm |
| Everybody wants to give you a hug | Sway back and forth, hugging yourself |

Same verse but instead of the children’s mittens and hats, say “Sally’s mittens and hugs” as well as “Sally said”…

Your turn now. Sing your own name.

Repeat verse

**Song:** **The Sharing Song** (Raffi, Singable Songs for the Very Young CD)

*CHORUS:*

It’s mine, but you can have some.

With you, I’d like to share it.

'Cause if I share it with you, you’ll have some too!

Well if I have a cake to eat, if I have a tasty treat,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll give some to you.

*CHORUS:*

And if I have a book to read, if I have a block you need,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll share it with you.

*CHORUS:*

Pass out laminated hearts to be passed around during the following song:

**Song: Hands of Service**

(CD: The Family Learning House, Virtues in Us - Preschool)

I may not be so tall and I can’t do it all.

My hands may be small, but they can make the world a better place.

*CHORUS:*

Little by little, day by day *(x 3)*  
They can make the world a better place.

My hands can hold the door. My hands can sweep the floor.

My hands can feed the poor and they can make the world a better place.

*CHORUS:*

*(Repeat song)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **I may not be so** | point to yourself |
| **tall** | put right hand out to your side with palm facing down |
| **I** | point to yourself |
| **can't do it all** | put both hands out to the side like you are asking a question while you shake your head "no" |
| **My hands may be small** | put hands up with palms facing in front of you like you are waving both hands and moving them from side to side |
| **but they can make** | clasp hands together |
| **the world** | make a circle with both hands in front of you |
| **a better place** | wiggle your fingers in a circle in front of you as you move your hands out to the sides |
| **little by little, day by day** | roll arms with hands in fists in front of you |
| **but they can make** | clasp hands together |
| **the world** | make circle with both hands in front of you |
| **a better place** | wiggle your fingers in a circle in front of you as you move your hands out to the sides |
| **My hands** | put both hands out in front of you with palms facing out |
| **can hold the door** | put both hands out to your left side with both palms facing out |
| **can sweep the floor** | pretend you are holding a broom and sweeping the floor |
| **feed the poor** | left hand with palm up cupped in front of you and your right hand pretends to hold a spoon and moves from inside out like you are feeding someone |
| **and they can make** | clasp hands together |
| **the world** | make circle with both hands in front of you |
| **a better place** | wiggle your fingers in a circle in front of you as you move your hands out to the sides |

**Song: A Smile is Something if You Give it Away**

(CD: The Family Learning House, Virtues in Us - Preschool)

A smile is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away

A smile is something if you give it away, then it comes right back to you

A smile is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away

A smile is something if you give it away, then it comes right back to you!

Collect laminated hearts and pass out shaker eggs for the following song:

**Song: Share it with You**

(CD: The Family Learning House, Virtue In Us - School Age)

If there’s only one bike to ride, we can take turns you and I

If we both want to go on the slide, we can take turns you and I

You can go first *(x 8)*

This one belongs to me, I’d like to share it with you

These were given to me, and I’d like to give one to you

So you’ll have one too

You’ll have one too *(x 7)*

If I have a book to read, you can ask me if you may, “May I?”

If I have something you need, you can ask me if you may, “May I?”

I’ll share it with you *(x 8)*

Collect shaker eggs and pass out instruments for the following song:

**Song: Generosity** (CD: The Family Learning House, 19 Quotation Songs)

**The wise man rejoices in giving and thereby becomes happy.**

Put away instruments and invite children to sit in the circle for the verse on generosity.

**Verse to memorize:**

**Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself.** ~ Bahá’u’lláh

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **Blessed is he** | put hands out around you and wiggle your fingers, moving your hands from up by your head to down by your waist |
| **who preferreth his brother** | put both hands out in front of you with palms up and head bent down |
| **before himself** | put both hands crossed over your heart |

**Story of 'Abdu’l-Bahá that reflects the virtue:**

Baha'u'llah had an enormous flock of sheep, and there were many shepherds who looked after them for Him. One day when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was about six years old, he went to inspect the sheep and visit the shepherds. He rode out to the mountains where He saw the fresh green grass dotted with thousands of white sheep. The shepherds were so happy to see him. They had prepared a feast. Old shepherds with twinkling eyes and young shepherds with strong arms gathered around to welcome 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and share their food.

When they had finished the feast, the head shepherd took 'Abdu'l-Bahá to one side and told him, "Young master, you know it is a custom to give the shepherds a gift when you come to visit?" But 'Abdu'l-Bahá knew nothing of this. He had brought nothing with him to give to them. Again, the man told him that "The shepherds would be expecting something?"

What was 'Abdu'l-Bahá to do? What could he give them? Then his face lit up. He had a wonderful idea. He stood up, and told the shepherds that he had a gift for them. Some of the sheep they looked after for his father, now belonged to them! He had given them Bahá'u'lláh's sheep!

Now, what do you think Bahá'u'lláh said when he heard that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had given away almost 200 of his sheep? What did He do? I'll tell you what He did. He laughed. He laughed and laughed. He said that everyone had to look after 'Abdu'l-Bahá very well, because he was so generous that one day, he might give himself away.

Of course, this is exactly what 'Abdu’l-Bahá did for the rest of His life. He gave everything He had, each and every moment of His life, to humanity, to unite us and bring us true happiness.

**Game:**

**I Would Like To Give This To You Game**

Materials**: Little plastic gems**

The teacher invites the children to sit in a circle and plays joyful music with a “generosity” theme. She then places a gem in one of the children’s hands and invites them to pass the gem from one child to another. When the music stops, the child holding the gem chooses someone to give it to and says, “I would like to give this to you.” The child receiving the gift says, “Thank you”. The teacher places another gem in another child’s hand and continues to play the music. The game continues until each child has received a gem gift.

**Art Activity:**

**Materials:** coloring sheet with generosity verse, colors

**Direction:** Explain the picture and have children color the coloring sheet with the image of generosity on it.

\*\*Next week, please ask parents to bring a couple dozen homemade cookies for a cookie exchange\*\*

**Virtue: Generosity**

**Lesson Plan 2**

**Children ages 3-5+**

**A light snack will be offered to those arriving a few minutes early (fruit, wholesome homemade muffin, etc.)**

**Opening Prayers:** Invite children to practice reverence by asking them to sit in their parent’s lap while the following prayer is said and then sung. "We always start with a prayer, because God is the source of all spiritual qualities, and we want to call on Him to aid us in our spiritual development."

**Prayer: Tender Plant**

(CD: Tender Years Vol 2, Julie Iraninejad, song 08 Tender Plant)

**O Lord! I am a child;**

**enable me to grow beneath the shadow of Thy loving-kindness.**

**I am a tender plant;**

**cause me to be nurtured through**

**the outpourings of the clouds of Thy bounty.**

**I am a sapling of the garden of love;**

**make me into a fruitful tree.**

**Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful,**

**and Thou art the All-Loving, the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing.**

~ 'Abdu’l-Bahá

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **O Lord** | both hands up toward the sky, as you look up |
| **I** | point to yourself |
| **am a child** | put your right hand out to your right side with palm facing down, as if touching the head of a small child |
| **enable me to grow** | move both hands, with palms facing towards your body, from your hips all the way to above your head, while you move your body from side to side |
| **beneath** | put both hands on your head and put your chin down to your chest as you look down |
| **the shadow** | keep chin down and move both hands and arms until they are outstretched to both sides in a T position, with palms down |
| **of Thy loving-kindness** | look up and make a heart with both hands and arms, rounding your hands above your head so your fingers come together at the top of your head, forming the top part of a heart |
| **I am** | point to yourself |
| **a tender plant** | put left hand out in front of you with palm up and then put your right index finger up against the side of your left hand, where your pinky is (as if your index finger is a little plant coming out of the soil) |
| **cause me to be nurtured through** | put both hands together, palm to palm, and then wiggle your fingers as you move them upwards towards the sky |
| **the outpourings of the clouds of** | move both hands down, with palms facing down and elbows bent, wiggling your fingers as you move your hands until they are at your side (as if you are mimicking rain falling) |
| **Thy bounty** | move both hands out to your side, with palms facing up and elbows bent, while you smile |
| **I am** | point to yourself |
| **a sapling** | put your right thumb and index finger close together |
| **of the garden** | move both hands to both sides, with palms down in front of you while wiggling your fingers |
| **of love** | form a small heart with both hands in front of you |
| **make** | clasp both hands together in front of you |
| **me** | point to yourself |
| **into a** | move both hands from your sides all the way to above your head, keeping your palms facing out |
| **fruitful tree** | move both hands from side to side above your head, while moving your hips from side to side |
| **Thou art** | point with both fingers up to the sky |
| **the Mighty** | put both arms out and show your muscles |
| **and the Powerful** | elbows bent but both arms in front, hands up, and slightly bow your head toward your hands |
| **and Thou art** | point with both fingers up to the sky |
| **the All-Loving** | form a heart with your hands in front of your chest |
| **the All-Knowing** | put your right index finger up to your right temple on your head and tap it several times |
| **the All-Seeing** | put both index fingers up to your eyes and move your head from side to side as you look from side to side |

Any child is then welcome to share a prayer with the group, if they have been learning one at home. This is a good time to review any previous verses they have learned as well.

**Welcome: Hello Song** (Music Together, Bongos CD)

*(Actions: Clap hands to knees in time with the music)*

Hello everybody! So glad to see you!

Hello everybody, we're so glad to see you!

Hello to \_\_\_\_, so glad to see you!

Hello to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so glad to see you too!

*(Repeat the second couplet as many times as necessary, singing each child’s name, until everyone has been greeted, include mommies/ daddies and teachers)*

*(For the last line, below, slow the last phrase, while slapping knees faster and faster, and end with "yoooooooou!" on a rising note)*

Hello everybody! So glad to see you!

Hello everybody, we're so glad to see yooooou!

**Review of the Virtue of Generosity:** Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving because we want to, not because we want to get attention or praise. When we practice generosity we show love, and our spirit develops. Generosity is being happy to share what we have with others and not being afraid to give things away. For all of us to live happily, we must share what we have. When we share, we feel happy because we have caused others to be happy.

**Book: Stone Soup by Jon Muth**

**Songs:**

**Song: The Sharing Song** (CD: Singable Songs for the Very Young, Raffi)

*CHORUS:*

It’s mine, but you can have some.

With you, I’d like to share it.

'Cause if I share it with you, you’ll have some too!

Well if I have a cake to eat, if I have a tasty treat,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll give some to you.

*CHORUS:*

And if I have a book to read, if I have a block you need,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll share it with you.

*CHORUS:*

**Song: Generous Black Sheep** (Radha and the Kiwi Kids, Virtues in Me CD)

Generous black sheep, have you any wool?

Clip, clip, clip, three bags full

Two to the factory for socks and mats

And one for the children's mittens and hats

Thank you, it's so generous to share

all your wool so we can wear

colorful woollies warm and snug

Everybody wants to give you a hug.

Your turn now. Sing your own name.

*Same verse but instead of the children’s mittens and hats, say “Sally’s mittens and hugs” as well as “Sally said”…*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **Generous black sheep** | Both hands out in front of you (as if offering something) |
| **Have you any wool?** | Both hands out to the side and shrug shoulders  (as if asking the question) |
| **Clip clip clip,** | With pointer finger and middle finger of your right hand make and open and close gesture like scissors |
| **Three bags full.** | Hold up three fingers with the back of your hand facing out |
| **Two to the factory,** | Turn your hand around so palm is facing out, and hold up two fingers, moving hand across body from right to left |
| **For socks and mats** | Touch feet and then ... |
| **And one for the children's'** | Hold up one finger |
| **Mittens and hats.** | Rub hands together, then bring both hands over your head and pull down as if putting on a hat |
|  |  |
| **Thank you, it's so** | "Sign" for "thank you" |
| **generous to share** | Both hands cupped and held out in front of you as if offering something |
| **All your wool so we can wear** | Bring hands together over your body, then make a circle up over your head and back down again |
| **colorful woolies** | wiggle fingers |
| **Warm and snug** | Cross your arms in front of you as if you are trying to keep warm |
| **Everybody wants to give you a hug** | Sway back and forth, hugging yourself |

Pass out laminated hearts to be passed around during the following song:

**Song: A Smile is Something if You Give it Away**

(CD: The Family Learning House, Virtues in Us - Preschool)

A smile is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away

A smile is something if you give it away, then it comes right back to you

A smile is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away

A smile is something if you give it away, then it comes right back to you!

Collect laminated hearts and pass out shaker eggs for the following song:

**Song: Generosity**

(CD: The Family Learning House, 19 Quotation Songs)

**The wise man rejoices in giving and thereby becomes happy.**

Collect shaker eggs and pass out instruments for the following song:

**Song: The Sharing Song** (CD: Raffi, Singable Songs for the Very Young)

*CHORUS:*

It’s mine, but you can have some.

With you, I’d like to share it.

'Cause if I share it with you, you’ll have some too!

Well if I have a cake to eat, if I have a tasty treat,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll give some to you.

*CHORUS:*

And if I have a book to read, if I have a block you need,

If you come to me and ask, I’ll share it with you.

*CHORUS:*

Put away instruments and invite children to sit in the circle for the verse on generosity.

**Verse to memorize:**

**Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself.** ~ Bahá’u’lláh

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **Blessed is he** | put hands out around you and wiggle your fingers, moving your hands from up by your head to down by your waist |
| **who preferreth his brother** | put both hands out in front of you with palms up and head bent down |
| **before himself** | put both hands crossed over your heart |

**Story of 'Abdu’l-Bahá that reflects the virtue:**

One day, 'Abdul-Bahá was going from Akka to Haifa and asked for a seat in the stage coach. The driver, surprised, said, “Your Excellency surely wishes a private carriage.” “No,” replied the Master. While He was still in the coach in Haifa, a distressed fisherwoman came to Him; all day she had caught nothing and now must return to her hungry family. The Master gave her five francs, then turned to the driver and said: “You now see the reason why I would not take a private carriage. Why should I ride in luxury when so many are starving?”

(From Vignettes of 'Abdu’l-Bahá, #12, pg. 14)

**Game:**

**Play the following game:**

**I Would Like To Give This To You Game**

The teacher purchases little plastic gems (or makes them) before presenting the game. Or instead, you can use scratch and sniff stickers.

The teacher invites the children to sit in a circle and plays joyful music, preferably with a “generosity” theme. She then places a gem in one of the children’s hands and invites them to pass the gem from one child to another. When the music stops, the child holding the gem chooses someone to give it to and says, “I would like to give this to you.” Please ensure that the child receiving the gift says, “Thank you”. The parent/teacher places another gem in another child’s hand and continues to play the music. The game continues until each child has received a gem gift.

Then introduce the art activity.

**Art Activity: Decorating bags to carry non-perishable food items to homeless**

**Materials:** white bags, colors, stickers, etc.

**Direction:** Decorate the bags and then fill them with non-perishable food items

**\*\*Cookie Exchange\*\*** Each of the parents was asked to bring 2 dozen cookies plus copies of the recipe to share with the class. Each family gets to fill a plate full of delicious cookies to take home!