**Trustworthiness Skits**

from *The Creative Dramatics Manual* by Linden Qualls, pp 66-67

I did a skit that demonstrated being untrustworthy and its consequences, then redid it portraying trustworthiness and its effects. Then groups of three designed their own skits to portray untrustworthiness verses trustworthiness, preferably using situations one of them had experienced. Kids could show trustworthiness in caring for pets, taking care of a neighbor's home while they are away on a trip, returning lost money, keeping a secret, obeying parents when no one is watching, not cheating, lying, snooping, or stealing when its easy and tempting to do so, making good on commitments or promises, etc. I asked every team to make sure their skit illustrated the different consequences that trustworthiness and untrustworthiness had. After the second skit, in which the main character displayed trustworthiness, I placed a crown on his/her head, which they got to wear until the next child showed trustworthiness in a skit. The crown idea was inspired by the first Verse below, which was read before the skits began.

*Trustworthiness is in truth ... the most glorious crown for your heads.*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, page 38*

*Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people.*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, page 37*

*The most precious of all things in the estimation of Him Who is the Sovereign Truth is trustworthiness ...*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Trustworthiness, Compilation of Compilations, pages 335-336*

*Blessed be the soul that shineth with the light of trustworthiness among the people and becometh a sign of perfection amidst all men.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Trustworthiness, Compilation of Compilations, page 340*

**Cool Colleen**

This is about obedience to parents and resisting peer pressure and temptation. The virtues needed were detachment, trustworthiness, obedience, steadfastness and courage. Here is the scene:

Before changing into costume for this skit, I told the students that they were all sisters and brothers whose parents had told them to stay inside and clean their rooms and do their homework. Their parents went off for the day and were going to be gone a long time. They were going to get a visitor, someone they know from school. No matter how obnoxious she got, they were not to get nasty in return. I dressed up as Cool Colleen using a wig, dark glasses, shiny gold metallic shirt, black boots, etc. Cool Colleen rings the doorbell. A pre-selected child answers (you cannot have 17 kids rushing the door!). I barge into the living room and try to get them to come over to my house for pizza and ice cream and a new movie.

When they show resistance, I try to tempt them with a really good time, try to bribe, to insult them with names like "wimp" and "chicken" and use threats such as "I won't be your friend" and "I'll tell everybody at school what babies you were." I explain how un-cool it is to obey your parents, and that they will never find out anyway, etc. I walk off defeated and annoyed.

Afterwards I quiz them on the techniques Colleen used to get them to do what she wanted (threats, insults, temptations, bribing, pleading, etc) and pointed out that peers and acquaintances will use these techniques in the future to get them to do all sorts of things that are wrong such as cheating, smoking, stealing, lying vandalism, etc. I ask the students what virtues they practiced: detachment, obedience, steadfastness, trustworthiness, and courage.

(This skit is also used in our unit on honoring parents. When we do that unit, I share with them many writings about the importance of obedience to parents. See Verses under Honor Thy Parents.)

More Verses about Trustworthiness:

*It behoveth the people of Bahá to die to the world and all that is therein, to be so detached from all earthly things that the inmates of Paradise may inhale from their garment the sweet smelling savor of sanctity...*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings, page 100*

*Trustworthiness is in truth the best of vestures for your temples and the most glorious crown for your heads.*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, page 38*

*Trustworthiness, wisdom and honesty are, of a truth, God's beauteous adornments for His creatures.*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Trustworthiness, Compilation of Compilations, p334*

*The companions of God are, in this day, the lump that must leaven the peoples of the world. They must show forth such trustworthiness, such truthfulness and perseverance, such deeds and character that all mankind may profit by their example ...*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Trustworthiness, Compilation of Compilations, p334*

*I counsel you, O friends of God, to comport yourselves with the utmost trustworthiness in your dealings with my servants and people.*

*Bahá'u'lláh, Trustworthiness, Compilation of Compilations, p335*

*Number me with such of Thy servants as have detached themselves from everything but Thee, have sanctified themselves from the transitory things of this world, and have freed themselves from the promptings of the voices of idle fancies.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í Prayers, (US edition) page 57*

All the virtues of humankind are summed up in the one word 'steadfastness', if we but act according to its laws. It draws to use as by a magnet the blessings and bestowals of Heaven, if we but rise up according to the obligations it implies.

Shoghi Effendi: Bahiyyih Khaunum, page 148

... the children have the duty to obey their parents ...

From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand, December 28, 1980, Lights of Guidance, page 219.

*Beware lest ye commit that which would sadden the hearts of your fathers and mothers.*

*Bahá'u'lláh: Family Life, Compilation, page 387*

Trustworthiness is one of the great qualities which much characterize Bahá'is ...

From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Dominican Republic, February 17, 1980, Lights of Guidance, page 143.

We must now allow the fear of rejection by our friends and neighbours to deter us from our goal: to live the Bahá'í life.

From a leter of the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies, July 13, 1972: Lights of Guidance, page 529.

**Additional Comments about Trustworthiness by Linden (page 280)**

This virtue is given special emphasis in the Bahá'í Writings. It is more encompassing than honesty and truthfulness -- you can be honest but not trustworthy, but you cannot be trustworthy and not honest. Thus, basically, honesty is a subset of trustworthiness, but not the other way around. Trustworthiness includes honesty and truthfulness, but honesty does not necessarily include trustworthiness.

For example, you do not lie but you do not show up for appointments, or you make commitments you do not keep --- but if you are trustworthy, you never lie and are reliable and always keep your word, etc. In other words, if one is worthy of trust, they do not break trust by lying or letting others down. One can be honest but not really trustworthy in other ways. I know people like that. They tend to make a lot of excuses. My students frequently confuse trustworthiness with honesty, so I felt compelled to share how I clarify it to them.