

LESSON 13

A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

After opening prayers have been recited, review with the children the prayer they have been memorizing over the last three lessons. You can then introduce a new one for them to learn, making sure to explain the meaning of words and phrases and providing concrete examples as necessary. Four class periods will be dedicated to the memorization of this prayer.

“Thy name is my healing, O my God, and remembrance of Thee is my remedy. Nearness to Thee is my hope, and love for Thee is my companion. Thy mercy to me is my healing and my succor in both this world and the world to come. Thou, verily, art the All-Bountiful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.”²⁰

B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

Attributes of God

E B7 E B7
God is most powerful, Who in His Greatness
E F#m E
Created us all with His Love
E F#m E B7
Just and fair, He only asks we answer for
A B7 E
That which we are capable of

He’s merciful and pardoning and most forgiving
We ask for His forgiveness and grace
When we’re sincere and intentions are pure
God recognizes efforts we make

His wisdom is boundless and He’s all-knowing
Nothing’s hidden from His eyes
The dreams in our sleep and the secrets that we keep
Are known by Him Who is the All-Wise

(continued)

CHORUS:

E F#m A B7 E
Mercy, bounty, grace and power abound

E F#m A B7 E
The attributes of God are all around

A loving Teacher, Supreme Educator
The Source of all that is known
God in His Wisdom provides us with all knowledge
And laws and guidance so we can grow

God's most compassionate and understanding
When we are hurt or in pain
He answers the call of the needy and the fallen
And raises up our spirits again

God is most generous, bountiful and giving
He gives us everything we possess
As a sign of His Most Great Beauty
He gives us life and happiness

CHORUS

C. Memorizing quotations

The children will learn a quotation related to the quality of compassion today, which you can present to them in the following way:

God is the Most Compassionate, the All-Merciful. In times of difficulty, we turn our hearts to Him and ask Him to comfort and strengthen us. So, too, must we show compassion to others. When someone we know has a problem or is sad, we should do our best to be understanding and to help him or her. We must be compassionate and kind with everyone, under all conditions, like the tree that gives fruit to one and all, even to those who throw stones at it. Bahá'u'lláh showed forth compassion at all times, to all people, though His life was filled with suffering. To help us in our efforts to be compassionate, let us memorize His words:

“The Kingdom of God is founded upon equity and justice, and also upon mercy, compassion, and kindness to every living soul.”²¹

Founded

1. The doctor was concerned about the health of children in the villages, and so he opened a clinic to care for them. The clinic was founded out of his love for children.

2. Jenna and Mercedes have been friends for a very long time. They always study together and share with each other useful things they have learned. Their friendship is founded on kindness and love.

Equity

1. All of the people in the kingdom worked hard for its prosperity. When all of the crops were gathered, the king divided them among his subjects, according to the size of their families. The king treated his subjects with equity.
2. The town council had to build a road to the next village. It decided to wind the road around the farmland. In this way many were able to benefit from the new road but the farmers did not suffer. The council showed a sense of equity in its decision.

Compassion

1. Li Yong noticed that his friend May was unhappy, so he went to find out whether he could help her in any way. May explained to him that her mother was ill in the hospital. Li Yong listened and comforted May, offering to go with her to the hospital the next day. Li Yong showed compassion to May.
2. One day Shiori was walking in the countryside and saw a little lamb whose leg was caught in a fence. Shiori gently removed the leg and put a bandage on it. Shiori showed compassion to the lamb.

D. Story

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá travelled to the West, in every city He visited, many people came to see Him and listen to His encouraging words. Day and night He met with people of all kinds—the young and the old, the wealthy and the poor, officials and ordinary citizens. Some came out of their great love for the Master, and others came because they were curious about what He had to say.

One day a woman arrived at the home where the Master was staying and knocked on the door. She was an ordinary person who longed in her heart to spend a few moments with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. “Do you have an appointment to see the Master?” asked the man who opened the door. She said that she did not. In that case, she was told, it would not be possible for her to see ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as He was meeting with some very important people. She turned away sadly and started walking down the steps in front of the house. What disappointment filled her heart! But suddenly a messenger from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá appeared, asking her to return. The Master wished to see her. His voice was heard saying with power and authority, “A heart has been hurt. Hasten, hasten, bring her to me!”

E. Game: “Giants”

Divide the children into pairs, standing side by side, with the left leg of one child tied to the right leg of the other. Have each pair walk from one designated spot to another. You can make the game more challenging by placing small obstacles in their path, such as branches and stones.

Be sure to do this in a safe way. Alternatively, instead of simply walking, the pairs can be asked to jump like frogs, gallop like horses, and so on.

F. Coloring: Drawing 13

G. Closing prayers

“The Kingdom of God is founded upon equity and justice, and also upon mercy, compassion, and kindness to every living soul.”