

## LESSON 15

### A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

You can assist the children in their efforts to memorize the prayer introduced in Lesson 13, after the opening prayers have been recited.

### B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

#### Bestow Upon Me My Portion

CHORUS:

A D A  
Bestow upon me my portion

D A  
O Lord, O Lord

A D A  
Bestow upon me my portion

E A  
As it pleaseth Thee

A  
It's easy to be content

D A  
When things are going well

A  
It's easy to be content

E A  
When you're feeling swell

D A  
But what is really more challenging

E A A7  
Is to be content when things go wrong

D A  
To be patient in times of difficulty

E A  
Perhaps even sing a song

CHORUS

*(continued on next page)*

From the time He was a boy  
The Master suffered indignities  
From early in His life  
He hardly had any comfort or ease  
But He remained content and calm  
Never full of anxiety  
He trusted in God and accepted His Will  
Continued on ever patiently

CHORUS

### C. Memorizing quotations

Below are some ideas that you can use in presenting the passage the children will learn by heart today.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá was content with the Will of God under all conditions. He used to tell the friends that it is easy to be content when everything is going well, when one is healthy and living in comfort. What is more difficult is to feel happy and content in times of trouble, in times of illness and hardship. In spite of all the suffering that filled His life, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá never became disheartened. Through the most grave and difficult times, He remained content and thankful to God. He was always cheerful and optimistic. Let us memorize the following quotation so that we will often be reminded of the value of contentment with the Will of God:

**“The source of all glory is acceptance of whatsoever the Lord hath bestowed, and contentment with that which God hath ordained.”<sup>23</sup>**

#### *Glory*

1. After studying science at school, Poh Leng joined a group of scientists. They made many important discoveries. Her work brought glory to her family’s name.
2. Swee loved to look at nature—at the mountains, the trees, and the sea. Whenever she saw the beauty of the world, she thought about the majesty and greatness of God, the Creator of all things. Looking at nature made Swee think of the glory of God.

#### *Bestowed*

1. Paulo thanks God every day for his loving family, his good health, and for all the good things God has given him. Paulo is grateful for the many gifts that God has bestowed on him.
2. Without the sun, the earth would dark and cold, and nothing could live on it. The sun bestows light and warmth on the world.

### *Ordained*

1. The King gave an order that all the people of his country should not work on his birthday. The King's birthday was ordained a holiday.
2. For many months there was no rain in the region, and the people were ordered by the village council to limit their use of water. The restrictions were ordained by the council in order to save water.

### **D. Story**

*Once upon a time in a far away country, there lived a farmer with his wife and son. They all worked together, taking care of their land and animals. Their farm was near the border with another country, which, unfortunately, was constantly at war with theirs.*

*One day the family's mare did not return to the stable, and it was soon discovered that it had strayed into enemy territory. Some of the villagers came to the farmer, gave him the bad news and tried to console him. But the farmer did not seem to mind what had happened to his mare. He simply told them, "This could be a blessing."*

*Several months later, the mare returned, not alone but with a fine steed of the breed for which the neighboring country was famous. On hearing the news, the villagers came to see the farmer and congratulate him for becoming the owner of such a wonderful horse. But the farmer was not excited; he observed, "This could be a misfortune."*

*The farmer's son wanted to ride the new steed, and so he did. But the animal turned out to be wild and threw the young man violently to the ground. His hipbone was broken and for a long time he was unable to walk. Visitors came again to console the family for this tragic accident. But the farmer, as usual, remained calm and repeated the remark, "This could be a blessing."*

*A few months went by. The enemy tribes invaded the country and the government recruited all the young able-bodied men into the army. By the end of the war, many of the young men in the village had been killed. The young man of our story, because of his broken hip, was not taken into the army, so he survived.*

*A misfortune had turned into a blessing, then into a misfortune, and finally into a blessing again.*

### **E. Game: "Sculptor"**

Select one child in the class to be the "sculptor". He or she chooses another child to come to the front of the group and take some kind of position, for example, bent over with arms stretched out. One by one, the other children are called to the front of the group and added to the sculpture, each in a different position, making one large unusual shape. When all the children have become part of the sculpture, the sculptor adds him or herself as the final piece.

**F. Coloring: Drawing 15**

**G. Closing prayers**

**“The source of all glory is acceptance of whatsoever the Lord hath bestowed,  
and contentment with that which God hath ordained.”**