

LESSON 2

It is suggested that you begin the class today by reciting the following prayer:

“O God! Rear this little babe in the bosom of Thy love and give it milk from the breast of Thy Providence. Cultivate this fresh plant in the rose garden of Thy love and aid it to grow through the showers of Thy bounty. Make it a child of the kingdom, and lead it to Thy heavenly realm. Thou art powerful and kind, and Thou art the Bestower, the Generous, the Lord of surpassing bounty.”⁴

At the conclusion of the prayer, one or two children should be asked to say a prayer they already know. You may then help them review the prayer they began to memorize during the previous class.

In the activity that follows, the children sing two songs—the one introduced in the last lesson and the new one below.

Justice Is the Way

CHORUS:

C
Justice is the way
Dm
To make a brighter day
F G C
When people are in need
C
Justice is the light
Dm
A light that's shining bright
F G C
Shining through good deeds

C
How often have we heard that
Dm
'Abdu'l-Bahá
F G C
Shared everything He had

(continued on next page)

C
He was content with less
Dm
And led a simple life
F G C
So others would be glad

CHORUS

Justice is a little more than
Just being fair
To be just we have to give
Share what we have
Share what we love
Share the joy to live

CHORUS

After the songs, the children may memorize a quotation from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. You could explain it in the following way:

God loves justice. He is pleased with us when He sees us treating other people with fairness and justice. We must respect the rights of every human being and make sure we do not take away from anyone what they deserve. In order to help us be just, let us memorize this quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

“Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily, is the straight path.”⁵

It will be important to ensure that the children have a basic understanding of the above quotation before they begin to memorize it. A few sentences are provided below to help you explain the meaning of words that might be new to them.

Tread

1. Many leaves have fallen from the trees in the forest, covering the path. Fumiko walks through the forest. She treads the leaf-covered path.
2. Pedro likes to help all his friends play happily together. Pedro and his friends are very unified. Pedro treads the path of unity.

Path

1. Luis has a donkey. He took it to graze in a meadow and left it alone. The donkey found the path home by itself.

2. There are two ways to go to school. Millie always likes to take the path that goes by her grandmother's house.

Justice

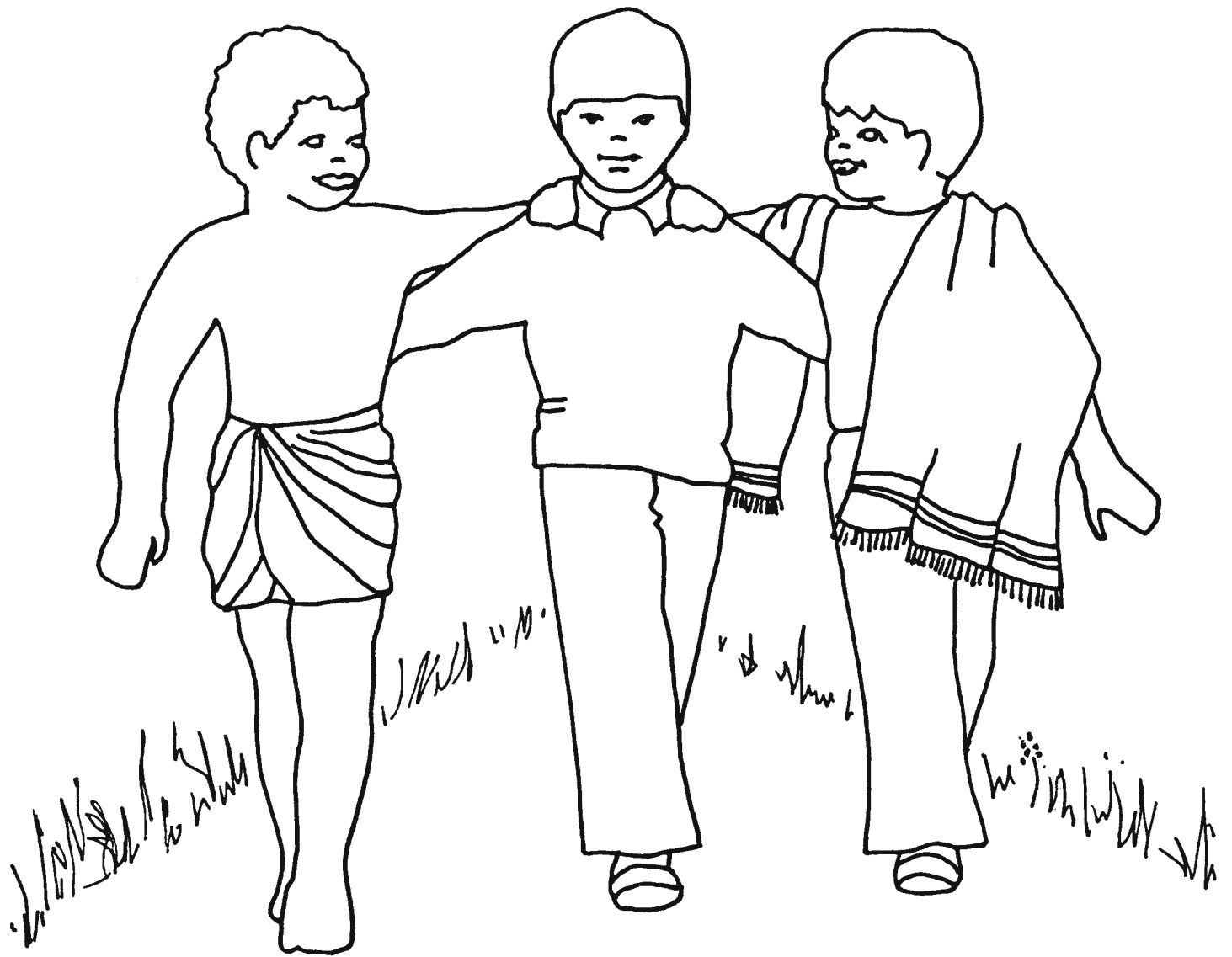
1. Carlos was given crayons to hand out during class. There were ten crayons and five children. Carlos gave two crayons to each child. Carlos acted with justice in handing out the crayons.
2. Anna has lots of water in the well in her yard, but sometimes her neighbor's well runs dry. Anna never allows this neighbor to suffer and always makes her feel welcome to take water. Anna loves justice.

After the children learn the quotation and you talk with them about its meaning, you can tell them the following story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá that illustrates how just He was. In recounting the story, you can emphasize the actions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá that show His concern for justice and help the children see how they could follow His example. As always, if you keep the different parts of the story clearly in mind and tell it with joy and sincerity, the children will understand it better.

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá wanted to go from 'Akká to Haifa. He went to take an inexpensive seat in a regular coach. The driver was surprised and must have asked himself why 'Abdu'l-Bahá was so frugal as to ride in this cheap coach. "Surely, Your Excellency would prefer to travel in a private carriage," he exclaimed. "No," replied the Master, and He traveled in the crowded coach all the way to Haifa. As He stepped down from the coach in Haifa a distressed fisherwoman came to Him and asked for His help. All day she had caught nothing and now had to return to her hungry family. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave her a good sum of money, turned to the driver and said, "Why should I ride in luxury while so many are starving?"

The activity that follows the story is a game called "Sharing". Place a car tire, or some other low object, on the ground. Then ask the children to see how many of them can stand on it at the same time.

To end the class, each child is given a copy of Drawing 2 to color, after which you recite a closing prayer or invite a few of the children to do so.



“Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily is the straight path.”