

### LESSON 3

As you have surely noted, by starting each class with prayers, the children are gradually learning to begin every effort by beseeching the assistance of God. Here is the prayer that we suggest you say to open the class today.

**“O my Lord! Make Thy beauty to be my food, and Thy presence my drink, and Thy pleasure my hope, and praise of Thee my action, and remembrance of Thee my companion, and the power of Thy sovereignty my succorer, and Thy habitation my home, and my dwelling-place the seat Thou hast sanctified from the limitations imposed upon them who are shut out as by a veil from Thee. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Most Powerful.”<sup>6</sup>**

After one or two students have also said some prayers, you can dedicate some time to helping the children memorize the prayer they began to learn in Lesson 1. You should make sure that all of them can say it in its entirety.

The next activity starts by having the children sing the two songs they learned in the previous lessons. When you feel they have learned these songs well, you may introduce today’s song:

#### Love, Love, Love

C                    F  
Love, love, love, love  
G7                    C  
Love your fellow man  
C    Em    Am  
Love, love, love is  
D7                    G7  
How the world began  
C                    F  
God loved creation  
D7                    G7  
So He created thee to  
C                    F  
Love, love, love Him  
G7                    C  
And humanity

*(continued on next page)*

Love, love, love the  
Everlasting good  
Love, love, love the  
Seed of brotherhood  
Love all creation  
For He created thee to  
Love, love, love Him  
And humanity

Love God's creatures  
Be they near or far  
See each human  
As a shining star  
Love all creation  
For He created thee to  
Love, love, love Him  
And humanity

Before introducing the next quotation for memorization, you could ask some of the children to recite the two quotations they already know. Then explain the following:

The love of God shines upon humanity like the rays of the sun. The sun's rays fall on deserts and gardens alike. Our love should be like the rays of the sun: we should love everyone, even those who mistreat us. In order to help us love all of humanity, let us memorize this quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

**“O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .”<sup>7</sup>**

In this quotation the only word that may require explanation is *naught*, which means “nothing”.

1. Agot loves to sing songs about the sun and the flowers, and he does not sing songs about anything else. Agot sings of naught but sunshine and flowers.
2. Ta Jen wanted to go down to the river, but he had not done his household tasks. His father said he could not leave until he finished his work, and unfortunately Ta Jen became angry. His grandmother said, “Dear, all your plans will come to naught if you don't obey your father.”

The next activity is storytelling. Remember that in order for the children to enjoy the story you must first read it carefully to yourself, thinking about the main theme and the details that will hold the children's attention.

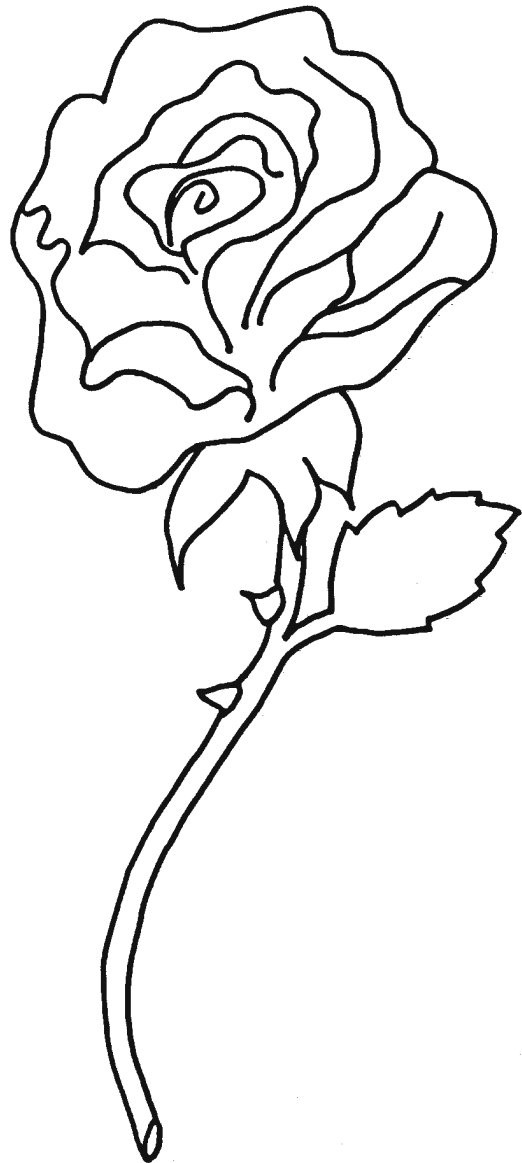
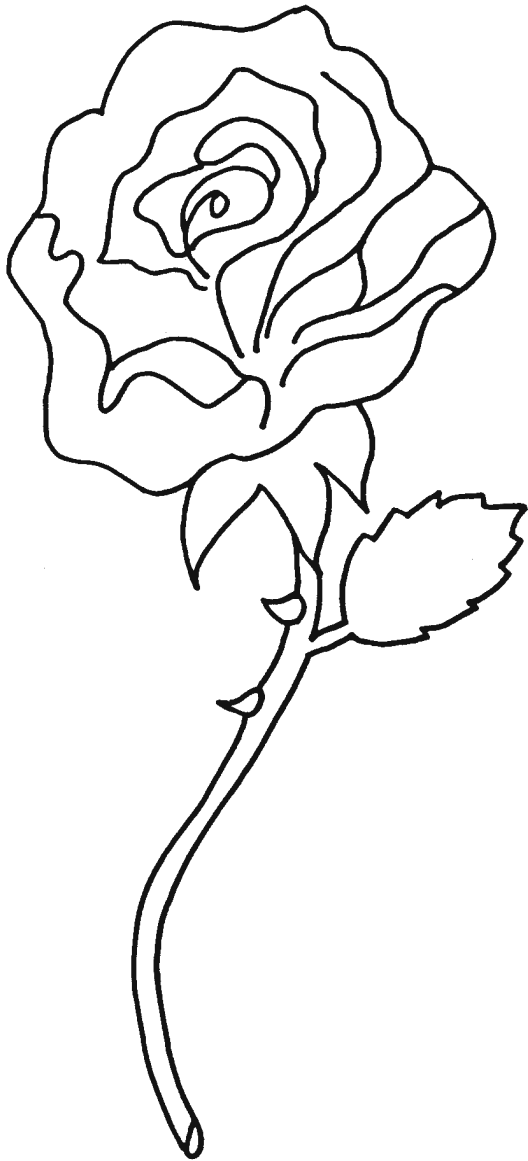
*While 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a prisoner in 'Akká, there was a man in that city who behaved very badly towards Him. The ignorant man believed that he was following the teachings of Muḥammad. He thought that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was not a good man and that God did not*

*care how badly the Bahá'ís were treated. In fact, he believed that he was showing love for God by showing hatred to the Bahá'ís. He hated 'Abdu'l-Bahá with all his heart. That hate grew and festered inside him, sometimes spilling out of him the way water spills out of a broken pot.*

*In the mosque, when people came to pray, this man would cry out against 'Abdu'l-Bahá and say terrible things about Him. When he passed 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the street, he would cover his face with his robe so that he would not see Him. Now, this man was very poor and had neither enough to eat nor warm clothes to wear. What do you think 'Abdu'l-Bahá did about him? He showed him kindness, sent him food and clothes, and made sure he was being taken care of. For example, once when this man became very ill, 'Abdu'l-Bahá sent him a doctor, paid for his medicine and food, and also gave him some money. He accepted the gifts from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but did not thank Him. In fact, this ignorant man held out one hand to the doctor to take his pulse, and with the other hand, covered his face so that he would not have to look upon the countenance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. And so it went for many long years. And then, one day, the man's heart finally changed. He came to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's house, fell at His feet and with a very heavy heart and tears flowing down his face like twin rivers, cried, "Forgive me, Sir! For twenty-four years I have done evil to You. For twenty-four years You have shown only goodness to me. Now I know that I have been wrong. Please forgive me!" Thus, the great love of 'Abdu'l-Bahá triumphed over hatred and saved this man from his condition of ignorance.*

A game called “The Bridge” follows the story. Using benches, boards, bricks, or tiles, make a line on the ground. This is “the bridge”. Two groups of children have to cross the bridge at the same time, going in opposite directions, without letting anyone fall off the bridge. The children have to help each other change places, passing each other one by one.

You can give the children each a copy of Drawing 3, as the final activity today. Afterwards, close the class by asking the children to sit quietly while prayers are recited.



**“In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love.”**