

LESSON 10

After beginning the class with prayers, review with the children the two prayers they have learned in previous lessons. Then continue with the other activities.

A. Songs (including some of the previous songs):

Truthfulness

C G D G
Truthfulness is brighter than the light of the sun
C G D G
Truthfulness is brighter than the light of the sun
C G D G
With truthfulness, O people, beautify your tongues
C G D G
With truthfulness, O people, beautify your tongues

C G D G
Honesty adorns the soul of everyone
C G D G
Honesty adorns the soul of everyone
C G D G
Honesty is brighter than the light of the sun
C G D G
Honesty is brighter than the light of the sun

B. Memorizing quotations:

All of us know of beautiful things that God has created to adorn our lives and bring joy to our hearts. Yet, more than material things, it is spiritual qualities that make human beings beautiful. One of the most beautiful qualities which can adorn our lives is honesty. When we beautify ourselves with honesty, we do not take things that belong to others, and we never cheat anyone. To help us remember this quality of honesty, let us memorize this quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

“Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty.”¹⁸

Beautify

1. Malit planted beautiful roses in the garden. The roses beautify the garden.
2. Sunil used to tell lies, but now he tells the truth. Sunil beautified his tongue with truthfulness.

Adorn

1. There is a lovely painting of sailboats on the wall. The painting adorns the wall.
2. In springtime the trees are adorned with beautiful blossoms.
3. Cindy's mother adorns herself with a special pair of earrings before she goes to the Feast.
4. When Akbar was a small boy he decided to adorn his character with spiritual virtues. He developed a very beautiful character.

C. Story:

Mullá Bahram was one of the great Bahá'ís of Iran. One day he received a letter that made him very sad. His cousin's small child had died. Since the child was a Bahá'í, they had given him a Bahá'í burial. This had angered the Muslim priests, who complained to the police. The child's father was taken to jail.

After reading the letter, Mullá Bahram thought deeply about this problem and decided to go to see a high government official to ask for help. When Mullá Bahram arrived at this official's home he found him at a feast with many guests. One of them, who saw the poorly dressed man enter the doorway, wanted to have him thrown out. But the owner of the house saw Mullá Bahram and with a great deal of love and respect, invited him to come in. All of the guests were surprised to see the courtesy and warmth with which the official treated Mullá Bahram, a poor and humble man. The host explained:

"The respect I feel towards Mullá Bahram is well deserved because he is a righteous and honest man, even in moments of tests." Mullá Bahram explained his problem and with a great deal of pleasure the official wrote out the order for his cousin's immediate release. The guests were surprised and asked the official how he knew that Mullá Bahram was so honest that he merited such respect from a high government official. The official answered:

"Some time ago I had a debt which I had to pay right away, but I didn't have enough money. So I arrived at an agreement with the money-lender that he would receive a piece of property in exchange for the debt. However, we could not come to an agreement on the property's value. We could not accept the judgement of a friend of his nor a friend of mine, because each of us could have paid our friend to alter the property's price in our favor. So we asked a merchant to send one of his employees to the property to put a value on it. He sent Mullá Bahram. To assure that the property was worth enough to pay the entire debt, I went to him the day he was to value the property and offered him a big bag of money so that he would speak in my favor. He would not have earned that much money in six years of hard work, but he did not accept it. He said it was better to wait and see the property. It turned out that Mullá Bahram estimated the property at much more than I had thought it was worth. So, I went to him and offered him a bag of much more money so he would be pleased. He did not take it this time either. He said that the only reason he had put that value on the property was because it was the true value. His appraisal was a part of his work, for which he received a salary, and it would not be right to receive anything extra for it. "Now,"

said the official to his guests, "you can appreciate why I say that Mullá Bahram possesses an honesty and integrity which is very rare these days. Oh! if everyone could be as honest as Mullá Bahram!"

D. Game. "Square, Circle, Triangle"

The teacher names a sequence of shapes (for instance: circle, circle, square) and asks one of the children to repeat it. Then the child is asked to try to draw the sequence. Each child is given several opportunities, each time using different sequences. If the child cannot remember a sequence of three, use a sequence of two. If a sequence of three is too easy, use four.

Variations:

- a. Instead of giving the sequence verbally, prepare some cards with different sequences drawn on them. Show one of the cards to each child and have him, after he looks at it, repeat the sequence, first aloud and then drawing it on paper.
- b. This can be done with sequences of actions. For example: jump, turn, touch your toes, touch your nose, clap, take a step forward.

E. Coloring: Drawing 10.

LESSON 11

Beginning with this lesson and continuing through the next four lessons the children will be memorizing a new prayer. Therefore, after starting the class with prayers, you will need to explain to them the meaning of the words and sentences in the following prayer and help them memorize the first couple of sentences.

"O my Lord! O my Lord! I am a child of tender years. Nourish me from the breast of Thy mercy, train me in the bosom of Thy love, educate me in the school of Thy guidance and develop me under the shadow of Thy bounty. Deliver me from darkness, make me a brilliant light; free me from unhappiness, make me a flower of the rose garden; suffer me to become a servant of Thy threshold and confer upon me the disposition and nature of the righteous; make me a cause of bounty to the human world and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer."¹⁹

The other activities for this lesson are the following:

- A. Song (including the review of songs already learned):