
TEACHER'S GUIDE

Bahá'í Education Materials

This is meant to serve as a guide for teachers using Wellspring Feast Materials.

When using these materials in a class for children, the majority of activities should be appropriate for most children between the ages of 6 and 13. They may also be adapted for use in youth and adult Deepenings.

Materials to have on hand for activities:
(* Necessary Materials)

- Mirror, flashlight for "Light Tag (for p. 5)
- *Crayons (for page 6)
- *Pencils with erasers (for page 7)

PAGE 1

Followers of:

Krishna – Hindus

Moses – Jews

Zoroaster – Zoroastrians

Buddha – Buddhists

Jesus Christ – Christians

The Báb – Babís ("bob-ées")

Bahá'u'lláh – Bahá'ís ("buh-híse")

Activities:

Discuss with the students the meaning of the Prophetic Cycle or the Cycle of Promise. What does it mean to make a promise? How does it feel when someone keeps a promise to you? What are some of the ways in which Bahá'u'lláh's teachings fulfill the promise of all religions? (Uniting all of humanity in one common faith, teachings which will end war, etc.)

PAGE 2

Christ means the Anointed One
Buddha means the Enlightened One
Bahá'u'lláh means the Glory of God

Activities:

Read the passage. Ask the class what it is like to be "dazzled". What will it be like when every soul is gathered "into His sheltering shade"? (No one will be poor or hungry or in danger of war; religions will be in harmony; racial prejudice will be removed; etc.)

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The purpose of the **Circle Maze** is to see how all the Manifestations of God are connected and how each later One encompasses the Ones who have gone before.

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Activities:

To symbolize the hidden nature of Spiritual Reality, you may want to play a **hiding game**. Have one person go outside the room; hide an object, and then tell the person to find the object. Tell the person when s/he is "hot" (getting closer) or "cold" (getting farther from it). After s/he finds the object, let the next individual go out: the one who found the first object gets to select the next object, and so on. Discuss what things enable us to get closer to God (prayer, meditation, obedience, work in the spirit of service, etc.)

(CONT'D)

Another **hiding game** is for one person in the circle to select an object in the room of a particular color. Then they say "I see something red" (for example) and the rest of the group must guess what the object is. Whoever guesses correctly gets to be "it" and think of the next object, of a different color.

Play "20 Questions" in pairs, with one partner thinking of a mineral, vegetable or animal while the other partner gets 20 questions to which the answer is yes or no, until the correct object is identified.

PAGE 5

Activities: Have the class share what they know about each of the Manifestations. You may wish to have a book on comparative religion available. Examples are:

Moses: raised as a prince, killed someone, led the Hebrews to the promised land, had a stutter (speech impediment), performed miracles in front of the Pharaoh, revealed the Ten Commandments, taught the oneness of God, heard the voice of God in a burning bush which never burned up.

Jesus: performed miracles, was the Son of God, born of a virgin, was poor, was a carpenter, told parables, taught His followers to love one another and to "turn the other cheek", was crucified, revealed the Lord's Prayer.

Buddha: was raised as a Hindu prince in India, observed the burden of human suffering, spent time in meditation under the Bodhi tree to receive enlightenment, taught the Eight-fold Path, and the Middle Way.

Muhammad: was a merchant who owned many camels, united the tribes of Arabia, taught the concept of submission to the will of Allah (God), was illiterate, received His

revelation when the Angel Gabriel spoke to Him in a cave.

The Báb: was born in 1819, declared His mission in 1844 and was martyred in 1850. He was a merchant, lived in Persia (Iran). His title means "the Gate", He spoke of the One to come after Him, wore a green turban, was a descendent of Muhammad, was imprisoned as a young man, then martyred only after miraculously surviving 250,000 rifle shots, which could not interrupt His final dictation.

Bahá'u'lláh: born a nobleman in 1817, He was kind to the poor from the time He was very young, became a Babí, was put in a deep dungeon, was exiled and imprisoned most of His life, went into the wilderness for 2 years, and waited for ten years (from 1853 to 1863) to declare His mission. He taught the oneness of God, religion and humanity. He died in Acca in 1892.

Activity: Play "Light Tag" as described on this page.

PAGE 6

Activity: Talk about splendors the students have seen in nature. Ask someone who has seen a peacock to describe its colors. Then have the students color the peacock on the page.

PAGE 7

For those students who can write, the letter explaining why they believe in Bahá'u'lláh as the Messenger of God for this day can be a very meaningful activity. Praise and encourage them for anything they can write – even one sentence. For younger children who cannot write, ask an older child to write for them, taking down the words they say. Even very young children can say something. You may wish to have them share what they wrote with the class, and if appropriate, with the adults after their consultation period.