

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 - others optional)

- *Pens, pencils, crayons or colored markers
- Pictures of different churches, mosques, synagogues, etc. and/or Bahá'í Houses of Worship for page 1
- Sheet of newsprint for list of virtues on page 4
- *Construction paper in different colors, straight or safety pins, ribbons or paper doilies for Honor badges on page 4

PAGE 1

Begin with a prayer, preferably one memorized by a member of the class. After reading the top of the page, ask the students to write ways they believe that mankind shows honor to God. *Examples:* through service; through prayer; through obedience to His laws; by attending a worship service at their place of worship; by doing things which are dedicated to God and to mankind.

Allow time for drawing their own designs for a House of Worship. Ask them if they know a common feature of all Bahá'í temples (all have nine sides and a dome). You may want to show them pictures of different Houses of Worship from around the world to give them ideas.

PAGE 2

The Hidden Knowledge Puzzle is solved by adding or subtracting letters (as indicated by + or -). The answer to the Puzzle is Arabic Hidden Word #1:

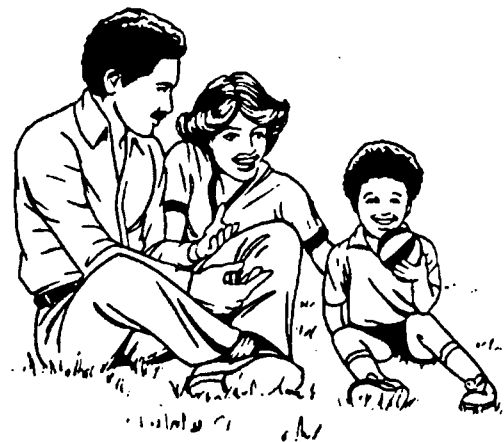
"O SON OF SPIRIT! My first counsel is this: possess a pure, kindly, and radiant heart that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable, and everlasting."

The pictures represent *sun, spear, count, ant, heart, hat, bee, rain, tea, tent, pear, table, hand and sting.*

You may wish to have the students memorize this *Hidden Word*.

PAGE 3

Discuss what an honor it is to be chosen by God to recognize the Manifestation for this Day, Bahá'u'lláh. Then the students are asked to list other people they know – i.e., Bahá'ís – who have been chosen to recognize Him. They may be people who are living or dead, people they know personally or have read about.



PAGE 4

After the quotation has been read aloud, ask the class if they think this applies only to Bahá'ís or whether "every soul" means people of any Faith who walk humbly with God.

The Honoring Game: Give the students construction paper to make honor badges for five people in the class. Have them think of a virtue shown by 5 people first, then put the virtue and the name of the person on a badge and present it. You can also have them draw just one name out of a hat, making sure that every student receives an honor badge. You may want to use bits of ribbon or paper doilies and some way of fastening the badges to clothing such as straight or safety pins.

Examples:

Prayerful John

Patient Mary

Generous Eve

Reverent Peter

Cooperative Harold

Peaceful Lulu

Obedient Ross

Kind Mathew

Encourage them to think of a list of virtues and list them on a large piece of paper taped to the wall.

PAGE 5

Emphasize the importance of acquiring virtues as the main reason we are living and how our true station only shows when we are striving to grow and develop the virtues. Encourage every student to think of at least 3 virtues which they exemplify. This is not being conceited. We are asked to bring ourselves to account each day. How can we do this if we are unable to see the progress we are making in the virtues?

In the second quotation on page 5 about poverty and wealth, this may refer to money, and could also refer to the talents, knowledge and benefits we possess.

How can the wealthy help the poor?

Examples are: sharing their knowledge their friendship, or money, food or clothing; encouraging and supporting the poor in getting further education; respecting them for who they are instead of focusing on what they possess. If someone is shy and someone else is very popular and comfortable socially, drawing out the shy person is a way of honoring and caring for them.

PAGE 6

Allow time for the completion of the maze. For younger children, the maze may be too difficult. Have story books or drawing paper available as an alternative. Or have an older child assist them with the maze.

PAGE 7

Read the passage about honoring one's parents. Remind them it is one of the 10 Commandments revealed by Moses ("Honour thy father and thy mother").

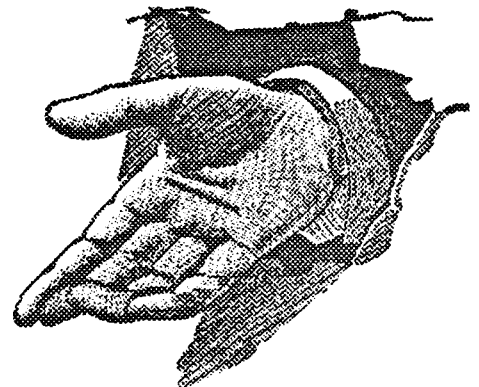
Answers to Crossword:

Across:

1. love
3. Help
5. truth

Down:

2. Obey
4. Respect
6. bath



Encourage students to write the answers to the questions at the bottom of the page and to share them with the rest of the class.

PAGE 8

Have the students fill in the names of those teachers they remember and ideas for how to honor their teachers.

Examples: turn in their homework; listen attentively to them; be cooperative and obedient; etc.

Have them share stories of what they like best about their favorite teachers.

PAGE 9

After reading the final quotation, ask the students what it means to them. You may want to give them time to color the illustration.

