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# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Bahá'í Education Materials

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*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)

- Prayer Book
- \*Pens, pencils with erasers
- Strips of paper on which short (1 or 2 line) verses of Bahá'í Writings, The Bible or Koran are written for memorization (for p.5)
- Poster board "Puzzle" with sentences or parts of the Short Obligatory Prayer for groups to assemble (for p.5)
- Small prize(s) for exceptional courtesy shown by individuals (to be announced at beginning and awarded at end of class)

### PAGE 1

Open the class with a prayer or invite a student to read or recite one. If you are using this packet in a class setting, the students may use it individually or together as a group, one page at a time so that everyone progresses through the material in unity. Challenge them about the courtesy and patience this requires. ("Can you practice courtesy?") You may wish to provide a "courtesy award" at the end of class in the form of a prize.

Read and discuss the opening quotation. Ask the students to think of examples of

the power of words (to hurt someone or to make someone happy, etc.) Encourage them to share their own experiences. In a large group have pairs or trios of students share their ideas with each other.

Discuss how God's Words have *creative* power – the power to bring things into existence, to change things, etc.

Allow about 10 minutes for the students to complete the crossword. Encourage courtesy in those who complete it before others by praising at least one student who is sitting patiently and quietly while the others finish.

#### Answers to Crossword:

##### Across:

1. love
3. earth
5. truth
7. you

##### Down:

1. light
2. tree
4. humanity
6. star

### PAGE 2

Ask the students what the term "Creative Word" means to them. After they write their "I wish..." sentence, discuss what the results would be if their words and thoughts had the instantaneous power to create. Quite a responsibility! This activity helps focus on the true meaning of God's CreativeWord and also to give them an objective view of "magical thinking." Many children go through a period when they feel guilty about angry thoughts they may have. It helps to draw the distinction between the power of our words to affect people for good or bad and the fact that we don't control the world as God does.

## PAGE 3

### Suggested Answers:

*weigh...nothing*

*color...none*

*meaning...yes*

*power...yes*

*taste words...no*

*see words...no, unless you write them*

*touch words...no, unless you make them out of something*

*feel words... same answer as above*

• Encourage students to share some of their favorite words

### Secret Code: "THE WORD OF GOD"

Mention that the reason God sends his Messengers (such as Moses, Buddha, Christ, Mohammad, The Báb or Bahá'u'lláh) is because we cannot hear His words directly. We can receive guidance through prayer and meditation, but the full measure of His Words comes only in the teachings of the Manifestations.

## PAGE 4

You may wish to ask different students to read each quote on this page. They are all brief but very important. Ask groups of students to quickly plan a role play of what it looks and feels like to eat too much. Ask other groups to plan a role play of what it looks and feels like to eat too little. Then ask the group to discuss how this relates to our souls. What do our souls need to feel just right?



## PAGE 5

In the list provided ask each child to fill in the number of verses they know by heart; i.e., how many *Hidden Words*, prayers, etc. can they recite? Some may have none listed. Assure them it is never too late to learn! Have a box or bowl to pass around containing pre-cut strips of paper with a simple verse written on each, preferably from a number of Holy Books. Have them spend a few minutes memorizing the verse they picked and then share with the class if there is time. Or, you may wish to have them recite the verses with the adults just before the refreshments are served or at the next Feast.

### Examples:

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity."

Old Testament, Psalms 133:1

"Grief and sorrow do not come to us by chance, they are sent to us by the Divine mercy for our own perfecting"

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p. 50-51

"The Great Being saith: Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value."

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, pp.161-162

"And when you have learned the truth, you will know that all living beings are but a part of Me and that they rest in Me and are Mine."

Bhagavad-Gita 4:35

"Read! Read in the name of thy Lord: thy Lord who creates!"

Koran, Sura 96:1-5

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Old Testament, Psalm 23:1

You may also wish to put each sentence of the Short Obligatory Prayer in large letters on poster board strips or print it on a large sheet of paper and cut out shapes to form a **puzzle** for groups of students to assemble. This will help in memorization and teaching cooperative play.

Remind the students that the obligatory prayer is a way to feed their souls “just right” and to keep their connection to God thriving.

## PAGE 6

Have the whole class play 20 Questions. If the class is very large, they can break into smaller groups to play. Directions are on page 6.

Read the Quotation or have a student do so and stress the power of our words to hurt or heal. Ask them to think of the difference between how light feels and how fire feels. Have they ever taken a sun bath? Ever been burned by fire? How did it feel?

## PAGE 7

This page may take up to 10 or 15 minutes for the students to complete. If they don't finish in class they may do so at home. If there is time for discussion, ask them to share their answers to the questions.

### Answers to Word Game:



## PAGE 8

Close by reading this page and asking students to share a few ideas of what deeds they want to do this week “to be one of God’s loved ones.” End with a prayer and acknowledge the class for any special attributes shown. If you have a “Courtesy Prize” award it now. Remind the students to be courteous at the refreshment table. You may want to suggest that they plan to serve the adults refreshments during the social portion of Feast that follows.

