

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
- Blindfolds for one half of class for p.5

PAGE 1

Ask the students to stay focused on the lesson wherever you are rather than to read ahead. Mention that this will be an opportunity to practice patience and courtesy. Ask them as a group to call out their ideas about the most powerful thing that man has created. (*Examples: atomic bomb, ocean liners, dams, airplanes, etc.*)

Answer to "Did man create the power of the atomic bomb?": No.

Read aloud the closing paragraph on page 1.

PAGE 2

Ask the students to write their answers to the question on page 2. (See above examples).

After soliciting their responses, read the next paragraph. The key point is that all the power and might of God is available to protect each one of us.

Answers to Add-A-Letter Scramble

TEACH
DOER
GOOD
OBEY
TRUST

1. **TEACH** the Faith to others
2. Be a **DOER** of **GOOD**.
3. **OBEY** God's Teachings and Laws
4. **TRUST** in God.

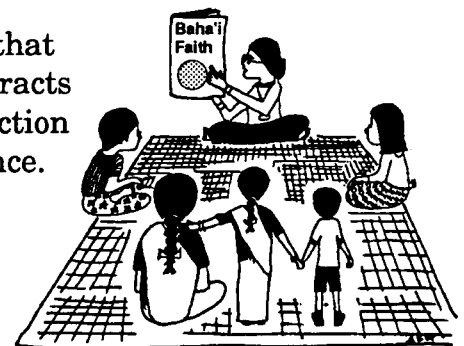
Emphasize that these are 4 ways to make sure you stay within the might of God's protection.

PAGE 3

Have the students share stories about times they have taught the Faith.

Practice Teaching the Faith: This can be done individually or in teams. Have them come up with at least 3 sentences to answer the question "What is the Bahá'í Faith?" (Example: It teaches the oneness of God, the oneness of religion and the oneness of humanity.) What you do with this exercise depends on the experience and readiness of the particular students in their teaching.

Emphasize that teaching attracts divine protection and assistance.



Illus. from IWTC

PAGE 4

Encourage the students to think of specific “good actions” they have practiced lately and share with the group. Ask them how they feel after they have done something good for others.

Section on obedience: Ask the students what some of God’s commandments are: (*Examples: The Ten Commandments, e.g., “Thou shalt not steal”; daily obligatory prayers; parents’ permission for marriage; abstinence from alcohol and drugs*). Discuss what happens when people obey these laws and what happens when they do not – how it affects their souls. Ask if they know of problems people have when they abuse drugs and alcohol.

If you wish, discuss the passage quoted from *The Seven Valleys* about how our power comes from obedience to God.

PAGE 5

Allow the students about 5 minutes to complete the **Maze**.

Discuss the meaning of trust. (*For example, you expect the best; you let go of fears; etc.*)

A Game of Trust: This “trust walk” activity needs to be in a safe place without too many obstacles. You may wish to go outside, weather (and daylight) permitting. See directions on page 5. Be sure to monitor carefully that the students are following the directions and abstaining from teasing or tricking. You will need blindfolds for this activity.

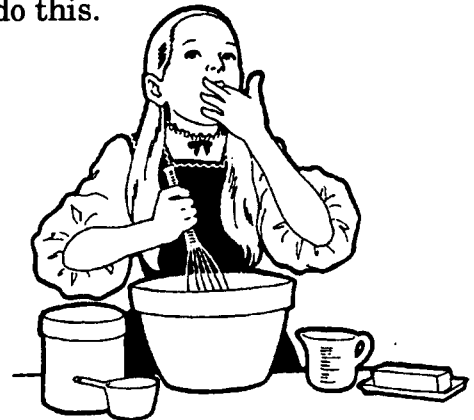
Spend some time discussing what it felt like to be the leader and what it felt like to be the trusting follower.

PAGE 6

Have the quote on this page read. Then give the students time to complete the answers to what services they can render to God. Have them think of one they would like to practice right away and then ask them to share their progress at the next Feast class.

(*Examples: Doing my best at school, helping my parents, being loving to my brothers and/or sisters, saying prayers, reading the Writings, doing work in the spirit of service, taking care of my health, caring for the environment by not littering, recycling cans and paper, etc., working on my virtues, correcting my faults, meditating, being kind to animals, and so on.*)

If they can think of something to do as a group for the Feast, such as serving refreshments, arrange for them to do so. Emphasize the importance of courtesy as they do this.



PAGE 7

Have the students complete their answers to the questions on this page, then share them if they wish. Read the quotation on this page to close the class. Ask them to think of a time when it will help them to remember to call on God’s protection. Then end with a prayer, preferably one recited from memory by a student.