

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)

- *Pens or pencils
- Magazines, scissors, glue (page 3)
- * Crayons or colored markers (page 4)
- Construction paper (page 6)

PAGE 1

Activities:

- Discuss the meaning and inter-relationship of the words used to describe God in the first quote, particularly with older children. For example, if God is both powerful and compassionate, what does this mean in our lives? What is generosity? What is mercy?
- Have the students fill in the answers to the questions on page 1. Encourage them to share and discuss their answers with the group. The key point to emphasize is that mercy comes to us simply out of God's love for us. We don't have to earn it or necessarily even deserve it.



PAGE 2

- Read the quote at the bottom of the page and have the students discuss the examples which 'Abdu'l-Bahá gives in contrasting **justice** and **mercy**.

PAGE 3

Activities:

- After the students have circled their answers to the Mercy vs. Justice exercise, discuss their answers. Suggested answers: *Justice, Mercy, Justice, Mercy, Mercy, Justice*
- Read the quote on this page and have the students think of examples of what would happen if God withheld His mercy from the world. Examples:
 - > We would never have been created
 - > It wouldn't rain and we would lose our crops
 - > We wouldn't have Revelation and we would not learn what Jesus or Bahá'u'lláh or the other Manifestations had to teach us
 - > The sun would cease to shine and we would lose the heat and light it provides**The goal of the exercise is to think of the gifts God provides for us every day.**

PAGE 4

Activities:

- Give students time to color the illustration.
- Read the quote on this page.

PAGE 5

Activities:

- Have students solve the MAZE.
- Read the quote, then encourage students to complete the description of what they think a perfect person would be like.
- Discuss their descriptions.

PAGE 6

Activities:

- After students fill in answers to *Who is in charge of Justice in the Bahá'í World?*, discuss their answers.

Suggested answers:

On the earth?

The Universal House of Justice
In the country where you live?

The National Spiritual Assembly
In the community where you live?

The Local Spiritual Assembly
Who is in charge of Mercy?

Each of us

- Read the quote and have students complete the answers to the other questions on the page. Then discuss.
- The last exercise has to do with **spiritual goal setting**. Encourage them to write down how they actually achieve these goals and share the results at the next Feast or the next time they are together.

Examples:

- > Offering to help Mother or Father in the home.
- > Offering support or help to a brother, sister or friend.
- > Telling someone something they appreciate about him or her.
- > HUGS!

- If time permits, you may wish to have students create a **goal chart** on a piece of colored paper, with a drawing at the top which symbolizes *mercy*, focusing on the 3 ways they choose to be more of "His Mercy" to others in the coming week.

PAGE 7

Activities:

- Read the quote or have different students share in the reading. Discuss what it means when 'Abdu'l-Bahá says "Kindness cannot be shown to the tyrant, the deceiver or the thief...."
- Choose 3 groups or pairs to act out one of the skits described on this page. The role-playing can be very simple and brief. Then have the others discuss the implications of the quote above for what was appropriate: to show mercy or walk away.
- To close, read the final quote.

