

**the nature  
and purpose of  
religion**

**learning objectives**

- : To be able to articulate the role and purpose of religion
- : To be able to teach this knowledge in a clear, kind and loving manner to others

**materials you will need**

- :: Dictionary
- :: Scissors
- :: Colored pencils, crayons, etc.
- :: Stapler
- :: One copy of the entire story and activity section (seven storybook pages) for each student
- :: Copies of the Feedback and Homework sheet for each student

**1. PRAYER (3 minutes)**

*Choose one prayer from the Prayers Page (section two) and have one of the children recite it. Alternatively, you can use any other prayer that corresponds with one of the stated learning objectives.*

**2. GO OVER HOMEWORK (5-10 minutes)**

**3. STORY & ACTIVITY (25-35 minutes)**

*The purpose of the story in this lesson is to help the students be able to articulate the purpose of religion in a clear and simple fashion.*

*Instructions:*

1. Ask the children to cut out the seven frames for the story in section four
2. Ask the students to illustrate the story using the caption at bottom of each story page.
3. Go over the lesson's Sacred Writing passage once the students have finished illustrating the story.
4. Ask the students to use the Sacred Writing passage to fill in the missing words in the quote at the end of their story.
5. Staple the pages together to make a storybook.
6. Ask the children to give the story a title and to write this title on the cover of their storybook.
7. Ask each student to read through their storybook and explain their illustrations.
8. Ask the students the questions that follow at the end of the story and activity section.

4. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)

*Review the passage below and make sure that everyone understands all the words. Alternatively, you may use any other Sacred Writing that corresponds with one of the stated learning objectives.*

**The purpose of religion ... is to establish unity and concord amongst the peoples of the world. Make it not the cause of dissension and strife.**

*« Baba'i, Baba'u'llah, Tablets of Baba'u'llah, 9<sup>th</sup> Glad Tiding »*

**5. ASSIGN HOMEWORK (1 minute)**

*Before the next regular session (lesson 16):*

- Complete one copy of the "Homework and Feedback" form, in section 5 of this lesson, for each student and follow-up with the parents to make sure they have received it.
- Read the Sacred Writing with an adult at least once before the next regular session (not the review session) and try to memorize it.
- Show your storybook to at least three people before the next class.

*Prepare for next session's review:*

- Re-read the stories from Lessons 13 through 15
- Review the Sacred Writings from Lessons 13 through 15, make sure you have at least one of them memorized for class, and remember what they say about the purpose of religion

**6. PREPARE TO GIVE CLASS REPORT TO ENTIRE SCHOOL (5 minutes)**

**7. REFLECTION AND EVALUATION (3 minutes)**

Your feedback and comments are very important because they will be used to improve this lesson. Please take a few moments after class to complete the "Reflection and Evaluation" sheet in section four of this lesson.

You may submit your feedback by e-mail to:

[feedback@spiritual-education.org](mailto:feedback@spiritual-education.org)

Instead, you may wish to submit your feedback using the web-based form at:

[www.spiritual-education.org/feedback](http://www.spiritual-education.org/feedback)

Thank you!

Choose one of the following prayers:

**O Thou kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness. O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity. O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.**

*« Baba'i, 'Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i Prayers »*

**O Lord! Our hearts seek Your Protection, our faces turn to You, our eyes look towards You, our feet move towards Your path and our bodies sincerely submit to Your command.... O Lord! Let truth prevail and let our people realize justice, honesty and piety of our case.**

*« Islam, Ali bin Abi Taaib, Letters from Nahjul Balaagh »*

**Live in the faith of Me! In faith of Me. All dangers thou shalt vanquish, by My grace; but, trusting to thyself and heeding not, thou can't but perish!**

*« Hinduism, Bhagavad-Gita »*

LESSON **15**

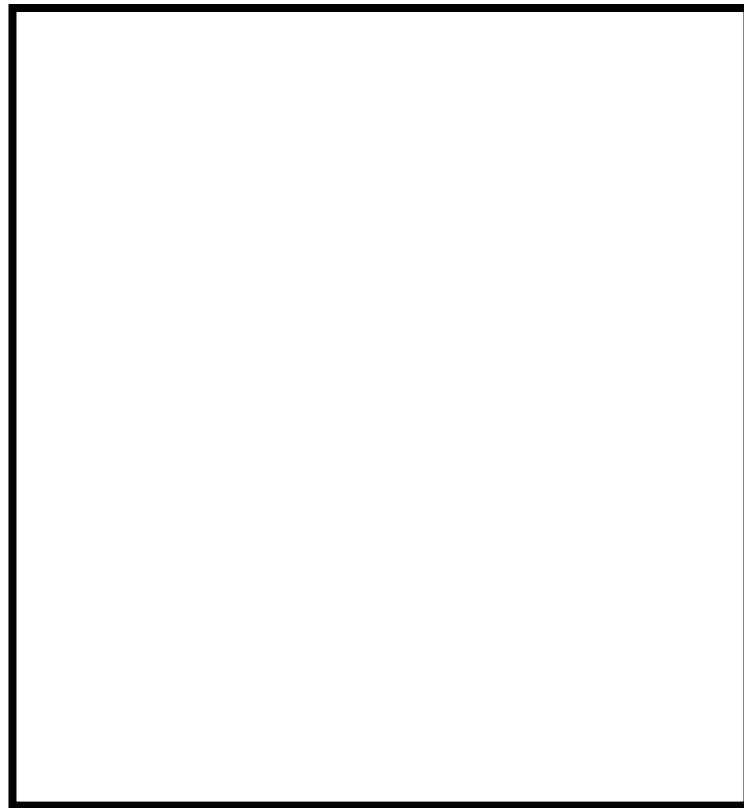
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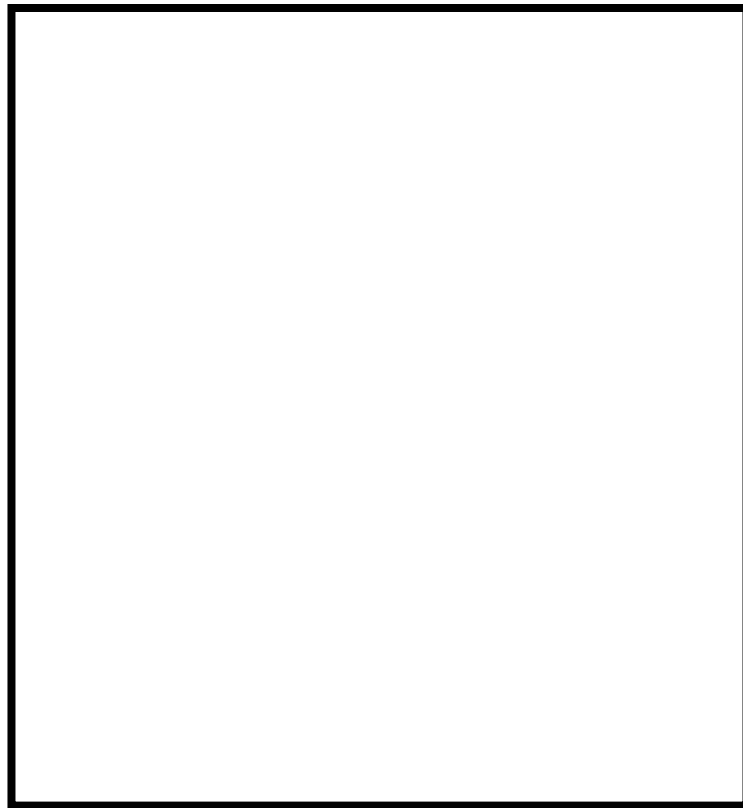
*based on a story by 'Abdu'l-Baha  
as told by Amatu'l-Baha Ruhyyih Khanum  
from "Amatu'l-Baha Visits India" by Violette Nakhjavani*

Illustrations by: \_\_\_\_\_



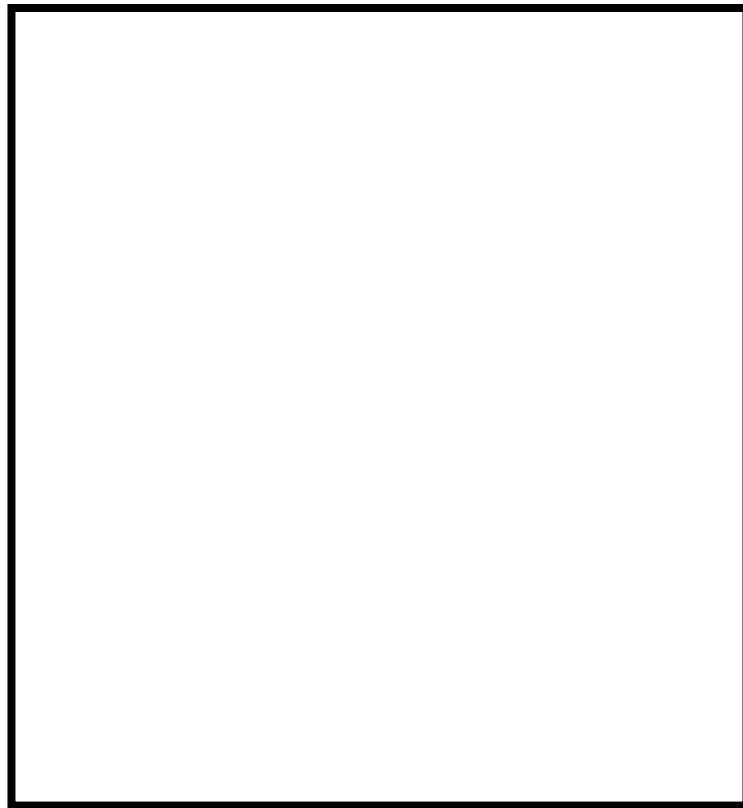
Once there was a sick man who sent  
for a doctor.

« 1 »



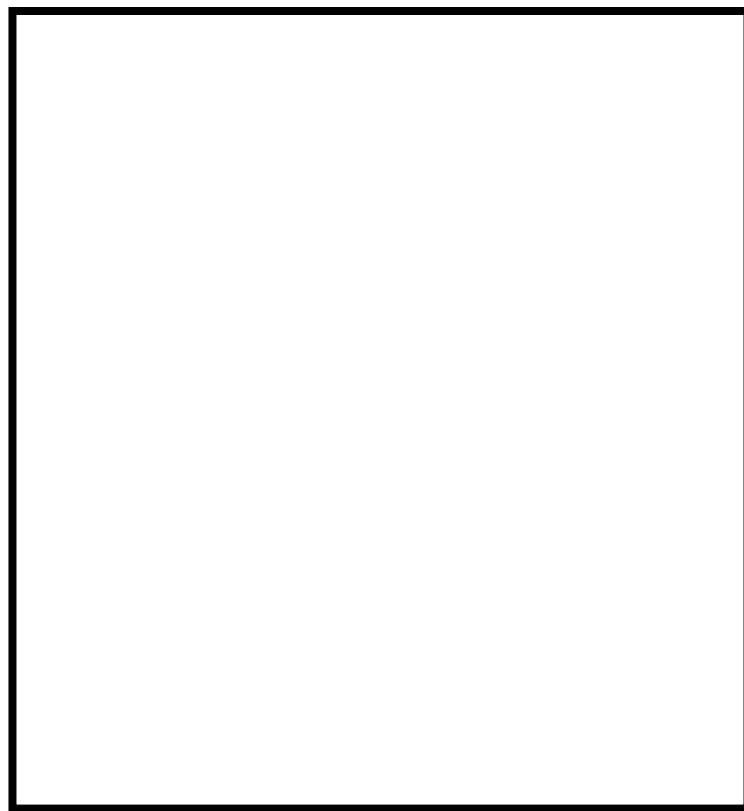
When the doctor came, the man asked  
whether he was a good doctor.

« 2 »



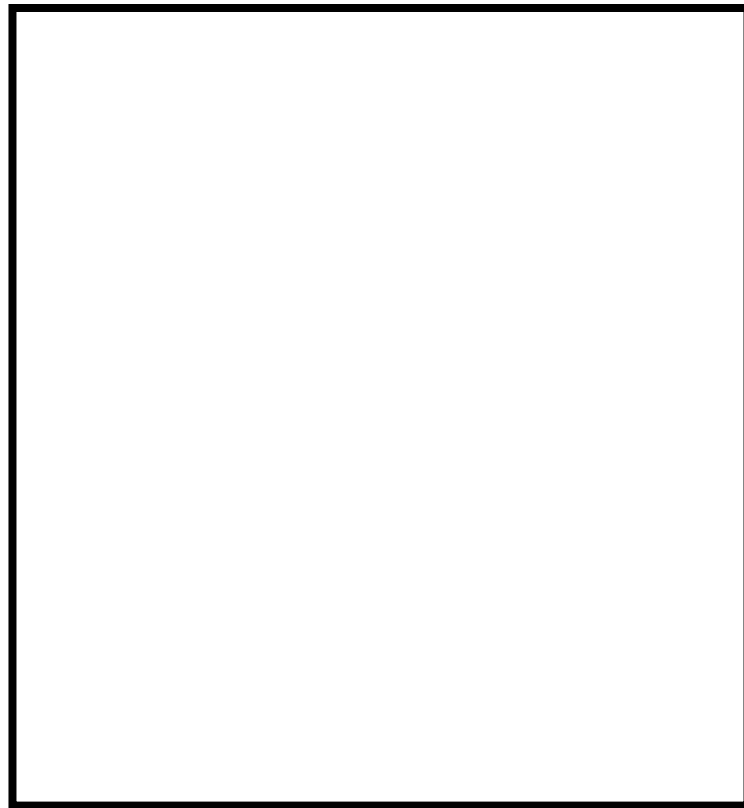
The doctor replied, “Yes, I am a very good doctor.”

« 3 »



To demonstrate his skill, the doctor  
began flying around the room!

« 4 »



This was very interesting but it did  
not cure the sick man.

« 5 »

The purpose of religion is  
to establish \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ amongst the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Make it not the cause of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

« 6 »

### Example Discussion Questions for Story

- › What good does the doctor's flying around the room do the sick man? (*All he needed was the right medicine*)
- › Have you ever been to a doctor? What does the doctor do when you go to visit him/her? (*take temperature, look in my throat and ears, check my breathing, etc.*)
- › How does the doctor know what to do? (*He or she went to school for many years and received lots of training*)
- › If a doctor does something that doesn't help us when we're sick, can we say that the doctor is serving his or her purpose? (*No*)
- › Just as doctors are supposed to heal us, religion's purpose is to help heal humanity's ills by creating unity and accord. If something claims to be a "religion" and provide teachings to help cure our ills, but instead creates hatred, anger, and disunity, then can we say that it's serving its purpose?

LESSON **15**

1. What did you like about this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which parts of the lesson did the students like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Were the students able to answer the questions asked throughout the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

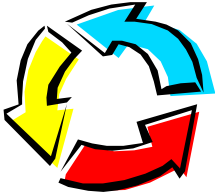
4. Did the lesson's level match the students' capabilities? \_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What would you change or add to the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You can submit your feedback by e-mail to [feedback@spiritual-education.org](mailto:feedback@spiritual-education.org)  
or by using the web-based form at [www.spiritual-education.org/feedback](http://www.spiritual-education.org/feedback).



TO THE PARENTS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT DID WE DO?**

The topic for this session was:

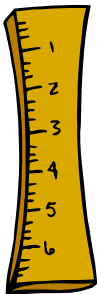
***The Nature and Purpose of Religion***

The learning objectives were:

: To be able to articulate the role and purpose of religion

: To be able to teach this knowledge in a clear, kind and loving manner to others

**HOW DID YOUR CHILD DO?**



Preparation: [ ] **Great!** Active participation  
[ ] **Fair.** Passive participation  
[ ] **Poor.** Not active (needs to improve)

Participation: [ ] **Great!** Active participation  
[ ] **Fair.** Passive participation  
[ ] **Poor.** Not active (needs to improve)

Interaction: [ ] **Great!** Very understanding and cooperative  
[ ] **Fair.** Occasionally helpful, occasionally disruptive  
[ ] **Poor.** Distractive to others (Needs to improve)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### WHAT'S THE HOMEWORK?

*Before the next regular session (lesson 16):*

- ▶ Read the Sacred Writing with an adult at least once before the next regular session (not the review session) and try to memorize it.

*The purpose of religion ... is to establish unity and concord amongst the peoples of the world. Make it not the cause of dissension and strife.*

*« Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, 9th Glad Tiding »*

- ▶ Show your storybook to at least three people before the next class.

*Prepare for next session's review:*

- ▶ Review the activities from Lessons 13 through 15.
- ▶ Re-read the stories from Lessons 13 through 15.
- ▶ Review the Sacred Writings from Lessons 13 through 15, make sure you have at least one of them memorized for class, and remember what they say about the purpose of religion

### WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT TIME?

We will have a review of Topic 4:

#### ***The Nature and Purpose of Religion***

We will have a quiz that checks students' understanding through:

- :: Knowledge Exercise: Recalling the purpose of religion as stated in the Sacred Writings that we studied
- :: Storytelling Exercise (recounting one of the stories from Lesson 13, 14, or 15)
- :: Memory Exercise (writing down one of the Sacred Writing passages that were to be memorized)

