

the mission  
of the Prophets

**Learning objectives**

- : To know that the purpose of the Messengers of God is to educate and spiritualize
- : To gain insight into the role and importance of the Messengers of God
- : To recite passages from the Holy writings regarding the mission of the Prophets
- : To articulate and teach others about the mission of the Prophets

**materials you will need**

- :: Dictionary
- :: Pencils, Markers, Crayons, etc.
- :: One copy of the "Word Search" activity sheets (in section 3)
- :: 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. ACTIVITY (15-20 minutes)**

*The purpose of this simple and familiar activity is to help the children improve their vocabulary and knowledge about the role and importance of the Messengers of God.*

Instructions:

1. Give one copy of the word search activity sheet to each student. If you have many students in your class, you may choose to group the children into teams and give one puzzle to each team.
2. Introduce the activity to the children by telling them that they are going to work on a puzzle where they have to search and find words that describe the different reasons why God sends Messengers to us.
3. Read through the words listed along the bottom of the activity sheet. Ask the children if they know what each word means. Use your dictionary to help with the words whose definitions aren't clear for the children.
4. Ask the children to begin their search. Tell them that the words will appear in the puzzle written letter-by-letter either left-to-right or top to bottom. You may want to help them find one of the words as an example.
5. You may wish to make their work on the activity more exciting by encouraging them yell out the word each time they find it in their puzzle.
6. After everyone has finished the puzzle, re-read through the list of words and remind the children that these are some of the reasons (purposes) why God has sent us Messengers.

5. **STORY** (10-15 minutes)

*Read the attached story and discuss the questions that follow it. Alternatively, you can use any other story that illustrates the stated learning objectives.*

6. 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 Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying Their revelation hath been to educate all men ...**

*« Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, LXXXI »*

7. ASSIGN HOMEWORK (1 minute)

- › Complete one copy of the “Homework and Feedback” form, in section 6 of this lesson, for each student and follow-up with the parents to make sure they have received it.
- › Read the Sacred Writing everyday before the next class try to memorize it.
- › Ask an adult to help you find one way in which one of the teachings of one of the Messengers of God has helped to “educate and spiritualize” you. Examples could be things such as the commandment to pray which helps us to become more peaceful and tranquil by making us feel closer to God, or the teaching to obey our parents which helps us show our love and thankfulness for everything they provide for us...

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

9. 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 five 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:

**They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.**

*« Christian, Isaiah 49:10 »*

**The Light of Lights He is, in the heart of the dark Shining eternally. Wisdom He is and Wisdom's way, and Guide of all the wise, planted in every heart.**

*« Hindu, Bhagavad Gita, (Edwin Arnold tr.) »*

**Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.**

*« Jewish, Exodus 15:13 »*

**O our people! verily, we have heard a book sent down after Moses, verifying what came before it, guiding to the truth, and unto the right way. our people! respond to God's crier and believe in Him, and He will pardon you your sins and will deliver you from grievous woe.**

*« Muslim, The Qur'an, Sura 46: Al A'hqaf, (EH Palmer tr) »*

Word Search Puzzle:

**THE PURPOSE AND  
MISSION OF THE PROPHETS**

**Q E B D Y N Q C S B A V L  
P A W D L D P D O A B S L  
U G Y L I B E R T Y K P G  
B R Q O L P A L W X U I I  
U E R V O M C H G E S R F  
P E U E F J E A H D R I B  
J M I C D K H R E U C T G  
Y E D U U I G M N C T A W  
M N S J N E V O O A K L G  
P T R A I N I N G T D I Y  
T V X H T V L Y R I S T G  
E C V S Y K S Y D O M Y V  
E G C B G U I D A N C E G  
A Q A Q W C T R F T L V H**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> <b>UNITY</b>        | <input type="radio"/> <b>LOVE</b>     |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>PEACE</b>        | <input type="radio"/> <b>HARMONY</b>  |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>SPIRITUALITY</b> | <input type="radio"/> <b>LIBERTY</b>  |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>EDUCATION</b>    | <input type="radio"/> <b>GUIDANCE</b> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>AGREEMENT</b>    | <input type="radio"/> <b>TRAINING</b> |

# THE LOST SHEEP

Do you remember what a parable is?

A parable is a story which has a special meaning. It is a story that people tell to teach others something. Jesus taught people about God and how He wants us to be by telling stories and parables.



This is the parable of the lost sheep. Jesus started by telling the story to men called tax collectors and Pharisees. These were men who thought they were more important than everyone else. They didn't like Jesus and weren't very nice to him. They didn't like that people

liked to listen to Jesus tell them stories. They said bad things to Jesus and hurt him and never apologized or felt bad for the things they did. In fact, they didn't think they ever had to say sorry to God when they made a mistake or they did something that hurt someone else.

Have you ever felt really bad for something you've done?

Maybe you've said something mean to you brother or sister and afterwards you wished you hadn't.

When you really feel sorry for something you did do you tell them you're sorry?

Do you also ask God to forgive you for making a mistake and hurting someone else?

The Pharisees and tax collectors didn't think that they had to do this because they thought they were too important to have to do this. Of course Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he told this parable of "The Lost Sheep" ...



Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and you lose one of them. Wouldn't leave the rest behind and go look for the lost sheep until you found it? And when you find it, wouldn't you be so happy and excited that you would carry the sheep all the way home. Then

wouldn't you tell all your friends and neighbors and have a celebration for the sheep that was found?

This is the parable that Jesus told. Remember that a parable is a story with a special meaning that tries to teach us something. What do you think this parable means? What do you think it's trying to teach us?

Jesus told the people gathered around him what the parable meant: Just like there was a big celebration over one lost sheep, there will be a big celebration in heaven even when just one person feels sorry and asks God for forgiveness. There won't be a celebration for the rest of the people (like the rest of the sheep who weren't lost) who think they are perfect and never say they're sorry or ask God for forgiveness.

Can you imagine that? When you say "I'm sorry" to God, all of heaven has a big party just for what you've done! God is much more excited when we say we're sorry than when we act like

nothing has happened and don't think we need to ask for forgiveness at all.

But Jesus just kept going and he told another parable. Listen and see if this sounds like something you've already heard.



Suppose a woman has ten coins and loses one. Wouldn't she turn on all the lights in house, sweep the whole house, and search carefully until she finds the lost coin? And when she finds it, wouldn't she call all her friends and neighbors and have a celebration to celebrate finding the lost coin.

Just like the lost coin, there is great joy with all of God's angels over one person who asks for forgiveness. So part of the lesson here is that nobody is perfect (except God of course). It's very important that when we make a mistake we realize we have done something wrong and we tell God we're sorry.

It's as simple as taking a couple minutes, going somewhere quiet (although you can talk to God anywhere), and just saying you're sorry for the wrong thing you've done and ask God to forgive you. It's pretty easy, huh?

Just think how happy God will be when you do it ,and you'll feel better too!

So this is how Jesus taught His followers – by telling stories. We call these stories parables. Jesus told parables to show His followers many different things like how important it is to be honest, or to be kind. He told the parable of the “Lost Sheep” to show His followers how important it is to always ask for forgiveness when we've done something wrong.

### Example Discussion Questions for Story

- › What is a parable?
- › What was Jesus trying to teach his followers by telling the parable of the “Lost Sheep”?
- › Do you know of any other parables or stories that have taught you something important?
- › Do your parents try to teach you things by telling stories?
- › Do your teachers in school try to teach you things by telling you stories?
- › Do you know any songs that you’ve learned something from?

LESSON **16**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

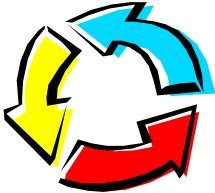
4. Did the lesson's level match the students' capabilities? \_

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

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

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

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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?**



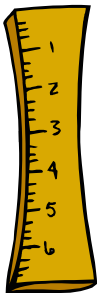
The topic for this session was:

***The Mission of the Prophets***

The learning objective was:

- : To know that the purpose of the Messengers of God is to educate and spiritualize
- : To gain insight into the role and importance of the Messengers of God
- : To recite passages from the Holy writings regarding the mission of the Prophets
- : To articulate and teach others about the mission of the Prophets

**HOW DID YOUR CHILD DO?**



- Preparation: [ ] **Great!** Homework was complete.  
[ ] **Fair.** Homework was partially complete  
[ ] **Poor.** Homework was not attempted

- 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?



- Read the Sacred Writing (below) everyday until the next class session and try to memorize it.

*The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying Their revelation hath been to educate all men ...*

« Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings, LXXXI* »

- Ask an adult to help you find one way in which one of the teachings of one of the Messengers of God has helped to “educate and spiritualize” you. Examples could be things such as the commandment to pray which helps us to become more peaceful and tranquil by making us feel closer to God, or the teaching to obey our parents which helps us show our love and thankfulness for everything they provide for us...

### WHAT WILL WE DO AT THE NEXT SESSION?



We will continue with the topic:

#### ***The Mission of the Prophets***

We will cover the following learning objectives:

- :: To understand the short and long term influence of the Messengers on the ongoing advancement of civilization
- :: To understand the connection between the mission of the Messengers of God and the Greater Covenant