

the mission
of the Prophets

Learning objectives

- : To perceive the beauty of each of the world's religions as evidence of God's Manifestation to humanity
- : To discern the twofold purpose for learning about the mission of previous Manifestations of God: to consort with the followers of other Faiths in a spirit of love and unity; and to expand one's own understanding of one's religion by learning about the religions of the past.

materials you will need

- :: Dictionary
- :: Pencils, Markers, Crayons, etc.
- :: One set of copies of the coloring sheets (3 pages in the Activity section) 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). Recite it, and then 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 & STORY (25-35 minutes)

The purpose of this activity is to help the students appreciate the beauty of the various forms of the Spirit of God which have appeared to the Messengers.

Instructions:

1. Read the three stories in the "Stories" section.
2. Ask the children to color in their activity sheets showing the Dove which appeared before Jesus, the Burning Bush that spoke with Moses, and the Angel Gabriel who guided Mohammad.
3. Once the children have finished coloring the pictures, ask each one to pick one of their pictures, describe what they've done, and recount the story behind the picture. Ask them to talk about the part of the story that they found most beautiful.
4. Ask the children if they know of any other stories about a time when the Spirit of God has appeared to a Messenger (e.g. the Maiden of Heaven appearing before Baha'u'llah, the Sacred Fire of Zoroaster).

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.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

« King James Bible, Luke 10:27 »

5. 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. Read it at least once with an adult during the course of the week
- Talk with an adult or a friend during the week and tell them about the stories that you read in class. Try and see if you can find what the stories have in common.

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 five of this lesson.

You may submit your feedback by e-mail to:

feedback@spiritual-education.org

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

www.spiritual-education.org/feedback

Thank you!

Choose one of the following prayers:

O God, Who art the Author of all Manifestations, the Source of all Sources, the Fountain-Head of all Revelations, and the Well-Spring of all Lights! I testify that by Thy Name the heaven of understanding hath been adorned, and the ocean of utterance hath surged, and the dispensations of Thy providence have been promulgated unto the followers of all religions.

« Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah, Prayers & Meditations »

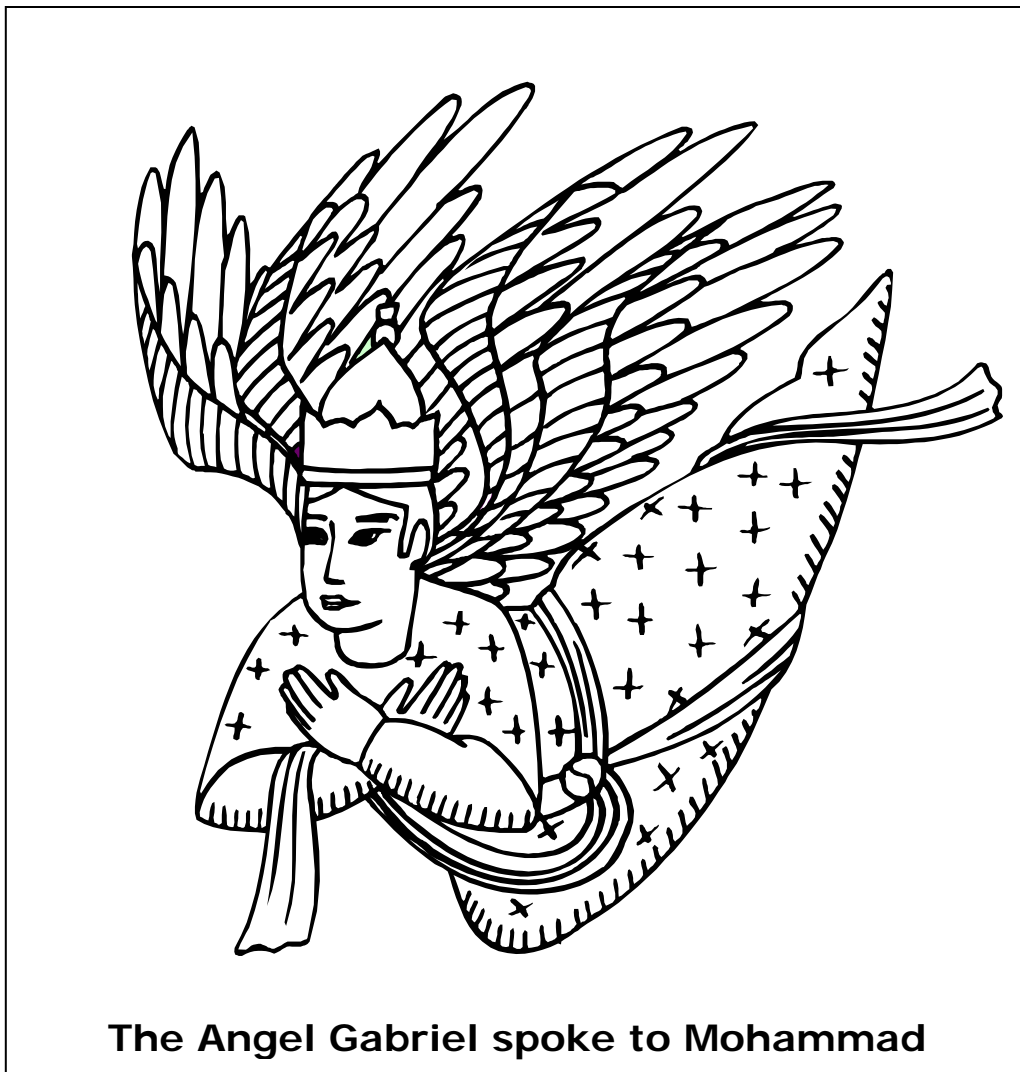
This is the eternal call of the wise: Awake from the slumber of ignorance! Arise and seek out those who know the Truth, because only those who have direct vision of Truth are capable of teaching it. Invoke their blessing with a humble spirit and seek to be instructed by them. The path is very difficult to tread. No thoughtless or lethargic person can safely travel on it. One must be strong, wakeful and persevering.

« Hinduism, Upanishad 10 »

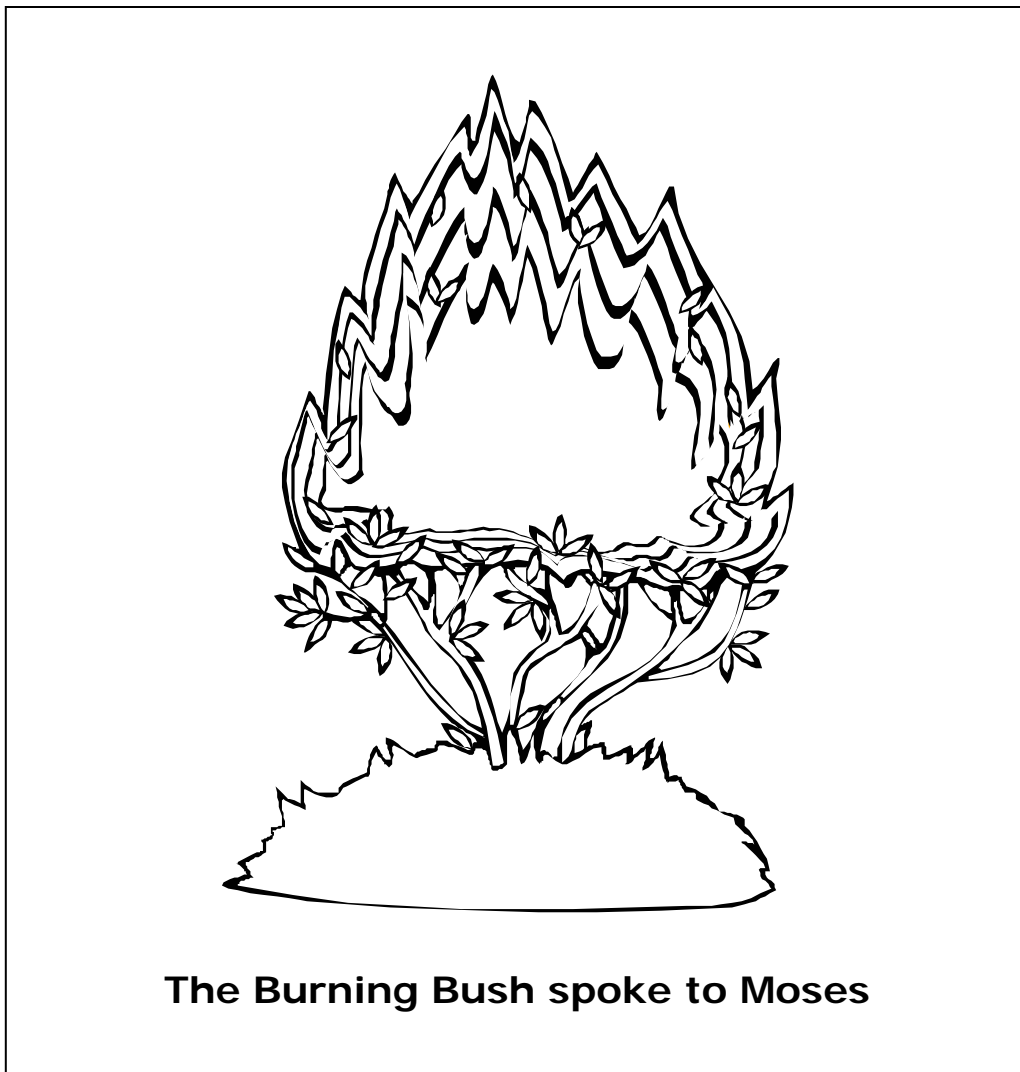
Mankind was but one people; and God sent prophets to announce glad tidings and to warn; and He sent down with them the Book of Truth, that it might decide the disputes of people...

« Islam, Qur'an 2:213, Al Baqara »

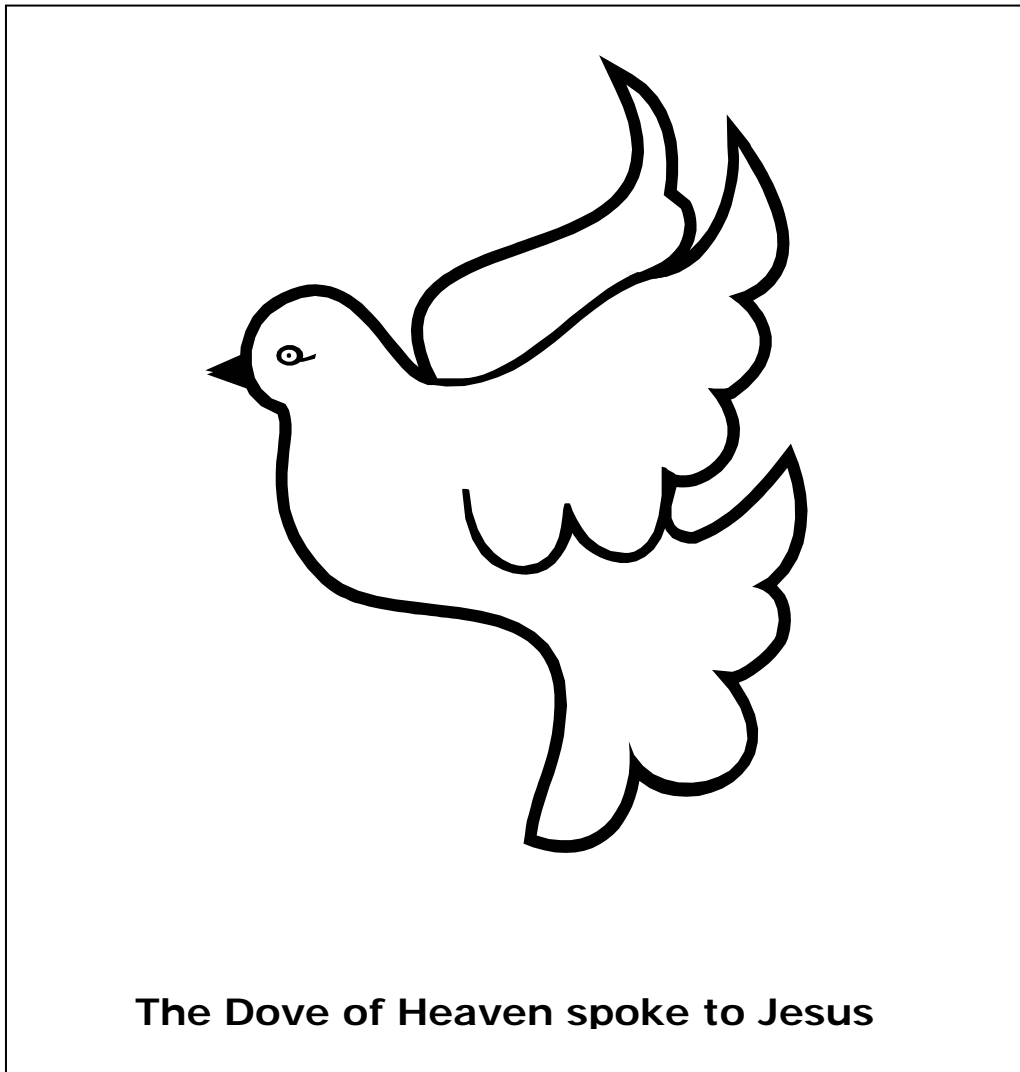
Coloring Sheet (1)



Coloring Sheet (2)



Coloring Sheet (3)



THE DOVE OF HEAVEN

based on an account by the "Bible Reading Fellowship" www.brf.org.uk



One of the famous people who appeared in the Bible was John the Baptist! He was a second cousin to Jesus and God used John to get people ready for Jesus' coming. The Bible describes John as 'a voice crying in the wilderness'. He had spent a long time living in the desert.

The message John was giving the people of his time was very simple: Get right with God. Turn away from what you know is wrong. As a sign that you want to be different and start again be 'splashed' all over with water. This is called baptism (after John the Baptist).

One day something strange was happening down by the river. Someone was shouting at the top of his voice, "Change your ways – get ready for the Rescuer." It was, of course John the Baptist trying to announce the coming of Jesus.

All sorts of people heard that something strange was going on down by the river and so they all came to see for themselves. Something very strange was going on by the river!



John demanded that the people should change their ways. He was telling them to be kind, not to be selfish, to be loving, and generous. Some of the people did change their

ways and John, to "cleanse" them of the wrong things they'd done in the past would dip them in the water of the river. John would then tell them to get ready for God's rescuer.

While these baptisms were going on something else very strange happened. John's second cousin Jesus appeared and went right up to John who was standing in the water. He asked John to baptize him. John was shocked because he recognized that Jesus was God's rescuer – the one he was talking about. So John asked that told Jesus should baptize him, instead. But Jesus said that it should be the other way around for the moment.



When John dipped Jesus in the water and Jesus came back out from under the water, there was a voice from heaven. It said, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am pleased." Then a dove came down above Jesus. This dove is a beautiful symbol of the Spirit of God coming to Jesus. Doves are symbols of peace and love.

THE ANGEL IN THE CAVE

excerpted from <http://www.angelfire.com/ca/beekeeper/Islam.html>

Mohammad spent much of his time alone in the desert in meditation. On one particular night his life would change forever. This night would come to be known as the "Night of Power".



Mohammad was meditating in a cave on Mount Hira for six months. Tired, he went to sleep for the night. That night a storm came into the desert over the cave where Mohammad was sleeping. He was sleeping when he heard a voice that said "Read!".

Mohammad answered that he could not read. He had never learned to read.

Twice more the voice commanded Mohammad to read. Mohammad again answered that he could not read and finally asked, "What can I read?"

The Voice boomed, "Read in the name of your Lord, the Creator, Who created man from a clot of blood! Read! Your Lord is most merciful, For he has taught men by the pen And revealed the mysteries to them!"



Then he was given a scroll that he opened and read. When he awoke in the morning he remembered the words that were written on the scroll even though he had never been able to read before. Mohammad was terrified. He ran out of the cave into the morning desert. He even thought about

killing himself. Then he heard a voice that seemed to come from all directions at once. It said "O Mohammad! You are Allah's messenger, and I am Gabriel!"

He looked up and saw an angel in the sky. He tried to turn away but he saw the angel wherever he looked. Finally the

angel disappeared and he ran back to Mecca to tell his wife what had happened. He was now the prophet of Islam.



After telling the whole story to his wife Khadija, she told him that he was not going mad and that all was well. They Khadijah later became one of his first followers. Mohammad would return to the desert time and time again for meetings with the angel Gabriel.

I AM WHO I AM!

based on an account by "Daily Bible Study"
<http://www.keyway.ca/htm2002/burnbush.htm>



Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There, the Spirit of God appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought to go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up?

Then, God called to Moses from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," the Bush said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, The God of Abraham,

The God of Isaac and The God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God."

The Spirit of God then said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about



their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of

that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring My people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I Who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His Name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God also said to Moses, "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews,



has met with us.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So

I will stretch out My hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go."

And this is how God made Moses into one of His Messengers and helped Him to lead His followers out of slavery and freedom. Moses talked with God through the Burning Bush.

1. What did you like about this lesson? _____

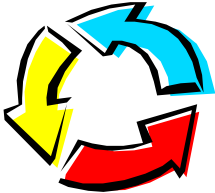
2. Which parts of the lesson did the students like? _____

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
or by using the web-based form at www.spiritual-education.org/feedback.

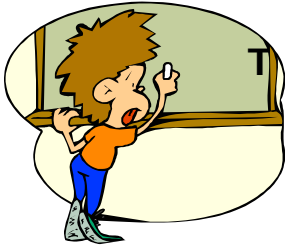


TO THE PARENTS OF: _____

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

WHAT DID WE DO?



The topic for this session was:

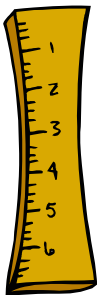
The Mission of the Prophets

The learning objective was:

: To perceive the beauty of each of the world's religions as evidence of God's Message to humanity

: To discern the twofold purpose for learning about the missions of the Messengers of God: to consort with the followers of other faiths in a spirit of love and unity; and to expand one's own understanding of one's religion by learning about other religions

HOW DID YOUR CHILD DO?



Preparation: [] **Great!** Homework was completed.
[] **Fair.** Homework only partially completed.
[] **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?



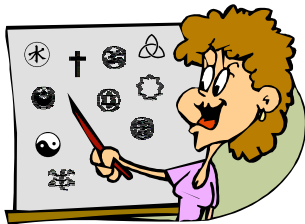
- Read the Sacred Writing (below) everyday until the next class session and try to memorize it. Read it with an adult at least once during the week.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

« King James Bible, Luke 10:27 »

- Talk with an adult or a friend during the week and tell them about the stories that you read in class. Try and see if you can find what the stories have in common.

WHAT WILL WE DO AT THE NEXT SESSION?



We will continue with topic four:

The Mission of the Prophets

We will cover the following learning objectives:

- :: To connect the understanding of the missions of the Messengers with the personal recognition that those members of other faiths in one's neighborhood and community are part of the unfolding religious history of the world
- :: To demonstrate understanding of the mission of the Prophets by seeking out and desiring association and friendship with members of other faiths