

religion as the
greatest means
for unity

Learning objectives

- : To know and understand, from the study of the scriptures of the world's religions, how the love of God and love for each other is the foundation of their teachings
- : To discern how acquiring an understanding of the essential foundation of all divinely revealed religions can engender feelings of oneness with the followers of faiths different from one's own

materials you will need

- :: Dictionary
- :: Copies of all the activity sheets for every child
- :: Copies of the Homework and Feedback sheets for each child
- :: Pencils, pens, crayons, etc.
- :: Scissors
- :: Erasers
- :: Glue

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 children understand that all religions see the Love of God and Love of Others as a foundation of their belief. To achieve this, the activity uses quotations from four

different religions and asks the children to identify the same theme (love) in all of them.

Instructions:

1. There are four quotations printed out in large letters on the activity sheets. Give each child a copy of all the activity sheets (four sheets for each child).
2. Read the quotation on the first sheet and ask the children if there are any words that they do not understand. Make sure that no one is confused about the meaning of the words. To help you with this, the meaning of some of the unusual or harder words are written on the same page.
3. Ask the children if they understand what the quotation says. You may need to help them with this, but be careful not put words in their mouths. It is best that the children come up with their own words.
4. Ask the children if they know which religion this quotation come from. The children can see the reference at the bottom of the quote. Explain that the first word refers to the religion and the words in the parenthesis refer to the book the quotation comes from.
5. Ask the children to find and color the word "LOVE" in the quotation.
6. Now ask the children to write what the quotation says, using their own words, in the box below the quotation.
7. Repeat steps 1 through 5 for the remaining three quotation/sacred writings.
8. Once everyone has finished with all their sheets then ask them to put them in order.

9. Ask the children to read out loud what they have written for each quotation. On occasion, you may have to help them with some words, or with the basic meaning of the quotation.
10. Once everyone has finished, ask them to keep the activity sheets in their binder or folder and take them home.

4. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)

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

There is nothing greater or more blessed than the Love of God! It gives healing to the sick, balm to the wounded, joy and consolation to the whole world, and through it alone can man attain Life Everlasting. The essence of all religions is the Love of God, and it is the foundation of all the sacred teachings.

« Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81 »

5. ASSIGN HOMEWORK (1 minute)

- › Read the Sacred Writing every day and try to memorize it.
- › Read the Sacred Writing to an adult (a parent, teacher, a family member, or others) at least once in the following week and explain the meaning to them.

- Show an adult the activity sheets that you used with the words Love in color.

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 ye friends of God! Be kind to all people and nations, have love for all of them, exert yourselves to purify the hearts as much as you can, and bestow abundant effort in rejoicing the souls. Be ye a sprinkling of rain to every meadow and a water of life to every tree.

« Baha'i Faith (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 37) »

Undisturbed shall our mind remain, no evil words shall escape our lips; friendly and full of sympathy shall we remain, with heart full of love, and free from any hidden malice ...

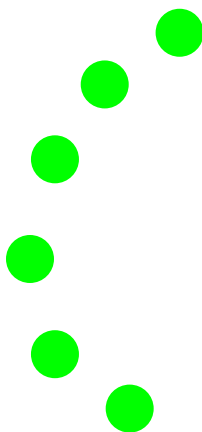
« Buddha, the Word- The Eightfold Path »

... the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

« Judaism, Deuteronomy 6:4-7 »

Activity Sheet

YE ARE THE FRUITS OF
ONE TREE, AND THE
LEAVES OF ONE BRANCH.
DEAL YE ONE WITH
ANOTHER WITH THE
UTMOST LOVE AND
HARMONY, WITH
FRIENDLINESS AND
FELLOWSHIP.



Bahá'í Faith (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah)

Baha'u'llah said that:

Activity Sheet

... LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU...
BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN
KNOW THAT YE ARE MY
DISCIPLES, IF YE HAVE
LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER.

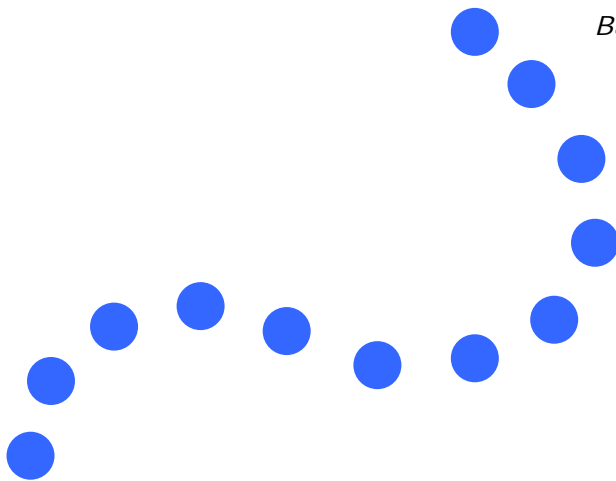
Christianity (King James Bible, John 13: 34-35)

Jesus Christ said that:

Activity Sheet

FOR HATE IS NEVER
CONQUERED BY HATE, BUT
HATE IS CONQUERED
BY LOVE.

Buddhist, (Dhammapada - Sayings of the Buddha)

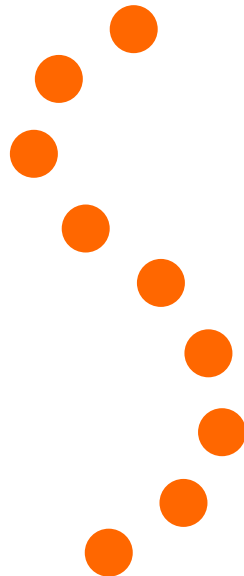


Buddha said that:

Activity Sheet

IF YE WOULD LOVE GOD
THEN FOLLOW ME, AND
GOD WILL LOVE YOU...

Islam, (The Qur'an, Sura 3)



Muhammad said that:

The MAGIC ELIXIR

Do you know what an elixir is? An elixir is sort of like a medicine, but it's different. For one thing, it tastes sweet and you know that the medicine you get from the doctor isn't usually sweet!. But an elixir isn't different from medicine just because it's sweet. An elixir is very special and it has magical powers!

There's a very special magic elixir that I'm going to tell you about. I'm sure you've heard of it, but maybe you didn't



know how special and magic it really is...

It's very special because you can't just go buy it anywhere. In fact, you can't buy it at all. You have to find it on your own. You can go

to the store and ask for it. You'll never ever find it. Even if you ask the owners of all the stores that you know, they won't have it.



You can ask every doctor you know, and every doctor your parents know, and every doctor you whole family knows, and every doctor in your whole city and your whole country and the whole world, and they won't be able to find it for you. In fact, they'll probably tell you that they've never heard of any such elixir and that you're probably up to some mischief and that you should stop playing games with them.

That's why it's a very special elixir... because you can find it only in one place that only you know about. It's a place that nobody else can get to except you! Can you think of a place that nobody can get to except you? Your house? Your room? No, it's not anything like that! It's the most special place you can imagine... That's why the elixir is very special!

But, like I said the elixir's also magical. It's magical because when you drink it, you feel very different – instantly. You'll feel like you've never felt before. You'll feel more wonderful than ever.



At first it makes you feel warm inside. It makes you feel warm like you feel when you put on a furry jacket when it's cold outside. It makes you feel warm like when you eat hot cereal on a cold winter morning. It makes you feel warm like when someone you love very very much gives you a big hug.

When you drink the elixir, you'll feel so warm inside that you can't help but smile and be happy. And you start to smile so much that it makes everybody around you feel warm. And then, when your smile makes everyone around you warm, they also start to smile.

That's why it's a magical elixir. It's magic because it will make you happier than you've even been. It will make you so happy that you won't be able to stop smiling and

everyone who sees you won't be able to stop smiling either. Isn't that magical?

What is this special magical elixir that only you can find in your own secret place that makes you and everybody around you happy?



This elixir is the love of God. One of the wisest men who ever lived, once said that the love of God can bring joy to the whole world! It's true! If you have love in your heart, you can bring joy to the whole world!

Isn't that amazing? How can that be? Let's try to think how this can be possible ...

Does it make you happy when your friends are happy? Does it make you happy when you can play with your friends? Does it make you happy when your friends play fair? Does it make you happy when your friends forgive you if you make a mistake? Do you think that if you do these things to your friends they will be happy?

Where does your friendship come from? Does it come from a store? Does it come from a doctor? No... it comes from that very special place that only you can get to. Your friendship comes from your heart! That's the same place where you can get the magic elixir. You feel the love of God in your heart.



And that's why you feel so happy when you see your friends! And that's how you can bring joy to the whole world by seeing everyone in the world as one of your friends. That's the power of the magic elixir.

That is the power of the love of God. And since everything comes from God, all the love that we have in our hearts for others comes from the love that we have in our heart for God...

Suggested questions for story:

- › What is the magic Elixir?
- › What is magic about the magic elixir?
- › Where can you get the magic elixir?
- › How does it feel when you drink the magic elixir?
- › What happens when you drink the magic elixir?
- › What kinds of problems (ailments, illnesses, sicknesses, etc.) can the magic elixir help cure?
- › Why is it that the magic elixir can only be found in our hearts?
- › What do you think the magic elixir is worth (e.g. in terms of money)?

1. What did you like about this lesson? _____

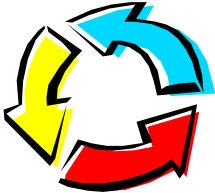
2. Which parts of the lesson did the students like? _____

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?



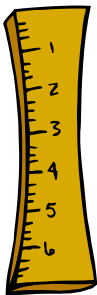
The topic for this session was:

Religion as the Greatest Means for Unity

The learning objective was:

- : To know and understand, from the study of the scriptures of the world's religions, how the love of God and love for each other is the foundation of their teachings
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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?



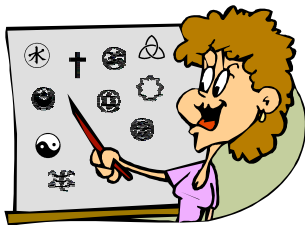
- Read the Sacred Writing below at least once every day with an adult in the following week and try to memorize it.

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« Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81 »

- Each day between now and the next class, try and do something nice for someone that makes them smile. Write down the things you did and bring them with you to share with your classmates to the next session.

WHAT WILL WE DO AT THE NEXT SESSION?



We will begin review Topic 6:

Religion as the Greatest Means for Unity

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

- :: To know that religious prejudice is a cause of hatred and war between followers of different religions and also between the sects of the same religion
- :: To gain insight, from the study of history, into the suffering caused to humanity through religious hatred and wars
- :: To discern how religious prejudice causes disunity and unhappiness in one's own community
- :: To articulate understanding of religious prejudice as a cause of hatred and war