

- Age Group: 9/10 years  
Topic: How to Explore Religious Teachings Without Prejudice
- Objectives:
1. To understand the spiritual qualities necessary of a true seeker
  2. To gain insight into the meaning and importance of detachment and of purifying one's heart in order to be a seeker after truth
  3. To discern how both love and hate can prevent us from gaining spiritual knowledge
  4. To perceive how our task of becoming a true seeker is a life long endeavor to spiritualize our being

Materials you need:

- One copy of the activity sheet for each student
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, stickers, etc.
- Dictionary

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**1. PRAYER (3 minutes)**

Choose one prayer from the attached page and have one of the children recite it.

**2. CHECK HOMEWORK FROM LAST WEEK (5-10 minutes)**

**3. ACTIVITY (15-20 minutes)**

The purpose of this activity is to help the students understand and artistically express the meaning of the passage on the activity sheet.

1. Read the passage as a group
2. Have each student circle the words they don't understand
3. Look up the words in the dictionary and discuss their meanings out loud
4. Go over each part (e.g. "*they that thirst for the wine of certitude*")
5. Ask for examples of how each part could apply to their lives (e.g. "*their ears from idle talk*" could mean not gossiping)
6. Have each student make a drawing about the passage (in whole or in part)

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

Read the attached story. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

**5. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)**

Review the following passage (paragraph 2 of the Kitáb-i-Íqán) and make sure everyone understands all the words:

*... they that tread the path of faith, they that thirst for the wine of certitude, must cleanse themselves of all that is earthly -- their ears from idle talk, their minds from vain imaginings, their hearts from worldly affections, their eyes from that which perisheth ...*

**6. ASSIGNMENT (3 minutes)**

Read aloud and write the sacred Writing once everyday. Memorize the passage for the next class.

**7. PREPARE TO GIVE CLASS REPORT TO ENTIRE SCHOOL (2-5 minutes)****8. REFLECTION & EVALUATION (2-3 minutes)**

**PRAYERS**

O God! O God! This is a broken-winged bird and his flight is very slow - assist him so that he may fly toward the apex of prosperity and salvation, wing his way with the utmost joy and happiness throughout the illimitable space, raise his melody in Thy Supreme Name in all the regions, exhilarate the ears with this call, and brighten the eyes by beholding the signs of guidance. ...

*Bahá'í ('Abdu'l-Bahá)*

In Thy name, Lord, I lay me down and in Thy name will I rise up... O God, Thou art the first and before Thee there is nothing; Thou art the last and after Thee there is nothing; Thou art the outmost and above Thee there is nothing; Thou art the inmost and below Thee there is nothing... Waken me, O God, in the hour most pleasing to Thee and use me in the words most pleasing to Thee, that Thou mayest bring me ever nearer to Thyself.

*Islam (Al-Ghazzali)*

O Thou who hast given me eyes to see the light that fills my room, give me the inward vision to behold Thee in the place. O Thou who hast made me to feel the morning wind upon my limbs, help me to feel Thy Presence as I bow in worship of Thee.

*Hinduism (Chandra Devanesen)*

ACTIVITY

*they that tread the path of faith  
they that thirst for the wine of certitude*

*must cleanse themselves*

*of all that is earthly  
their ears from idle talk  
their minds from vain imaginings  
their hearts from worldly affections  
their eyes from that which perisheth*

**STORY****BAMBA AND THE RAINSTORM**

*by Rick Johnson*

*from the Core Curriculum's Central Figures storybooks  
Baha'u'llah, Volume II*

I love to run. Drivers along the roads know me well: "Go, Bamba, Go!" they shout. "Bamba" is a nickname my friends gave me. I win races so often, and I hear people screaming, "Go, Bamba, Go!" So much that my feet seem to say it as I run.

Each time I win another race, friends chant-"Bamba! Bamba!" It's great!

One day, coming back from a run, some friends in the road yell, "Bamba, the Greatest!" As I pass Papa, who's working on an engine, he greets me, then asks, "Ahmad, why do you like to run?"

"Bamba's the greatest!" I reply. "And when I win, I want to win again!"

Papa keeps working. "Ahmad," he says at last, "will you run when no one cheers anymore? The day will come when you won't win every race, and someday, I may be able to outrun you!" Papa had a twinkle in his eye, but I could tell he was serious.

"When Baha'u'llah asks you some day why you ran all that way, what will you tell Him? Will you tell Him it's because you're 'Bamba, the Greatest'?" I don't respond, but I think about what he is saying.

Some days later, I dream I am running across a dry treeless desert. It's hot and dry. The sound of my feet hitting the dry ground says, 'Bamba! Bamba!' I desperately want to stop, but feel like I must keep running, or the cheers will stop. Just as I feel like I am going to die from the heat, it begins to rain.

It rains as if the sky has broken open... I keep running, and it rains harder and harder.

## STORY

Lightning streaks in huge bolts. The harder it rains, the faster I want to run.

As I run, the pouring rain drowns out "Bamba!" Each bolt of lightning dazzles my eyes with such power that as I run, my feet splashing in the water seem to sound out-"O God! My God! O Blessed Beauty<sup>1</sup>!" – over and over. I keep running, not wanting anything to ruin this precious run.

Next morning, when I go running, it's just as in the dream - those beautiful rhythmic phrases sounding in my steps! I run faster and further than ever before. It's astonishing how wonderful I feel - never have I loved running more!

"Papa," I say when I come back, "I want to tell you something wonderful!" I tell him about my dream and the run I've just completed. "I don't know what to think about it" I continue, "but somehow it feels like an answer to your question ... what do you think?" I grin at him.

"Ahmad," he smiles, "did you ever hear of Baha'u'llah's 'shrilling Pen'?"

"No," I respond, "but you think it has something to do with my dream?"

"Yes, Ahmad... Baha'u'llah says that when we're far from Him, it feels like our souls are burning with thirst. But His Words are like life-giving waters pouring down on us. The powerful lightning flashes in your dream make me think of Baha'u'llah saying that His Pen speaks with a 'shrilling voice'... the shrilling Pen is like flashes of lightning in a dark night."

"It's amazing, Papa. the more it rained, the harder I wanted to run. It was like I was getting energized by the storm! "

"Ahmad, it's good that you like to run. Just remember why you run," Papa smiles.

"I realize, Papa, that I was focused on what other people were saying about me - 'Bamba, the Greatest!' - rather than what I can say to them. I think I have something to say."

"Give them the rain, Ahmad," Papa says. "The driving rainstorm in your dream reminds me of the way Baha'u'llah revealed His Writings. Day and night He would reveal verses so rapidly that it was like raindrops coming down too fast and numerous to count! That's what I think the rainstorm means in your dream. His secretaries and helpers were unable to keep up - sometimes Baha'u'llah revealed one thousand verses an hour!"

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<sup>1</sup> One of the other titles of Baha'u'llah

**STORY**

"The amazing thing to me, Papa, was the energy I felt running in that rainstorm! It was a powerful feeling! I'd like to run like that all the time!" My legs are almost vibrating with energy-and I know in my heart why I really want to run. "Papa, I want to run for the Blessed Beauty!"

"Ahmad. each of the hundreds of volumes Baha'u'llah revealed is like that rainstorm in your dream. He revealed as much as all the previous Prophets put together! Give that rain to the people who watch you run."

"Papa, I'll give them what I can. I know the sound that I'll hear now, as I run, will be that beautiful dream 'O God! My God! O Blessed Beauty! And that's why I'll run."

## STORY

### Discussion Questions for the Story:

- › Ask the children if there were any parts of the story or any words in it that they didn't understand.
- › Ask each child what he or she is really good at? What makes you good at it?  
Teacher: guide the children to saying that they are good at something because they work hard at it.
- › How are you, in this way, like Bamba? What are the similarities between you and Bamba?
- › At the beginning of the story Bamba ran because he liked to be called "The Greatest". Is that why you continue to do what you're good at? Do you do it to gain popularity and recognition among your friends?
- › At the end of the story Bamba realized that his belief in Bahá'u'lláh is what motivated him and helped him to succeed. Is this a better reason to always strive to do better?

**REFLECTION & EVALUATION**

*The Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education  
Teacher Training Participant's Handbook, pg. 56*

1. What did you enjoy about teaching this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

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

2. How did each part of the lesson match the interest of the learners? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did the learners actively participate? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did the learners ask questions? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did the learners answer questions with enthusiasm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did the learners express interest in learning more? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Did the different parts of the lesson match the capabilities of the learners? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did all learners understand your instruction? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did all the learners complete their assignments? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Did the learners remain focused? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Was the level of the lesson appropriate, difficult, or complex? \_\_\_\_\_

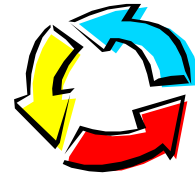
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What would you change about this lesson if you were to teach it again? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FEEDBACK & HOMEWORK



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

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

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



WHAT DID WE DO?

This week's topic was:

***How to Explore Religious Teachings Without Prejudice***

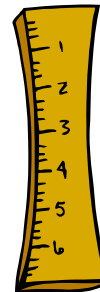
The week's learning objectives were:

- *To understand the spiritual qualities necessary of a true seeker*
- *To gain insight into the meaning and importance of detachment and of purifying one's heart in order to be a seeker after truth*
- *To discern how both love and hate can prevent us from gaining spiritual knowledge*
- *To perceive how our task of becoming a true seeker is a life long endeavor to spiritualize our being*



HOW DID YOUR CHILD DO?

- Preparation:    \_\_\_ ***Great!*** Homework completed  
                       \_\_\_ ***Fair.*** Homework partially completed  
                       \_\_\_ ***Poor.*** Homework not attempted
- Participation:   \_\_\_ ***Great!*** Active participation  
                       \_\_\_ ***Fair.*** Passive participation (only active when pressed)  
                       \_\_\_ ***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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## FEEDBACK & HOMEWORK



### WHAT'S THE HOMEWORK FOR THE NEXT LESSON?

- Read aloud and write the sacred Writing once everyday. Memorize the passage for the next class.

*... they that tread the path of faith, they that thirst for the wine of certitude, must cleanse themselves of all that is earthly -- their ears from idle talk, their minds from vain imaginings, their hearts from worldly affections, their eyes from that which perisheth ...*

*Baha'i Faith (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, Paragraph 2)*



### WHAT WILL WE COVER NEXT SESSION?

Next session we will continue on the topic:

***How to Explore Religious Teachings Without Prejudice***

We will cover the following learning objectives:

- *To discern the outcomes promised by the Manifestations of God to those who earnestly seek after truth*
- *To demonstrate commitment to a life as a true seeker by setting personal goals and developing the habit of regular self evaluation and the identification of next steps*

