

Age Group: 9/10 years
Topic: The Relationship Between God and Man

Objectives:

1. To know that the purpose of the Manifestation of God is to educate mankind and to develop and advance civilization
2. To know the names of the Manifestations in the Prophetic Cycle
3. To understand the relationship between God, the Divine Manifestations, and the World of Man

Materials you need:

- Dictionary
- Pens or Pencils
- Paper or note cards
- Copies of the activity sheet (map) each student

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)**

- Ask the children to write down the names of as many of the world's religions as they know on a piece of paper or note card
- Ask them to put the cards in the order in which each religion appeared.
- Ask the children to write the names of the Founders of each of the religions on the piece of paper or note card
- Ask them to show where each of the religions on their cards originated by showing them on their maps
- Go over a complete list with them and have them fill in the Manifestations they missed by making cards for them, putting down the correct approximate date of Their appearance, and identifying where They came from on their maps.

4. STORY (10-15 minutes)

Read the attached story. Ask the questions that follow each story.

5. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)

Review the following passage and make sure everyone understands all the words:

... God's purpose in sending His Prophets unto men is twofold. The first is to liberate the children of men from the darkness of ignorance, and guide them to the light of true understanding. The second is to ensure the peace and tranquility of mankind, and provide all the means by which they can be established

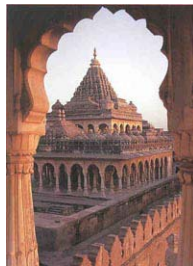
Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 79

6. ASSIGNMENT (3 minutes)*Part I*

Read aloud and write the sacred Writing once everyday. Ask four people the following question: “Why do you think God sends us Prophets?” Write down their answers and bring it to class for discussion.

Part II

Give the students a complete list of the world's major religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Islam, Bábí, Bahá'í Faith). Ask them to find the names of the Founders of each one. Also ask them to complete their maps.

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

PRAYERS

O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star.
Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

Bahá'í Faith ('Abdu'l-Bahá)

Grandfather, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way. We know that we are the ones who are divided. And we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the Sacred Way.

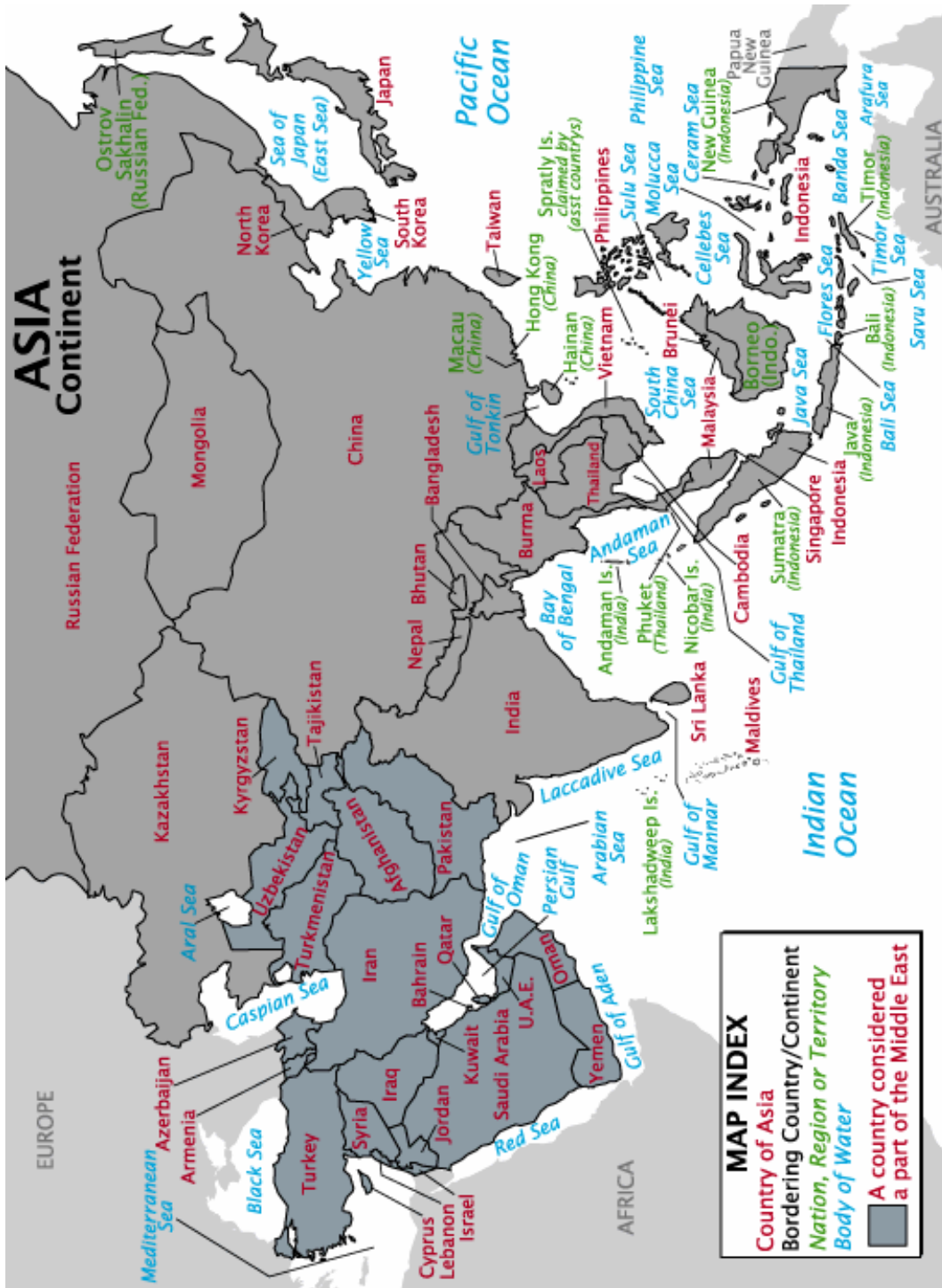
Grandfather, Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor that we may heal the earth and heal each other.

Native American (Ojibway) Tradition

O thou prophet! verily, we have sent thee as a witness and a herald of glad tidings and a warner, and to call (men) unto God by His permission, and as an illuminating lamp.

Islam

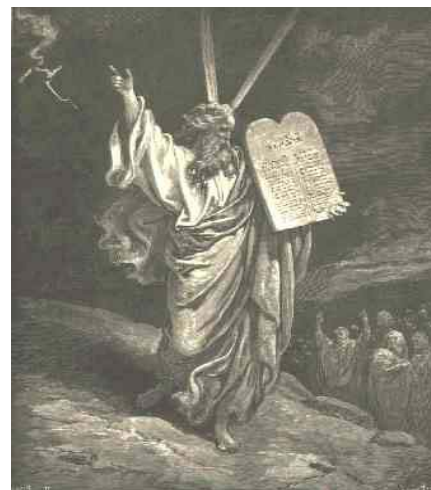
ACTIVITY



STORY

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL*as told by 'Abdu'l-Bahá¹*

The children of Israel were in bondage and captivity in the land of Egypt four hundred years. They were in an extreme state of degradation and slavery under the tyranny and oppression of the Egyptians. While they were in the condition of abject poverty, in the lowest degree of abasement, ignorance and servility, Moses suddenly appeared among them. Although He was but a shepherd, such majesty, grandeur and efficiency became manifest in Him through the power of religion that His influence continues to this day. His Prophethood was established throughout the land, and the law of His Word became the foundation of the laws of the nations. This unique Personage, single and alone, rescued the children of Israel from bondage through the power of religious training and discipline. He led them to the Holy Land and founded there a great civilization which has become permanent and renowned and under which these people



¹ *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, pp. 362-363

STORY

attained the highest degree of honor and glory. He freed them from bondage and captivity. He imbued them with qualities of progressiveness and capability. They proved to be a civilizing people with instincts toward education and scholastic attainment. Their philosophy became renowned; their industries were celebrated throughout the nations. In all lines of advancement which characterize a progressive people they achieved distinction. ...

STORY

Discussion Questions for the Story:

- In what ways was God able to educate the Israelites? Was God educating them or was Moses?
- Can you say the same about the influence of the other great Manifestations? Can you think of any examples?
- Does God educate us directly or through His Messengers? What then, is the relationship between God, the Manifestations, and society?
- What kinds of things do you think the purpose of God is for this age? What are some of the problems of today's society that God could help to educate us about?

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? _____

