

## LESSON OVERVIEW

- Age Group: 9/10 years  
Topic: The Relationship Between God and Man
- Objectives: 1. To discern how each manifestation is a spiritual educator of all mankind  
2. To perceive the need for Divine Guidance in One's own life
- Materials you need:
- Dictionary
  - A clear glass or pitcher
  - Some water
  - Yellow and blue dye (food coloring)
  - A stick or a pencil
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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 demonstrate how the teachings of the Manifestations continually and progressively educate mankind.

1. Put some water into a clear pitcher or cup
  2. Ask the children to describe the water (they will have a difficult time).
    - *Tell them that the clear water is like mankind without any of God's teachings*
  3. Gently put one or two drops of yellow dye into one edge of the pitcher.
    - *Explain that the dye is like the teachings of God that educate mankind.*
    - *Point out that the teachings can only reach a limited part of humanity.*
  4. Very gently disturb the water with a pencil.
    - *Point out that this is like the Manifestations Who help "spread" God's teachings.*
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## LESSON OVERVIEW

5. Put one or two drops of blue dye into another edge of the pitcher.
  - *Point out that some areas turn yellow, while others are blue, and some are still clear.*
6. Point out the areas where the colors have mixed together.
  - *Explain that God's teachings must be understood together.*
7. Explain to them, again, how the teachings will not spread without the Manifestation's help.
  - *Point out to them how, by gently stirring the water, the entire contents become green, as the two colors mix.*

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

Read the attached story. Discuss the questions that follow each of the two sections of the story.

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

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

*Divine education is that of the Kingdom of God: it consists in acquiring divine perfections, and this is true education; for in this state man becomes the focus of divine blessings, the manifestation of the words, "Let Us make man in Our image, and after Our likeness."<sup>1</sup> This is the goal of the world of humanity.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions, p. 8*  
<sup>1</sup>*Genesis: 1:26*

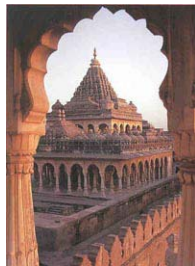
**6. ASSIGNMENT (3 minutes)**

Imagine that 'Abdu'l-Bahá has asked you to help him explain Divine Perfections to other children. Make a list of some of the Divine Perfections. Write or draw examples of how you could go about getting and showing them. Do you think that 'Abd'ul-Bahá would go about this in the same way?

LESSON OVERVIEW

**7. PREPARE TO GIVE CLASS REPORT TO ENTIRE SCHOOL (2-5 minutes)**

**8. REFLECTION AND EVALUATION (2-3 minutes)**



## PRAYERS

O Almighty! Look upon us with the glance of mercifulness. Grant us heavenly confirmation. Bestow upon us the breath of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be assisted in Thy service and, like unto brilliant stars, shine in these regions with the light of Thy guidance. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Wise and the Seeing

*Bahá'í Faith (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 65)*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

*Christianity (John 8:12)*

God give us wisdom as a father gives to his sons. Guide us, O Much-invoked, in this path. May we live in light.

*Hinduism (Rig Veda 7.32.26)*

Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; ... 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. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

*Judaism (Isaiah, 49:8-11)*

Then do I proclaim what the Most Beneficent spoke to me, the Words to be heeded which are best for mortals: those who shall give hearing and reverence shall attain unto Perfection and Immortality, by the deeds of good spirit of the Lord of Wisdom!

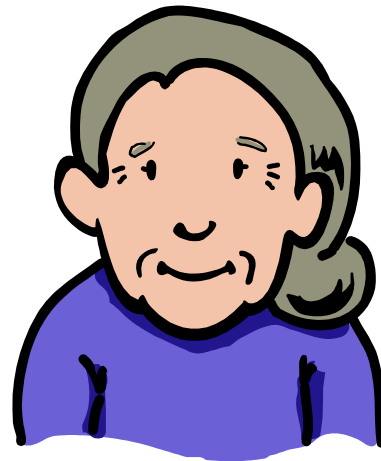
*Zoroastrian (Avesta, Yasna 45-5)*

## STORY

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE**

*as told by 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
Star of the West, Volume 7, pages 78-79*

I would like to tell you another story. It is said that one day Christ arrived in a village where the government made a law that the inhabitants must not allow strangers to enter their homes. This was because in those regions robbery was increasing. His Holiness went to the house of an old woman. When she saw his beauty and majesty she was ashamed to refuse to receive him, and did not want to reject him. So she admitted him with the utmost respect.



Then when she looked at him and realized by his manners the greatness of his Holiness, she stepped forward and kissed his hand. And she said to him: “I have only one son and nobody else. He was wise, perfect, and we were living very happily. Now, for some time he has been worried; he is mourning; he fills our home with sorrow and sadness; he is working daily, but at night he comes home worried; he does not sleep, and whenever I ask him what the matter is, he does not answer.”

His Holiness said to her: “Send him to me.”

## STORY

Her son came in the evening. The mother said: “O my son, this is a great personage, and, if you have any trouble, tell him about it.” Then the son went and sat down in the holy presence.

Jesus said: “Tell me what art thou suffering from.”

The son: “I am not suffering.”

Jesus: “Do not speak a lie. Thou hast an incurable malady. Tell it to me. I am trustworthy. I do not tell the secrets of anyone. I keep them. Have confidence. Tell it to me. I will not reveal your secret.”

The son: “My sickness has no remedy.”

Jesus: “Tell me about it; I will remedy it.”

The son: “Because it has no remedy it cannot be cured.”

Jesus: “Tell it to me. I have the remedy. “

The son: “For any kind of disease?”

Jesus: “Yes, for any kind of disease. “

The son: “I am ashamed to tell you. I am mortified to tell you.”

Jesus: “Thou art my son.”

The son, thinking for a moment, said: “I cannot mention it with my tongue. It seems to me that I will be impolite if I do.”

Jesus: “I will forgive thee.”

## STORY

*Stop reading the story here and ask the following questions:*

- › Why does Jesus want to help this man?
- › Does the man want to be helped? Why or why not?
- › What do you think the man's problem could be?
- › How do you think Jesus is going to solve the man's problem?
- › Think about a problem that you have. Would you ask for Jesus' help with this problem? What do you think he would do?

*Now continue with the story...*

## STORY

The son: “I am in love with the daughter of the king who is in a city nearby. My work is the selling of thorns. What can I say more than this?”

Jesus: “Have confidence. God willing I shall send thee what thou wishest.” Briefly, his Holiness arranged it for him so that he might marry the young woman. On the night of the wedding, just as he entered her room, which was full of ornaments and splendor, something came to his mind and he said to himself, this person (Jesus) has brought to consummation so great a matter for me. Why did he not do it for himself inasmuch as he performed such good fortune for me, he could have performed the same thing for himself. Yet with such ideal powers he wanders in the desert; he eats grass; he sleeps on the earth; he sits in the dark; he is in the utmost poverty. When this thought came to him he said to the young woman: “Remain thou here. I have a little business to attend to; I go and will return.” He went out into the night in pursuit of his Holiness. Finally he found him and said: “O, my Lord. Thou hast not treated me fairly.”

Jesus: “Why?”

Son: “Thou hast obtained for me that which thou desired not for thyself. Undoubtedly thou hast something which is greater than this. And if this were the acceptable thing thou wouldst have chosen it for thyself. It is evident thou hast something which is greater than this. Therefore thou art not just. Thou hast given me that which thou desirest not for thyself.”

Jesus: “Thou art right. Hast thou the capacity and the preparation for it?”

Son: “I hope so.”

Jesus: “Canst thou leave everything?”

STORY

Son: "Yes."

Jesus: "It is the divine guidance which is greater than all things. If thou art able, come."

He followed him. Then his Holiness went to his disciples and said: "I have found, in this village, a hidden treasure. Now I have saved it. This is my treasure. I have taken him out of the earth and I give him to you."

## STORY

### **Discussion Questions for the Story:**

- › Did Jesus solve the man's problem?
- › Was the man happy with the solution that Jesus gave him? Why or why not?
- › Why did the man go back to Jesus? Was he looking for something else?
- › Did Jesus help him again? How?
- › What do you think eventually happened to the man?

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION

1. What did you like about this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which parts of the lesson did the students like? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Were the students able to answer the questions asked throughout the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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