

LESSON OVERVIEW

Age Group: 9/10 years

Topic: The Relationship Between God and Man

- Objectives:
1. To gain insight into the beauty of the plan of God for the advancement of the spiritual and material progress of humanity through deeper understanding of the Cycles of Prophecy and Fulfillment
 2. To derive a deep sense of hope and security from God's Promise that He will always guide mankind
 3. To demonstrate love and reverence towards each of God's Manifestations
 4. To evince joy and gratitude for God's continual guidance of humanity.

Materials you need:

- Dictionary
- Pens, pencils, etc.
- Journals (each child should have their own)

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 & STORY (15-20 minutes)**

- *Have each student or group read one of the attached stories.*
- *Ask each student or group to share the story with the others.*
- *Ask the students to find similarities between the stories.*
- *Ask the entire class to discuss the qualities that the Manifestations God showed in each of the stories.*
- *Encourage the students to ask each other questions about the stories.*
- *Ask the students if they know of any other stories like these.*

LESSON OVERVIEW

5. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)

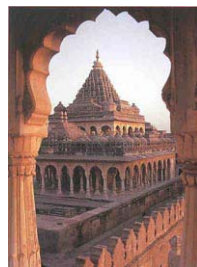
Review the following prayer and make sure everyone understands all the words:

*Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths. ... **This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future.***

Baha'u'llah (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 136)

6. ASSIGNMENT (3 minutes)

- Memorize the bold section of the Sacred Writing.
- Write an entry in your journal about what you think it means.

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

Let me not wonder in vain. Let me not labor in vain. Let me not mingle with the prejudiced. Let me not leave the company of the virtuous. Let me not fly into anger. Let me not stay off the path of goodness. Let me not seek for this day or for the morrow. Give me such a wealth, O Almighty!

Hinduism (Pattinatar)

“Praise be to God who hath guided us hither! We had not been guided had not God guided us! Of a surety the Apostles of our Lord came to us with truth.”

Islam (Qur'án, 7:41, tr. Rodwell)

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

Judaism (Old Testament, Exodus 15:13)

ACTIVITY & STORY

STORY (1)



One day, near a village in the mountains, Bahá'u'lláh saw a young boy weeping bitterly. Baha'u'llah, always compassionate for anyone in sorrow, especially if it were a child, said, "Little man, why art thou weeping?"

The boy looked up at the one who spoke, and saw a dervish! "Oh Sir!" and he fell to weeping afresh. "The schoolmaster has punished me for writing so badly. I cannot write, and now I have no copy! I dare not go back to school"

"Weep no longer. I will set a copy for thee, and show thee how to imitate it. And now thou canst take this; show it to thy schoolmaster."

When the schoolmaster saw the writing which the boy had brought, he was astonished, for he recognized it as of the royal penmanship, this amazing script.

"Who gave this to thee?" said the master.

"He wrote it for me, the dervish on the mountain."

"He is no dervish the writer of this, but a royal personage," said the schoolmaster.

This story being noised abroad, caused certain of the people to set out to find this one, of whom many wonderful things were said.

The Chosen Highway

ACTIVITY & STORY

STORY (2)



Muhammad was lying upon the desert sands, one time, with his sword lying at his side. Along came one of his enemies. He said, "Ho, ho, look, Muhammad the prophet, asleep and his sword by his side. I will kill him. The man came up and took the sword and raised it over

Muhammad and said, 'Prophet Muhammad, who is going to protect you now?' and he raised the sword to kill him. Muhammad awakened from his nap with serenity and smiled at the man holding the sword over his head and said, 'God will protect me.' The man looked down; he had the sword and Muhammad had nothing but God.

He looked at that face; he looked into those eyes and he saw the light in that face. He felt the power shining from that body; he dropped the sword in consternation. Muhammad serenely arose and took the sword and went over to his enemy and lifted the sword and said, 'Now, who is going to protect you?' 'Alas, nobody,' said his enemy. Then Muhammad handed him the sword and said, 'Then from Muhammad, the prophet, learn to be merciful,' and he gave the enemy his sword. The enemy turned around and said, 'Muhammad, I will be one of your disciples because anybody that had the courage to trust God like that must have more behind him than human power.'

Star of the West, Vol. 17, p. 147

ACTIVITY & STORY

STORY (3)



Jesus and his disciples went to Jericho. And as they were leaving, they were followed by a large crowd. A blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting beside the road. When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth, he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Many people told the man to stop, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him over!"

They called out to the blind man and said, "Don't be afraid! Come on! He is calling for you." The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus.

Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Master, I want to see!"

Jesus told him, "You may go. Your eyes are healed because of your faith."

Right away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus.

New Testament, Gospel of St. Mark, 10:32-52

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION

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 level of the lesson match the students' capabilities? _____

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

