

LESSON 11

A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

You begin the lesson in the usual way and then help the children to continue memorizing the prayer introduced in the last lesson.

B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

Forgive Each Other

INTERLUDE:

A E7
Forgive each other and be kind
A E7
This thought we'll always keep in mind

CHORUS:

D E7 A
Forgive each other, be merciful
D E7 A
And even to your enemies be kind
D E7 A D
We'll try to find the good in each and everyone
E7 A
With forgiveness we'll feel wonderful inside

A
Forgiving eyes will cover faults
A E7
Overlook that which is bad
E7
When we're forgiven by someone
E7 A
We, too, will feel so glad
A A
"Let your adorning be forgiveness"
A7 D
States Bahá'u'lláh

(continued on next page)

D A
And mercy then will cheer “the hearts
E7 A
Of the well-favored of God”

CHORUS

It’s a human thing to make mistakes
Kids make ’em, adults too
We gotta make an effort to
Forgive what others do
“Let your adorning be forgiveness”
States Bahá’u’lláh
And mercy then will cheer “the hearts
Of the well-favored of God”
And mercy then will cheer “the hearts
Of the well-favored of God”

INTERLUDE

CHORUS *(with last line repeated)*

INTERLUDE

C. Memorizing quotations

It is suggested that you present today’s quotation to the children by sharing with them the following ideas:

Forgiveness is one of the attributes of God. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá always told the friends to be forgiving with one another. We should see with eyes of forgiveness and not look at one another’s faults. If we follow ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s example, we will show forgiveness not only to our friends when they make mistakes but also to those who are unkind to us. To help us in our efforts to be forgiving, let us memorize the following quotation:

“ . . . let your adorning be forgiveness and mercy and that which cheereth the hearts of the well-favored of God.”¹⁸

Cheer

1. Ursula was not feeling well. Her friend Elsie brought her flowers and sat with her for a long time, telling stories and talking. Elsie’s visit made Ursula feel much better. Ursula was cheered by her visit.

2. Mrs. Sanchez received a long letter from her husband who had gone away to a nearby town for work. The letter brought the good news that he would soon be coming home. The news greatly cheered her.

Favored

1. The teacher loved all of her students and paid special attention to each one. She favored them all.
2. James liked all of the subjects at school, but he did best in science. Science was the subject he favored most.

D. Story

During the days the Master lived in 'Akká, there was a governor who, time and time again, tried to harm the Bahá'ís. On one occasion he came up with a plan to destroy their means of livelihood: he ordered his guards to close down the shops of all the Bahá'ís and to bring him the keys. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá learned of the governor's plan and advised the friends not to open their shops the next day. He told them to wait and see what God would ordain.

Imagine the governor's surprise when he heard that his guards could not bring him the keys because the shops had not been opened. But before he could think of what to do next, something unexpected happened. A telegram arrived from his superiors dismissing him from his post as governor of the city. And so the shops of the Bahá'ís were saved.

The ex-governor was ordered to leave 'Akká and go to another city called Damascus. He did not know what to do. He had to leave quickly and alone. What would happen to his family? Who would help someone who had lost the favor of the government? The Master heard the news and went to see him. He showered the unhappy man with great kindness, as if he had never been an enemy of the Faith. Not once did He mention his past wrongdoings. Instead, He offered to help him in whatever way possible. The ex-governor was worried about leaving his wife and children behind. 'Abdu'l-Bahá assured him that He would take care of the matter. Later He arranged for a comfortable trip, provided someone reliable to accompany the wife and children, paid for all the expenses, and sent the family on its way to Damascus.

When the ex-governor was reunited with his family, he rejoiced. With a heart filled with gratitude, he turned to the man who had traveled with his family and asked him about the cost of the journey. The man explained that it had been paid by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Then the ex-governor offered him a present for his kindness and diligence during the journey. But he would not accept the present; he said that he was merely obeying 'Abdu'l-Bahá and did not wish to receive anything for his services. The ex-governor then asked the man to stay the night as a guest in his home. He said, however, that he was eager to follow the instructions of the Master, Who had told him to return to 'Akká without delay. The ex-governor asked the man to wait at least long enough for him to write a letter to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This he accepted and upon his return to 'Akká delivered the letter to the Master. The letter read: "O 'Abdu'l-Bahá, I pray you pardon me. I did not understand. I did not know you. I have wrought you great evil. You have rewarded me with great good."

E. Game: “People to People”

Tell the children to walk around randomly, while clapping and saying, “people to people”. When you call out “back to back”, they should stop, and each back up to a partner. On your signal, they start to move around again, clapping and saying “people to people”. When you call out “face to face”, they stop and each face a partner, bowing heads. The game continues in this way, with these two commands being repeated several times. Other commands can include “knee to knee” and “elbow to elbow”.

F. Coloring: Drawing 11

G. Closing prayers

**“... let your adorning be forgiveness and mercy and that which cheereth the hearts
of the well-favored of God.”**