

## LESSON 19

### A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

Begin the class with prayers and then help the children to learn a few more phrases from the prayer introduced in the last lesson.

### B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

#### Busy Hands

CHORUS:

C F  
Busy hands make happy children  
C G  
Happy children can be found  
C F  
Making other people happy  
C F G C  
Spreading peace and love around

C F  
Working hands to build a new world  
C G  
Everybody has a role  
C F  
All of us can be so thankful  
C F G C  
For we soon shall reach our goal

CHORUS

God will help us build a new world  
Where we all help someone else  
All of us will love our neighbor  
More than we love our own selves

CHORUS (*with last line repeated*)

### C. Memorizing quotations

In this lesson, the children will memorize a quotation about trustworthiness, which you can introduce in the following way:

One of the greatest qualities in the sight of God is trustworthiness. A trustworthy person is truthful and honest and can be counted on to keep his or her word. We should not say one thing but do another. Our actions should always reflect our words. When we are trustworthy, others can be sure that we will do our best to fulfill our responsibilities and carry out our duties. In this way, people are able to work together in harmony, knowing that everyone will do his or her part. To help us remember the importance of trustworthiness, let us memorize the following quotation:

**“Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people.”<sup>28</sup>**

#### *Trustworthiness*

1. Athos promised his mother that he would help her to prepare dinner. When his friends came to his house to invite him to play outside, Athos remembered the promise he had made to his mother and told his friends he would play with them another time. Athos showed the quality of trustworthiness.
2. The coach told Sunita that he had accepted her on the volleyball team, but he asked her not to mention it to anyone until he made the official announcement. Though Sunita was very excited, she did not tell even her closest friends. Sunita acted with trustworthiness.

#### *Tranquility*

1. Whenever Emilio has to make an important decision, he tries to find a quiet place to think and meditate. He goes to a nearby garden, and in its tranquility, he is able to clear his mind and heart.
2. Once the great storm had passed, everything became unusually quiet and still. Peace and tranquility followed the storm.

#### *Security*

1. When a baby animal is frightened, it will often run back to its mother for safety. The mother provides security to her offspring.
2. When Tabitha got lost in the mountains, the guides from the village below came to look for her. She felt a sense of security when they found her, knowing that they would lead her back to safety.

### **D. Story**

*Years ago, in the early days of the Faith, there were only a small number of Bahá'ís, spread out over several countries. They faced many challenges, and often wrote to Bahá'u'lláh, and later to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in the Holy Land, conveying news of the progress of the Faith and posing various questions. Their letters travelled over long distances before reaching their destination, and Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá would answer each one with great love and care. The beautiful verses that flowed from Their pens were as precious gifts to the believers that received them. Their words of*

*encouragement strengthened those early Bahá'ís and cheered their hearts. And so it was crucial that this stream of communication not be disrupted.*

*During one of the darkest periods in the history of the Faith, its enemies rose up against 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Jealous of His growing influence, they hoped to bring about His exile, or worse still, His execution. Spies were planted all around His house, and He was kept under constant watch. How pleased His enemies would have been if they could have stopped the flow of correspondence and broken the link between 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the devoted friends; how much more if they could have stolen some document that could be used to mislead the authorities! 'Abdu'l-Bahá, however, was not deterred. He could often be seen late into the night, writing by the light of His lamp; for He had ensured a secure means for the receipt and dispatch of mail, a task that could only be given to the most trusted of believers.*

*There lived in the area a man named Siyyid Muḥammad-Taqi Manṣḥadí. He had come from Persia when he was fairly young and had established a small business in Haifa. There, he welcomed to his home the many friends who visited the Holy Land. He helped them in making travel arrangements and became known for his unwavering reliability. So dependable was he that his home had become a center through which passed nearly all of the mail for the Bahá'ís in the Holy Land and the responses sent abroad. Everyone knew that he could be trusted to make sure each piece of mail was delivered promptly and securely.*

*Of course the enemies of the Faith knew this as well, and so Siyyid Muḥammad-Taqi Manṣḥadí was in great danger. 'Abdu'l-Bahá could see that they would use every means possible to harm the Cause. They would no doubt try to intercept the mail, and Muḥammad-Taqi would soon become the target of their schemings. So what do you think 'Abdu'l-Bahá did? Such confidence did He have in Muḥammad-Taqi that He did not want to let go of his valuable services. So He sent him to safety in nearby Port Said in Egypt and arranged for others, that His enemies would not suspect, to carry mail back and forth to him. And there, in Port Said, Muḥammad-Taqi continued to dispatch and receive mail for Bahá'ís in distant lands as he had always done, never faltering in the trust 'Abdu'l-Bahá had placed in him. So it was that even in the darkest of times, the light of guidance that shone forth from the Holy Land continued to reach the friends in the most remote places.*

#### **E. Game: “The Blind Man”**

Divide the students into pairs. Blindfold one child in each pair and have the other child lead him or her around, making sure that he or she does not stumble along the way. For an added challenge, the blindfolded child can be guided around obstacles, such as tree trunks, ditches, rocks, and tires. To increase your student's capacity for giving and receiving instructions, the blindfolded child can be guided through verbal instructions alone. In the case, the guide should follow close by to catch the child in case he or she stumbles.

As an alternative to the above game, the students can all be blindfold and form a train, led by you or one of the children.

**F. Coloring: Drawing 19**

**G. Closing prayers**

**“Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto  
the tranquility and security of the people.”**