

LESSON 22

A. Reciting and memorizing prayers

By the next class, the students should finish memorizing the prayer that they have been learning over the past few lessons. You will want to make sure, then, that they are advancing well in their efforts. You will first, of course, begin the class with prayers.

B. Songs (including a review of previous songs)

I Want to Be Happy

Am
There is something you must know
E7
In this Faith we have to show
Dm
We are men of deeds, not of words
Am E7 Am
Our very life should show our Faith to friend and foe

CHORUS:

Am
I want to be happy
Am
I want to be strong
Am
To be His servant
Am
My whole life long
Dm Am
So, I must obey the laws of God
E7 Am
Yes, I must obey the laws of God

There is something you must know
In this world of pomp and show
People are tired of empty speech
They want to see you practice what you teach

CHORUS

C. Memorizing quotations

The children will learn the following quotation by heart today. Below are some ideas to help you explain the quotation to your students:

A faithful soul never forgets its love for God. It is out of our faithfulness to Him that we always put forth effort to follow His teachings and obey His laws, even when it becomes difficult. So it is that we work hard to serve others and to do worthy deeds, with no other thought than attaining His good pleasure. For the faithful soul there is no greater joy than striving to please God. Let us memorize this quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

“Happy is the faithful one who is attired with the vesture of high endeavor and hath arisen to serve this Cause.”³¹

Attired

1. Mae has a good dress that she only wears on special occasions. She put on her dress for the community gathering. Mae was attired in her special dress.
2. For the ceremony, the King put on his velvet robe. He was attired in his finest clothes.

Vesture

1. In some places, judges must wear a white wig and a long black robe in a court of law. They must wear the full vesture of judges.
2. Before leaving the palace, the prince puts on his sash and crown. He puts on his royal vesture.

Endeavor

1. The students decided to plant trees around the school. The community supported their endeavor by providing seedlings and soil.
2. Pierre and Arlene decided that they would climb to the top of the mountain. They knew that this would be a difficult endeavor, but they were determined to try.

D. Story

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was a young boy, His family, which was part of the nobility of Persia, had a servant by the name of Iṣfandíyár. He was very loyal to the family, and they trusted him a great deal. When the authorities, out of prejudice and ignorance, had ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s beloved Father, Bahá’u’lláh, arrested, all of the family’s possessions were taken away. They were left with nothing, and anyone close to Bahá’u’lláh was in danger. Still, Iṣfandíyár continued to look after the family. Knowing that many officers would be looking for Iṣfandíyár, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s mother urged him to leave the city. But Iṣfandíyár would not leave.

“I cannot go,” he said, explaining that he owed money to many shopkeepers for items he had purchased. “How can I go?” he asked. “They will say that the servant of Bahá’u’lláh has bought and consumed the goods and supplies of the storekeepers without paying for them. Unless I pay all these obligations, I cannot go. But if they take me, never mind. If they punish me, there is no harm in that. If they kill me, do not be grieved. But to go away is impossible. I must remain until I pay all I owe.”

For one month Isfandiyár went about in the streets and bazaars, selling small things he owed. When he had paid every last debt, he went to the family and said good-bye, for he knew he could stay with them no longer. A minister agreed to take him in and protect and shelter him during this dangerous time.

Many months later, Bahá’u’lláh was released from prison and He and His family were exiled from Persia by the authorities. They went to Baghdád, a city in the neighboring country. Isfandiyár, ever faithful to Bahá’u’lláh, journeyed to Baghdád to ask whether he could once again serve in His household. Bahá’u’lláh said to him, “When you left us, there was a Persian minister who gave you a place to stay when no one else could give you protection. Because he gave you shelter and protected you, you must be faithful to him. If he is satisfied to have you go, then come to us; but if he does not want you to go, do not leave him.”

Of course, Isfandiyár was so upright, so trustworthy and loyal, that the minister did not want him to go. “O Isfandiyár!” he exclaimed, “I am not willing that you should go, yet, if you wish to go, let it be according to your own will.” But Isfandiyár remembered Bahá’u’lláh’s words. He remained in the minister’s service until, some time later, the minister passed away and Isfandiyár once again returned to the family he so loved, serving ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to the end of his days.

E. Game: “Who is knocking at my door?”

Blindfold one of the children, who should be seated on a bench with his or her back to the rest of the class. Now point to another child. He or she should go up to the blindfolded child and knock on the bench. The child who is seated says, “Who is knocking at my door?” The other, trying to disguise his or her voice, responds, “It’s me!” The seated child tries to guess who is knocking. The blindfolded child has three guesses, and then another child is given a turn.

F. Coloring: Drawing 22

G. Closing prayers



“Happy is the faithful one who is attired with the vesture of high endeavor and hath arisen to serve this Cause.”