

Lesson Plan: Generosity (Lesson 7)

Preparation:

1. Purchase or borrow from the library the book: "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.
2. Photocopy the Booklet, Homework page and Quotation for each child.
3. Prepare glue sticks, children's scissors, crayons, pencils and stickers.
4. Prepare a simple and healthy snack for the children.

A simple class:

You do not need to do each part of the lesson plan. These lesson plans are a tool or resource for you to help you conduct your Baha'i Children's Class. You can omit certain sections based on your skills, resources and time.

Ideas to make a more elaborate class:

Cut off one inch around the edge of the Quotation page (one for each child) with normal or zig-zag scissors and then glue each page to a three-hole punched coloured card stock.

Opening Prayers:

Be a model of how to sit respectfully during prayers.

“We will begin by saying prayers. When we say prayers, we sit quietly and still. I will say the first prayer and then we will take turns in a circle.”

“O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate.”

- `Abdu'l-Bahá

Praise and encourage the children for sitting nicely and saying good prayers.

Singing:

“Now we will sing ‘O God, guide me’ together.”

“O God, guide me and protect me. Illumine the lamp of my heart and make me a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty, and Powerful.” - `Abdu'l-Bahá

Lesson: (# = praise and correct the children's answers)

God has given us virtues and the virtues are what is good about us. They are already inside us, we just need to discover them and learn how to practice them.

Today, we are going to talk about generosity.

Q: What does it mean to be generous? #

A: Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving without expecting something to be given back to you. It is showing love to others.

Bahá'u'lláh says: **“To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues.”**

Repeat after me. (pause and have them repeat each line after you say it before continuing to the next line)

**“To give
and to be generous
are attributes of Mine;
well is it with him
that adorneth himself
with My virtues.”**

Q: What does adorneth mean? #

A: Adorneth means to make ourselves more beautiful with something.

Let's recite the quotation together again. Repeat after me. (pause and have them repeat each line after you say it before continuing to the next line)

**“To give
and to be generous
are attributes of Mine;
well is it with him
that adorneth himself
with My virtues.”**

Story:

Read the story: “The Giving Tree”.

Snack/break:

Have the children help serve each other and take turns getting food.

Optional: Bring a bag with a different variety of cookies (or other treat) and have the children take turns passing them out to each other – being generous.

Arts and Crafts:

Help each child put a copy of the quotation to memorize into their binder. Give each child a sheet of stickers and crayons. Let the children decorate the page.

Help the children colour and cut out the “Generosity” gem (from Lesson 1) to glue onto their person.

Game:

Bunny, Bunny: Standing in a circle, the first player begins as the bunny by holding both hands to make “bunny ears” on their head. As they wiggle their bunny ears, they say, “bunny, bunny, bunny, bunny...” repeatedly until they pass the bunny to another player. To pass the bunny, they remove their bunny ears (hands), clap them together and point with both hands together to another person who then puts on their bunny ears and becomes the bunny. The object of the game is to pass the bunny as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Optional: Bring a special musical instrument to class and have the children practice generosity by sharing and taking turns with the instrument.

Closing Prayers:

Ask the children if anyone would like to say a prayer to end the class. Have them take turns in a circle. Or you could end by singing "O God, guide me" together.

Cleanliness

Homework:

1. Read through the Generosity booklet with your child during the week and discuss it.
2. Encourage your child to put extra effort into sharing and giving things to other people. Praise your child for practicing the virtue of generosity. Use the following virtues language in the home: "You are very generous" "Thank you for being so generous".
3. Help your child recite the following affirmation every morning.
(pause and have them repeat each line after you say it before continuing to the next line)

I am generous.
I look for ways
to give and share.
There is always
enough for everyone.
I give freely,
with joy and love
in my heart.

4. Please help your child recite the following quotation every morning:
(pause and have them repeat each line after you say it before continuing to the next line)

**"To give
and to be generous
are attributes of Mine;
well is it with him
that adorneth himself
with My virtues."**

-Bahá'u'lláh

5. Please help your child do the activities on the Weekly Activity Calendar.

“To give
and to be generous
are attributes of Mine;
well is it with him
that adorneth himself
with My virtues.”

- Bahá'u'lláh