

Lesson Plan: Obedience (Lesson 4)

Preparation:

1. Purchase or borrow the book: "A Fish Out of Water" by Helen Palmer.
2. Photocopy the Booklet, Homework page and Quotation for each child.
3. Prepare glue sticks, children's scissors, crayons, pencils and stickers (optional).
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.

Another good story to read is: "Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter. Discuss the consequences of Peter's disobedience at the end.

Provide "Goldfish" crackers at snack time to go with the story: "A Fish Out of Water".

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)

Today we are going to talk about obedience.

Q: What does obedience mean? #

Obedience is following rules and doing what your parents or others in authority ask you to do.

Bahá'u'lláh says: **“Observe My commandments for the love of My beauty.”**

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

**“Observe My commandments
for the love of My beauty.”**

Q: In this quote, Bahá'u'lláh tells us why we should be obedient. Why should we be obedient?

A: Out of love. We obey our parents because we love them and want to make them happy. We obey God's laws because we love God and want to please Him.

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

**“Observe My commandments
for the love of My beauty.”**

Snack/break:

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

Story:

Read the story: “A Fish Out of Water” by Helen Palmer.

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 “Obedience” gem (from Lesson 1) to glue onto their person.

Game:

Simon Says (or Teacher Says): Give the children commands, they should only obey your command when it is preceded by the words “Simon Says”. Ex. “Simon says jump up and down.” Then they should obey the command. But if you just say “Jump up and down.” They should not obey the command.

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.

Obedience

Homework:

1. Read through the Obedience booklet with your child during the week and discuss it.
2. Encourage your child to put extra effort into being obedient this week. Use the following virtues language in your home: "Thank you for being obedient." "Good job being obedient!"
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 obedient.
I listen respectfully
to my parents and teachers.
I follow rules
and do what is right.

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)

**"Be obedient and kind
to thy father and mother,
caressing brother and sister..."**

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

Weekly Activity Calendar:

Put a check mark below each item when it is completed.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.	Recite the affirmation.
Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.	Recite the quotation.
Make an extra effort to be obedient to traffic laws.	Talk about ways you have to be obedient at home.	Make an extra effort to be obedient to your parents.	Talk about ways you have to be obedient at school.	Make an extra effort to be obedient to your teacher.	Play "Simon Says" with your parents or friends.	Tell your mom a story about someone being obedient.

“Be obedient
and kind
to thy father
and mother,
caressing brother
and sister...”

- `Abdu'l-Bahá