

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

5. TRUTHFULNESS

Welcome the children and see that they are seated comfortably. Ask one or two children to say an opening prayer. If there are not many children you can ask each one to pray.

What did we learn last time? Did we practice being courteous? Who can remember the quotation we learned?

Today we are going to talk about a very important quality. That is truthfulness. Who can tell me what it means to be truthful? Accept all the answers, but if one does not sound correct, thank the child and say something like this, "Thank you. Perhaps it would be better to say"

This is what 'Abdu'l-Bahá said about truthfulness: **"Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues. Without truthfulness, progress and success in all of the worlds of God are impossible for any soul. When this holy attribute is established in man, all the divine qualities will also be acquired."** 'Abdu'l-Bahá, TAB 459

What is a foundation? Yes, when we build a house we have to start with a strong foundation for the building. This is the start. When we have a strong foundation then we can build the house. In the same way, our faith has a foundation and 'Abdu'l-Bahá says that the foundation is truthfulness. We have to be truthful to progress in all the worlds of God. While we are young we don't have to worry too much about the other worlds of God, only to know that they are there. This world is the most important one for us at the moment and we are here to learn about God, and how to live with our fellow man.

Let us learn some of the words from 'Abdu'l-Bahá that we have heard today – **"Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues."** (Let the children say these words several times)

It is very difficult to speak the truth when we have done something wrong, because we feel ashamed and don't want others to know what we have done. Or we are afraid that we will be punished for doing this wrong thing. Sometimes what we have done is a mistake. In all cases, when a parent or older person asks, "Did you do this?" The right thing for us to do is to ask forgiveness and say that we are sorry. God, who knows everything, knows what we have done. We can't hide things from Him. He will also forgive us, if we are really sorry and mean to try to not do the same thing again. We need to learn from our mistakes.

Ask three or four children to act out a skit with you. Tell each one of them what they must do. For example you can suggest one has broken his brother's toy. One has been playing with his father's keys and he has lost them. One has eaten some cookies baked for a special occasion. Give the children a few minutes to think about it and then act out the skits. The teacher will act as the mother or father, and ask "Who did this?" Emphasise the point of telling the truth.

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GROUP A

Give the children the picture of the house built on a foundation of 'truthfulness'. Get them to draw some flowers in the front garden and some fruit on the trees. Then they can colour in the picture.

GROUP B

Give each child a piece of paper and tell them to fold the paper carefully in half. Now turn the folded paper round so that the fold is at the top. Use the fold to be the top of the roof of your house. Cut off the two top corners to be the slope of the roof. Now draw a strip along the bottom which is the foundation on which to write T R U T H F U L N E S S. Draw your house so that it fills the whole folded paper. You can then open the paper and draw the rooms, and furniture, etc., inside.

GROUP C

Write the word TRUTHFULNESS and then see how many little words you can find using these letters. For example 'then' and 'rule'.

TO FINISH

Thank the children for working so nicely. God is happy when He sees that people are trying their best. Have the children make sure that the room is tidy. What is the foundation of all human virtues? Get one or two children to say a closing prayer.

TRUTHFULNESS. Group A. Draw flowers in the garden and fruit on the trees.

