

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

12. PATIENCE

Welcome the children to the class and see that they are seated comfortably. Can any of the children say prayers by heart? Ask a few children to pray.

To the facilitator – These wise words come from a pamphlet published in 1993 by the International Bahá'í Community, “Although the child receives formal education in school, it is at home that character is developed and moral and spiritual attitudes are formed. Therefore, “all the virtues must be taught in the family.” Patience, loyalty, trustworthiness, justice, honesty – such virtues as these constitute the building blocks of character.”

Today we are going to talk about patience. What does patience mean? Hear a few children's ideas. Yes, if we are patient we quietly wait through pain, or some other problem without shouting, complaining or making a fuss. If you are sick and have to go to the doctor or clinic, you wait patiently until the nurse or doctor can see you. You don't complain that everyone is being so slow, that you are tired, or that you want to go home.

If you are showing your friend how to play a game. You show him quietly again and again until he or she understands. You are patient with him.

Your mother asks you to watch your little brother while she goes next door to borrow some onions. She takes longer than you expect. If you act patiently, what do you do?

Bahá'u'lláh often spoke of patience and how important it was. Here are some of the things He said: - **“O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.”** Bahá'u'lláh HW Arabic 48

Fortitude means staying through the bad times, being strong minded and holding out through tough times. Trials are tests and difficulties.

“He verily shall increase the reward of them that endure with patience.” Gleanings p. 129

“Verily God loveth those men and women who show forth patience.” Aqdas p. 43.

ACTIVITIES – for all children. Have them in groups of two or three. The children can then plan skits showing impatient and cross people. Then for each impatient scene they act out how God would like to see them behave – to act with patience. They can plan to perform the skits to the adults during the social part of the Feast.

TO FINISH

Ask the children if they are ready to perform their skits. Do any need a bit more time to rehearse, or do they need help? See that the room is tidy. Have one or two children say a prayer.