

## BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

### 11. HONESTY

An honest person is one who does not cheat or steal. God expects us to be absolutely honest in all our actions. Honesty is usually about things that belong to people.

Discuss with the children what the honest thing would be to do in the following circumstances. They should ask themselves, "What would 'Abdu'l-Bahá do?"

1. You see a pencil lying on the floor that no-one else has seen.
2. Mother gives you R3 to buy bread. The bread costs only R2,80. What would you do with the change?
3. There are sweets in a dish on the table. There is no-one else around. What would you do?
4. Father gives you 5 stickers to give to your friend. One of them is a beautiful one that you would like to have. What do you do?
5. You are playing a board game with your friend. He is not paying attention. You know that you could move your counter a few blocks forward to win, and he wouldn't notice. What would a Bahá'í do?

We know that God is with us all the time and knows all that we do. Listen to this Hidden Word from Bahá'u'lláh, **"O Heedless Ones! Think not that the secrets of hearts are hidden, nay, know ye of a certainty that in clear characters they are engraved and openly manifest in the holy Presence."** HW (Persian) 59

Help the children understand the meaning of the words. (Clear characters means 'clear letters' - easy to read. Engraved means that it is 'cut into stone or metal'. For example they engrave the winner's name on a silver cup. The important idea is that it cannot be rubbed out. Openly manifest means 'openly shown in God's presence'.)

Have the children repeat the Hidden Word several times in order to memorise it.

#### ACTIVITIES

"God loves me" pendants.

#### GROUP A

Use the supplied drawings for the little children. Cut the sheet in 4 and give one 'heart' to each child. Have them colour in the heart and repeat the words with them. Stick the heart onto thin card like that from a cereal box. Cut the hearts out for the children. Make a hole with the point of a ballpoint pen. Give them each a piece of string or coloured yarn (wool) to thread through the hole and hang around their necks.

#### GROUPS B and C

Show the design of the pendants for the smaller children. Then explain that they can

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design their own pendants in any manner and shape they like with the words "God loves me." written on them. Supply them with thin card and string as above.

### **TO FINISH**

Have the children tidy up the room and throw the scraps in a rubbish basket or bag. Say the Hidden Word together one more time. Say a final prayer.

HONESTY. Make a pendant.

