

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

16. LOVE

Welcome the children and see that they are sitting comfortably. Ask one or two children to say prayers. We must remember to sit very still during prayers and remember that we are in the presence of God. He is listening. He is happy to see His children sitting so quietly. God loves to hear our prayers.

Today we are going to talk about love.

We are so lucky to be who we are. Bahá'u'lláh said that God loved creating us. **“O Son of Man! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life.”** (Hidden Words, Arabic No 4) Isn't it wonderful that God made us because He loved us? Discuss the meaning with the children and have them repeat the underlined words several times. He made us just as He wanted us to be. Although we may be a boy or a girl, black, brown or white, tall or short, that is what He wanted. We must be happy to be who we are and try to be the very best person we can be. Get each child to say, “Only I can be” (Here each child says their own name). “I don't have to try to be anyone else. I must just make the very best of myself.”

God loves best those people who love Him best and those who try hard to do as He has told us. God wants people to live peacefully together and help each other no matter how different we are.

Bahá'u'lláh also said in the Hidden Words (Arabic, No 5) that God says, **“O Son of Being! Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant.”** Help the children to get some understanding of what the words mean. If we turn away from God and forget about Him we cannot expect to feel His love.

How can we show God that we love Him? Seek the answers from the children, and try to include the ideas of (1) our loving others (2) obedience to God's laws.

ACTIVITIES

GROUP A

Colour the shapes on the sheet.

GROUPS B AND C

Play the 'Love' card game. Preparation. You will need at least 10 cards per player so photo-copy the number of sheets of 'cards' accordingly. Cut out the cards. The winner of the game is the first person to get a set of L, O, V, E, and a HEART. Play: - Deal out 5 cards to each player and place the remainder face down on the table with one card turned face up to the left of the pile. After looking at his cards, the first player decides whether he should pick up the card which is face up on the discard pile, or the one turned face down.

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He then finishes his turn by discarding a card placing it face up on the discard pile. Then it is the turn of the player to his left. When a player has won (see above) the game can stop or it can continue until every player has a set of L, O, V, E and a HEART.

FINISHING

Have the children tidy up and place all the cards together. Remember that God loves each one of us. Can anyone say the words of the Hidden Word we learnt today? Ask a child to say a closing prayer.

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L	O	V	E	♥
L	O	V	E	♥
L	O	V	E	♥
L	O	V	E	♥
L	O	V	E	♥
L	O	V	E	♥