

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

19. EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN

Welcome the children to the class. Remind the children that we are in the presence of God. When we pray we must sit very still and listen to the words. The child who is saying the prayer should try to say the words clearly so that all the children can hear. God is listening. Ask one or two children to say a prayer.

Our lesson today is about the equality of men and women. Bahá'u'lláh lived at a time and in a country where women could not go out into the street without a thick veil covering their heads. Girls did not get any education and some families thought it was very unlucky to have girl children. Bahá'u'lláh came to change that. He did not teach that men and women are the same. He taught that men and women were equally important. He taught that men and women are equal in the sight of God and that they should not be treated differently. Girls should be given the same opportunities and education as boys.

In fact 'Abdu'l-Bahá says, **“When all mankind shall receive the same opportunity of education and the equality of men and women be realized, the foundations of war will be utterly destroyed.”** The main reason for this is that when women are given an equal voice in the affairs of the world, the women's call for peace will be heard above the men's call for war. Again let us hear what 'Abdu'l-Bahá has to say on the subject – **“In some respects woman is superior to man. She is more tender-hearted, more receptive, her intuition is more intense.”**(Quotations from 'Bahá'í Teachings on the Equality of Men and Women' issued in 1995 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South Africa)

So it is important for girls to have as good an education as boys, and they should be encouraged to study the same subjects as boys. Come on girls. Just show the world what Bahá'í girls can do! This is not to put the boys down, but Bahá'í children should all study as hard as they can and be the very best they can be. That is what is expected of us.

'Abdul-Bahá said, **“It is incumbent on Bahá'í children to surpass other children in the acquisition of sciences and arts, for they have been cradled in the grace of God. . . . The heart of 'Abdu'l-Bahá longeth, in its love, to find that Bahá'í young people, each and all, are known throughout the world for their intellectual attainments (mental achievements). There is no question but that they will exert all their efforts, their energies, their sense of pride, to acquire the sciences and arts.”**

Here we have a challenge from 'Abdu'l-Bahá to do our best to become known for our excellent work. It will gladden the heart of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Ask the children to suggest some ways in which they can improve their work.

ACTIVITIES

GROUP A and GROUP B Colour, cut out and assemble the bird. Group A will probably need

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assistance. If assembled and folded as directed the bird's wings will flap if it is held by the body and moved up and down.

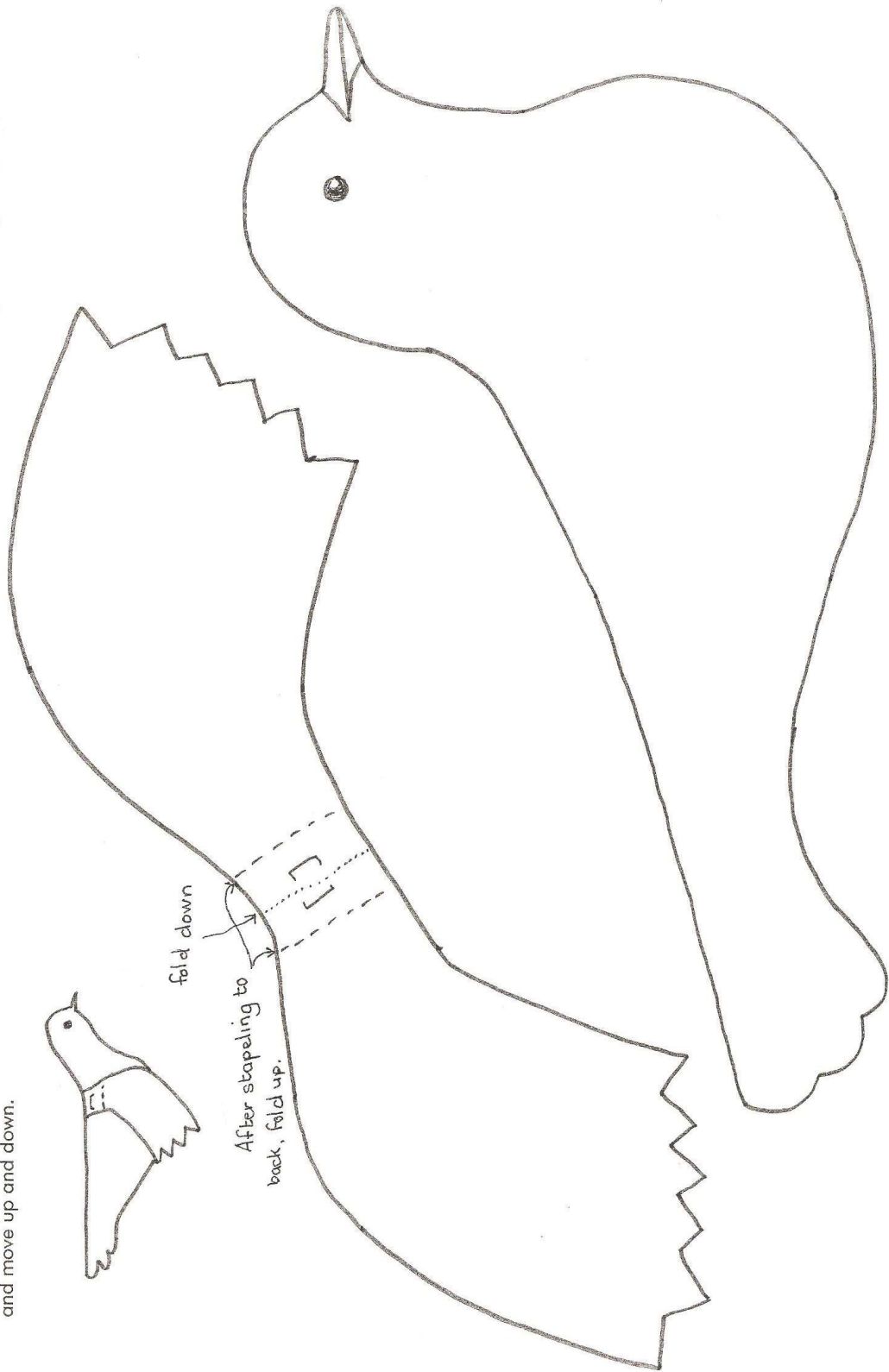
GROUP C

Try to solve the Equality Kriss-Kross.

FINISHING

Ask the children to make sure the room is tidy. While they sit quietly have one or two children say a prayer. Remind the children that both boys and girls are equally important to God.

EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN. Groups A and B. Colour, cut out and assemble the bird. To flap wings hold the bird by its body and move up and down.



EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN - Group C

Place the words in the squares

Equality Kriss-Kross

- one
- par
- unity
- match
- oneness
- sameness
- equality
- coalesces
- identical
- similarity
- homologous
- homogeneous