

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

20. HELPFULNESS

Welcome the children as they arrive and see that they are sitting comfortably. Ask one or two children to say a prayer.

Ask the children to suggest who they help and how they do it. Try to get many answers.

'Abdu'l-Bahá helped many people and he wants us to be helpful too. We are his helpers. He said: **"My highest wish and desire is that ye who are my children may be educated according to the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and may receive a Bahá'í training; (so) that ye may each become a lighted candle in the world of humanity, may be devoted to the service (helping) of all mankind."** SWAB p. 141.

STORY

There is a lovely story in the Bible about helping. It is called "The Good Samaritan". Jesus told many stories to teach people how they should live, and this one teaches us to help people no matter who they are.

'There was a terribly rough, steep and dangerous road which lay between the city of Jericho and Jerusalem: and one day as a man was going along it, robbers rushed out, wounded him, tore off his clothes and left, leaving him half dead on the side of the road.

The poor man lay there so helpless. He was only half conscious in his pain and misery.

Soon after a priest came by. He wanted to get to his journey's end, so when he saw the man lying there, all torn and bleeding, he quickly crossed the road so he did not have to see him properly. He knew very well that robbers must have beaten him, and he was afraid that he also might be attacked, so he hurried off.

A while later a Levite came by. He ought to have been a good man as he helped the priests in the temple services. He came and looked at the poor man lying there beside the road, but then he also hurried off on the other side of the road.

At last a Samaritan came along riding on a donkey. The Samaritans and the Jews were always quarrelling, so if the priest and the Levite did not help the man, it would seem unlikely that the Samaritan would do so. But when the Samaritan saw the poor man his heart was filled with pity. He got off his donkey and poured oil and wine on the wounds and bound them up. Then putting the poor man on his donkey he took him to the nearest inn. The Samaritan looked after the poor man that night and in the morning when he had to continue on his journey, he gave the inn-keeper some money to take care of him. If he needed more money he would pay him the next time he passed that way.

Then Jesus asked the people who had listened to the story, "Which of these three do you

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think was a good neighbour to the man who was beaten up by the thieves?" They answered that it was the one who helped him. Then Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

ACTIVITIES

Dramatize helpfulness: - Get all the children to form small groups of two or three, seeing that the younger children are teamed with older children. They then consult with the others in their group on how they will show how they can help others. Have them act out their little stories while the rest watch. If necessary make some suggestions as needed for improvement.

FINISHING

Remind the children that we can all learn to be helpful. We will each say how we were helpful, next time we meet. Have one or two children say a prayer.