

## BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

### 22. STEADFASTNESS

Welcome the children to the class. Have one or two say prayers.

Today we are going to talk about steadfastness. Steadfast is a difficult word because we do not hear the word often. Steadfast means something like 'stand fast', 'stand firm'. Someone who is steadfast sticks to something they believe in, even if those around them do not believe.

In the early days of our Faith in Iran, it was very difficult to be steadfast, because if a person was found to be a follower of the Báb, he or she could be killed. The mullahs and the government officials were so afraid of the Faith of the Báb spreading; they thought that they could stop it by torturing or killing the Báb's followers. They did not understand that this was the Faith of God and that no human could stop it!

The Bábis understood that the Báb was a Messenger from God. They believed in Him and in His teachings. They were steadfast in their belief.

We too must be steadfast in our belief. We know that the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh were Messengers from God. They never tried to hide their Message even if it made the foolish people angry. Many of their followers did the same. We live in easier times when there is freedom of religion in our country. We must stick to what the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh taught. We have to do the things we know are right. We must say our prayers night and morning and read a few of the Holy Writings too. The Hidden Words are great to read as they give us a short idea to keep in our minds through the day.

Then there are all the other laws we have been given. You will be learning about them from your parents and from the Bahá'í Children's classes. Each one of them is important and these laws help people to live together happily. Sometimes it is not easy to follow Bahá'í laws, but if we love God, and believe in Bahá'u'lláh we will find it easier to be steadfast, to stand firm and do what is right.

#### ACTIVITIES

One of the signs of the steadfastness of Bahá'ís around the world is the beautiful Temples they have built in many countries of the world. Show the pupils pictures of some of the Bahá'í temples. Notice how each temple has a dome. Point this out to the children. Each temple also has nine doors to welcome all the people of the world who come from nine important Faiths. The Temple for Africa is in Kampala, Uganda.

#### GROUP A and OTHERS

Colour the picture of the Kampala Bahá'í temple. Make a flower garden in front of the temple.

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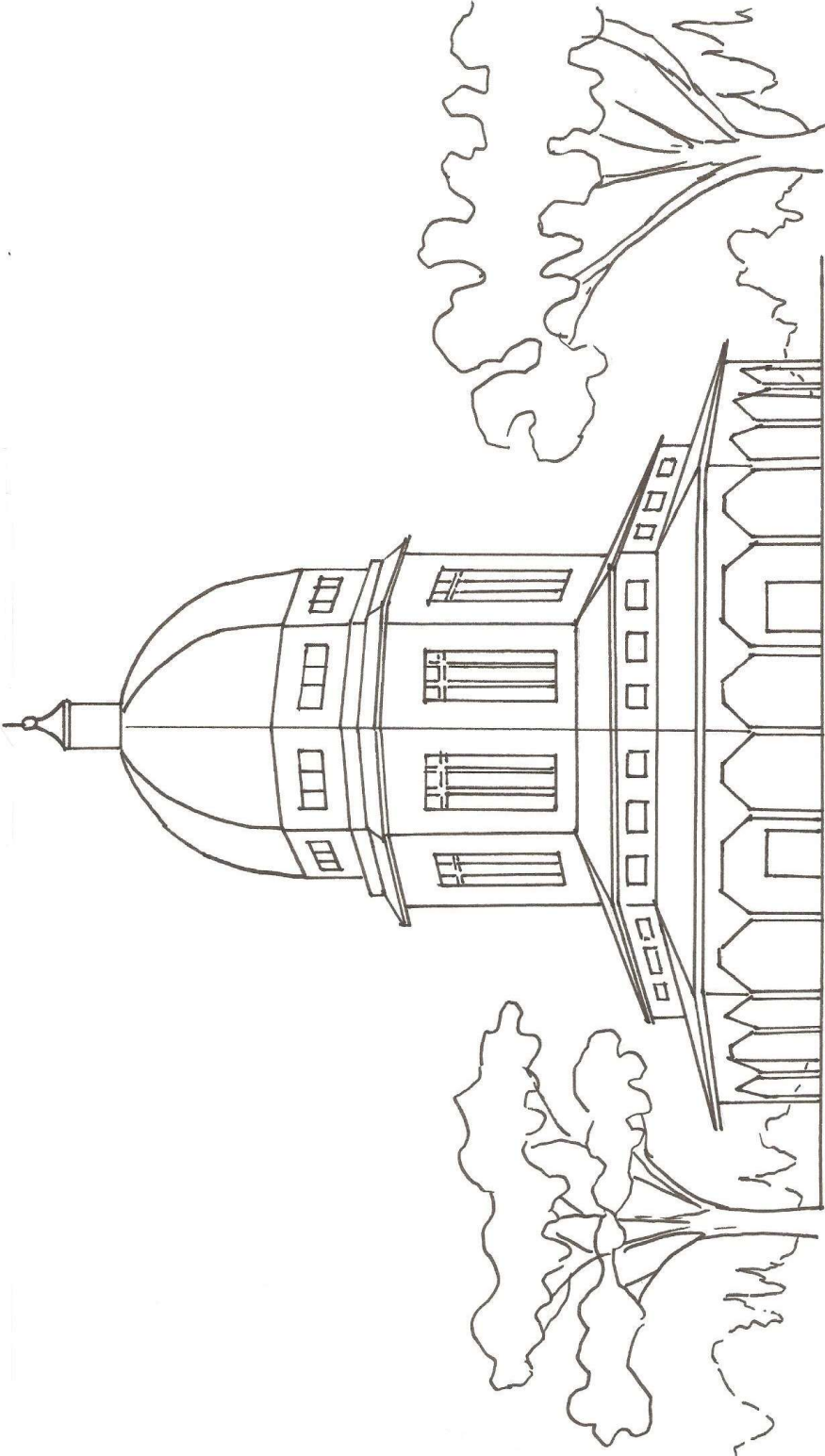
### **GROUPS B AND C**

Making a stand up model of a temple using the pattern which represents three sides. As a temple has nine sides each temple model will need three of these patterns. One child can make a model using three pattern pieces or three children can be asked to work together to make one model of a temple between them. Give each child a photo-copy of the pattern. Have them make doors, windows and decorate the walls. Then cut out the shape carefully. Fold along the dotted lines. Glue or tape the flap to join the next side, so that the model stands up.

### **FINISHING**

Clear away any scraps of paper and tidy the room. In order for the temple models to stand, place each on a firm surface such as a book. Have children say closing prayers.

STEADFASTNESS. Group A. Kampala Temple. Colour the picture and make a garden in front.



STEADFASTNESS. Groups B and C. For each model temple three of these will be needed. (Children can work in groups of three)

Colour, cut out and glue together at edges using the flaps.

