

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

25. CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

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

Today we are going to think about consideration or thoughtfulness for others. When a baby is tiny, it only thinks about itself and what it needs. If it is hungry it cries. If it is uncomfortable it cries. If it is frightened it cries. The baby cries and expects some kind person to come and help it. Gradually it learns to do things for itself, and later still it learns to do things for others. Thinking about what others need and helping them is a sign of growing up. Those selfish people who only think about themselves are not developing as they should.

“It is befitting (right) that in this illumined age.... we should be self-sacrificing and should serve the human race..... Every imperfect (not perfect) soul is self-centred and thinketh only of his own good. But as his thoughts expand a little he will begin to think of the welfare and comfort of his family.”

SWAB p.69

‘Abdul-Bahá goes on to say that gradually as people’s thoughts grow they begin to think of their village, their city and eventually they are concerned for everybody in the world.

He also wrote a beautiful letter to some children who had written to him. **“O my dear children! Your letter was received.....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; that ye may each become a lighted candle in the world of humanity, may be devoted to the service of all mankind.”**

SWAB p.141

But consideration is slightly different to service because it means that we should find out what the other person needs. Sometimes we think we are serving others by helping them, but we haven’t talked to them and found out what they really need.

Dani was sick and was in bed. His kind brother sat beside him and talked to him. If he had asked Dani what he wanted he might have said that he wanted to sleep. What should his brother do?

Mother was in a hurry preparing dinner for the family who were arriving soon. Julia kept saying, “I want to cut that”, “I want to peel that”, “I want to stir that”. If she had been considerate of her mother she would have asked, “How can I help you?” Have the children think of other things she could do that would not get in the way of a busy mother.

Father was tired after a hard day at work. Bobby and Pete were running round the room playing they were aeroplanes. In what ways could they be considerate of their father? Ask the children for their suggestions.

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ACTIVITIES

GROUP A

Point out and say how the people are showing consideration for others. Colour the picture.

GROUPS B AND C

Ask the children to suggest how they act when they do not care about others. Then say the correct way to behave. Place the children in groups of two or three. They then plan to act out thoughtless as opposed to considerate behaviour.

FINISHING

Have the children sit quietly for one or two prayers. Make sure that you leave the room tidy.

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CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS. Groups A, B, and C. Tell how in each group in the picture somebody is considering someone else.

