

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

26. OUR MIND IS OUR GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD

Greet the children as they arrive. See that they are seated comfortably. Have one or two children recite or read a prayer.

Ask the children to tell you what gifts they have received from God. We should thank God for all these gifts. Listen to the children's suggestions and make a few suggestions to them. Then tell them that we have received so many gifts, but the greatest of all gifts is the gift of our minds. With our minds we can find out things, we learn about things and we can believe.

With our minds we think. We tell ourselves what to do and how to do it. Our minds control our actions and yet we can control our minds to do what we know is right. The more we learn about how God wants us to live the more we can use this knowledge to do what is right.

Of all the creatures living on this earth humans are the only ones who can use their minds to change their surroundings. Animals have to live as best they can with what is around them.

Humans can make machines to take us across the country at great speeds. We can make machines to fly through the air. We can make machines to take us across the seas. Humans have been able to bend the powers of nature so that they can do these and many other wonderful things.

Yet how sad it is that we sometimes use the wonderful powers of our mind to break God's commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" and we do not obey Christ who said, "Love one another."

(Ideas from 'Paris Talks' p. 42)

'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "God gave this power (the mind or brains) to man that it might be used for the advancement of civilization, for the good of humanity, to increase love and concord and peace. But man prefers to use this gift to destroy instead of to build . . . for injustice . . . for hatred . . . and for the destruction of his fellow-creatures, whom Christ has commanded that he should love as himself!"

PT

p. 42

'Abdu'l-Bahá then told his listeners that he hoped that they would use their understanding to help bring unity and peace, to give knowledge and civilization to people, to love all those around them and to bring about universal peace. They should study the sciences and get more knowledge. In fact they could learn till the ends of their lives! They should use their knowledge always for the benefit of others, so that war will end on this beautiful earth and God's Kingdom will come.

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WE have to do it! God is not going to wave a magic wand!

What can **we** do? How do we help to bring unity? (Help children understand that it all starts with ME! We can change our behaviour.)

How can we study the sciences? (Help the children understand that all their learning is important. The early learning is a foundation on which the study of sciences can be built in the future.)

Help the children understand that they are important. Every one of them can make a contribution to the wonderful world that God wants us to live in.

ACTIVITIES

GROUP A

Give the children the maze and ask them to try to find the way from Start to Finish. When they think they have found the way they can draw in the path with pencil or crayon. Then they can colour round the border.

GROUPS B AND C

Give the Quiz to the children and have them try to answer the questions. It might be helpful for them to work in pairs.

The answers are in code. You can either have this photo-copied onto the back of the question page, or it can be put on a separate sheet to be given to the children later or for them to do as homework.

FINISHING

Remind the children that our minds are our greatest gift from God. He wants us to use them well. We develop our minds by reading and learning and doing our very best in school. Ask one or two children to say closing prayers.

31. OUR MIND OUR GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD - GROUPS B AND C GENERAL QUIZ

1. Who lived in the Garden of Eden? ___ ___ ___ ___
2. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ wrote the Kitáb-i-Aqdas.
3. ___ ___ ___ ___ the Baptist was Jesus' forerunner.
4. The ___ ___ ___ was Bahá'u'lláh's forerunner.
5. The Báb was shot by ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

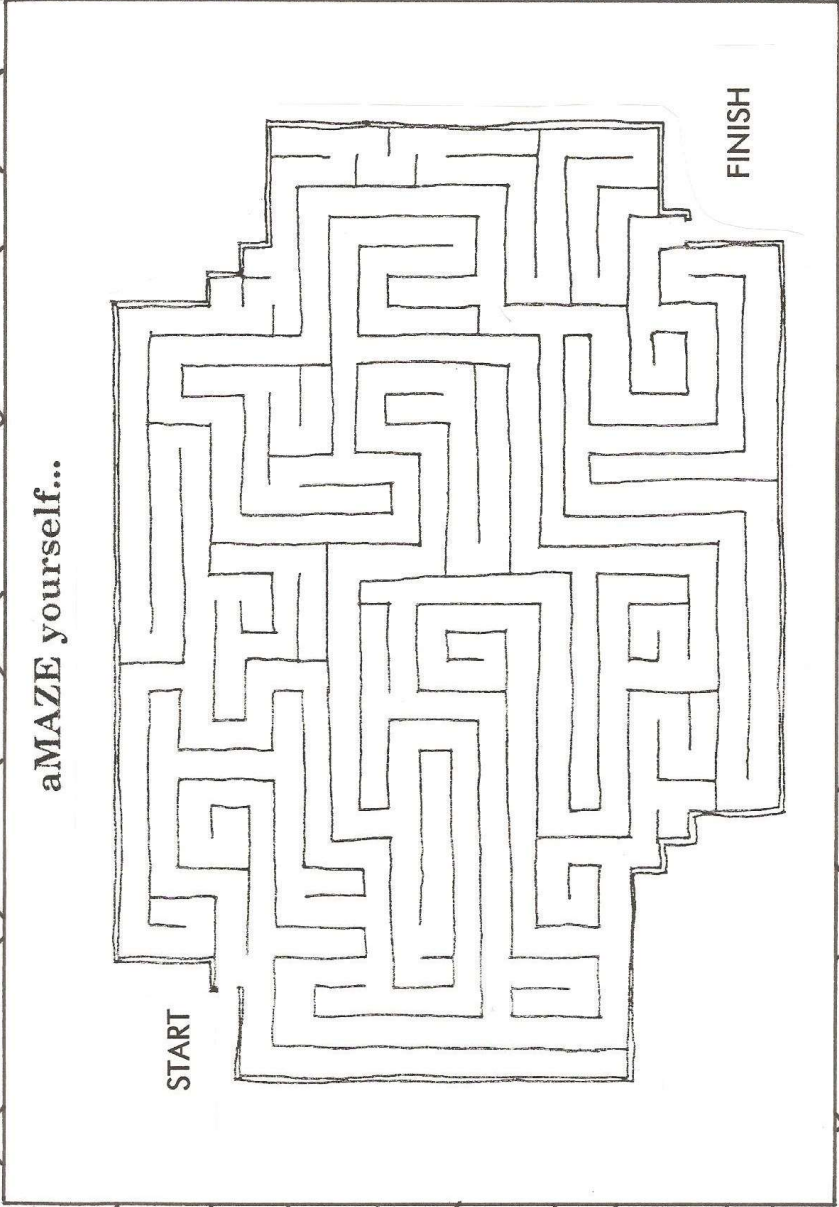
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6. Bahá'u'lláh was born in ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
7. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ was where Jesus was born.
8. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ was born in India.
9. Another name for 'Abdu'l-Bahá was ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
10. The Bahá'í World Centre is in ___ ___ ___ ___ ___, Israel.

Answers in code— A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5, F = 6, G = 7, H = 8, I = 9, J = 10, K = 11, L = 12, M = 13, N = 14, O = 15, P = 16, Q = 17, R = 18, S = 19, T = 20, U = 21, V = 22, W = 23, X = 24, Y = 25, Z = 26

1. 1 4 1 13
2. 2 1 8 1 21 12 12 1 8
3. 10 15 8 14
4. 2 1 2
5. 19 15 12 4 9 5 18 19
6. 20 9 8 18 1 14
7. 2 5 20 8 12 5 8 5 13
8. 11 18 9 19 8 14 1
9. 13 1 19 20 5 18
10. 8 1 9 6 1

OUR MINDS ARE OUR GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD. Can you find your way from START to FINISH?



aMAZE yourself...