

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

30. JUSTICE (BEING FAIR)

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

Today we are going to talk about justice. Justice means being fair. In the Hidden Words we read: - "The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me." God thinks that justice is very important and if we want to please God we must learn to be fair.

Is it fair for a big child to play with the ball all the time and not give his little brother a chance? Is it fair for the first child to get home to eat the best food? Is it fair that one child takes another child's pencil?

But there are two sides to being fair. We have to learn to be fair to others, but also parents, care-givers and teachers and bigger children have to make sure that children are fair to each other. Sometimes they even have to punish someone who has not acted fairly, in order to teach them a lesson.

We will go back to the unfair behaviour we have just read about. What would be fair for the big child who plays with the ball? (Let the children discuss this. When a fair plan has been agreed remind them that that is how they should behave). What would be fair in the case of the one hungry child who comes home before the others? (Discuss this). Instead of just taking another's pencil, what should the child without a pencil do? (Have the children discuss various options)

So you see, fairness or justice starts when we are small. We need to think "Would I be happy if someone did that to me?" or "What would 'Abdu'l-Bahá say?" Then we will know what the fair thing is.

We need to continually think about what Bahá'u'lláh has taught us. He is the Messenger of God for this day and we need to listen to Him. He blesses those who listen. He even blesses those who live in a Bahá'í home. Bahá'u'lláh says, "**Blessed is the house where the mention of God hath been made.**" Our homes are blessed because we say prayers there, we read the Writings and we try to listen to Bahá'u'lláh.

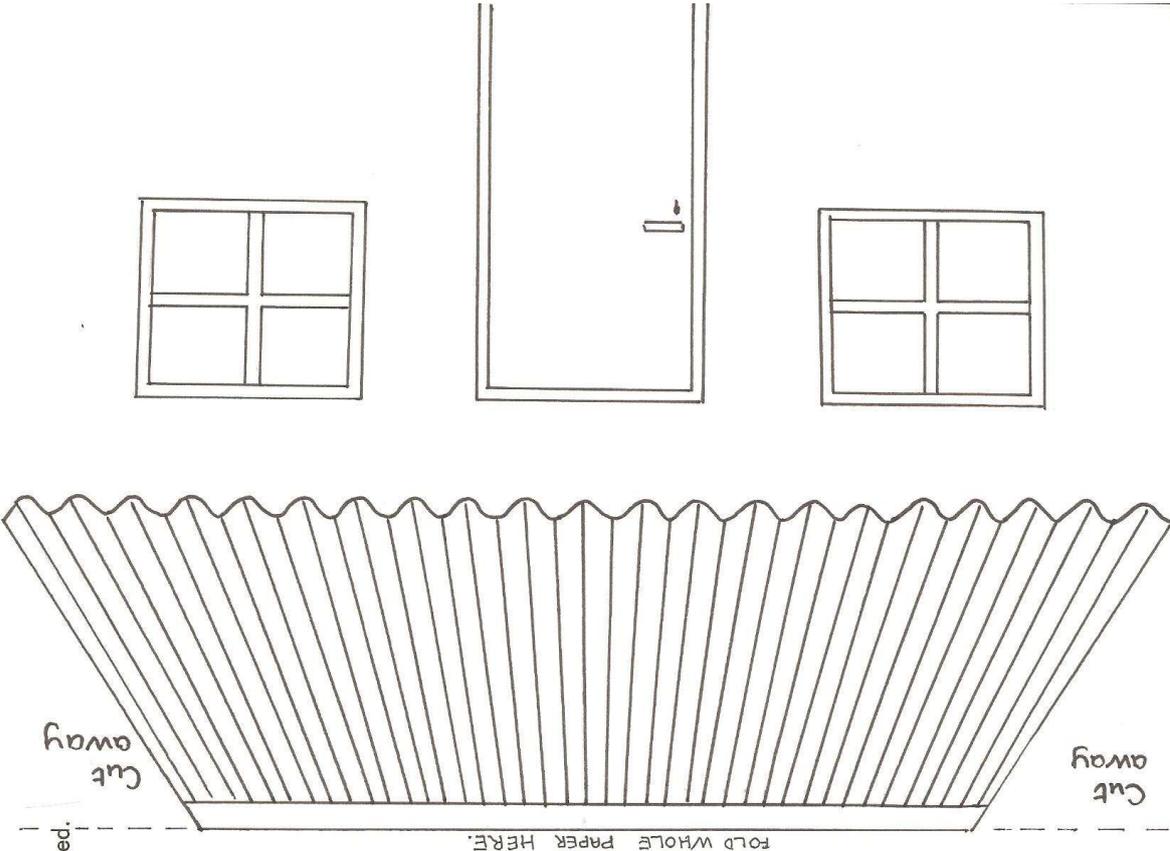
ACTIVITIES

Give all the children photo-copies of houses. The little ones will need assistance with the folding. The older children can be shown the house pattern and then make their own designs. They can draw the 'inside' of the house as several rooms before drawing people inside. Expect more of older children.

FINISHING

Tidy the room and have one or two children say prayers.

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BEING FAIR. Group A. Fold paper in half. Cut corners as marked. Colour in the house. Draw people inside.