

Lesson #18: Independent Investigation

OPENING

Teacher: Remind children: 1) sit quietly, rest their arms 2) lower their faces to listen to the prayer and show respect to God. Ask who can recite opening prayer:

“I bear witness, O my God, that Thou hast created me to know Thee and to worship Thee. I testify, at this moment, to my powerlessness and to Thy might, to my poverty and to Thy wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.” – Bahá’u’lláh

- Ask the children if any of them know a prayer that they could recite for the class.

LESSON: Independent Investigation

The Baha’i teachings say that human beings possess intellectual abilities, inquisitive minds and curious spirits—precisely because we need the tools to determine the truth for ourselves. This is true about your every day life and your spiritual life.

QUOTE:

1. “Look into all things with a searching eye.” —Baha’u’llah

- What does Baha’u’llah mean by this sentence?
- What is all things? Home life? School life? Religion? Faith in God?
- Explain what a searching eye is?

Repeat each Quote at the end of each discussion to reinforce it and ask for a simple explanation.

“Look into all things with a searching eye.” —Baha’u’llah

2. “God has created in man the power of reason whereby man is enabled to investigate reality.” – Abdu’l-Baha

- What does Abdu’l-Baha mean by this quote?
- Did God create man? What does God say “man” and not “man and woman”?
- Are men and women created equal? Yes, but different.

- What does it mean that God “created in man the power of reason”? What is the “power of reason”?
- What does “investigate” mean?
- What does “reality” mean?
- How does the power of reason help you investigate reality?

Repeat each Quote at the end of each discussion to reinforce it and ask for a simple explanation.

“God has created in man the power of reason whereby man is enabled to investigate reality.” – Abdu’l-Baha

3. “He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul.” – Abdu’l-Baha

- What does Abdu’l-Baha mean by this quote?
- What does “imitator” mean?
- What does “blind” follower mean?
- What is a “soul”?
- What does this quote mean?

Repeat each Quote at the end of each discussion to reinforce it and ask for a simple explanation.

“He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul.” – Abdu’l-Baha

4. He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality. – Abdu’l-Baha

- What does Abdu’l-Baha mean by this quote?
- What does “implicitly” mean?
- What does “opinion of any man without investigation” mean?
- What does “each soul must seek intelligently and independently” mean?
- What does “arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality” mean?
- What does this quote mean?

Repeat each Quote at the end of each discussion to reinforce it and ask for a simple explanation.

“He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality.” – Abdu’l-Baha

Singing Time

Son of Spirit
Love, Love, Love
A Nobel Way
Busy Hands
This Little Light of Mine
We are Drops
If You're Happy and You Know It

Activity

Get creative! Use the modeling clay to build anything you want but it must incorporate the Baha'i star to remind you to be independent in your thought and investigate the truth.

END CLASS:

Someone says a closing prayer.

"He is God! O God my God! Bestow upon me a pure heart, like unto a pearl.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá