

Lesson 3 – Love

OPENING

Teacher: Instructs everyone to sit quietly, rest their arms in a position that they feel most comfortable and lower their faces to listen to the prayer. Explain when you pray, you have to show respect to God.

Recite opening prayer:

"O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate."

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

TODAY'S LESSON

Teacher: Today's Lesson is Love. Ask each child to answer the first question, then start over and ask them to answer the second question, etc.

Who do you love? I love _____ [Parents, Siblings, etc. – and God]

Who loves you? _____ loves me. [Parents, Siblings, etc. – and God]

How do you show love? I show love by _____ [being their helper, being good and obedient, praying]

What is love? Love is _____ [When you choose to be at your best when the other person is not at their best, Love is when what you want is never important. But what the other person needs and wants is always most important.

The love of God shines upon humanity like the rays of the sun. The sun's rays fall on deserts and gardens alike. Our love should be like the rays of the sun: we should love everyone. In order to help us love all of humanity, let us memorize this quotation of Baha'u'llah:

"O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love..."

In this quotation, the only word that may require explanation is naught, which means 'nothing'.

1. Dakota loves to sing songs about the sun and the flowers, and she does not sing songs about anything else. Dakota sings of naught but sunshine and flowers.

2. John wanted to go down to the river, but had not done his household tasks. His father said he could not leave until he finished his work, and unfortunately John became angry. His grandmother said, "Dear, all your plans will come to naught if you don't obey your father."

"O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love..."

- Give them the index cards and ask them to work together to make the quote.

Singing: The next activity starts by having the children sing the first song they learned in the previous lessons:

My First Counsel is This

O Son of Spirit
O Son of Spirit
My first counsel is this
My first counsel is this
Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart
That thine may be a sovereignty
Ancient, imperishable and everlasting
Ancient, imperishable

O Son of Spirit
O Son of Spirit
My first counsel is this
My first counsel is this
Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart
That thine may be a sovereignty
Ancient, imperishable and everlasting
Ancient, imperishable

Love

Love, love, love, love
Love your fellow man
Love, love, love is
How the world began

God loved creation
So He created thee to
Love, love, love Him
And humanity

Love, love, love the
Everlasting good
Love, love, love the
Seed of brotherhood

Love all creation
For He created thee to
Love, love, love Him
And humanity

Love God's creatures
Be they near or far
See each human
As a shining star

Love all creation
For He created thee to
Love, love, love Him
And humanity

Story – The continuing love Of ‘Abdul-Bahá with someone who treated Him very badly.

While 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a prisoner in 'Akka, there was a man in that city who behaved very badly towards Him. The man believed that he was following the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. He thought that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was not a good man and that God did not care how badly the Baha'is were treated. In fact, he believed that he was showing love for God by showing hatred to the Baha'is. He hated 'Abdu'l-Bahá with all his heart. That hate grew and festered inside him, sometimes spilling out of him the way water spills out of a broken pot.

In the mosque, when people came to pray, this man would cry out against 'Abdu'l-Bahá and say terrible things about Him. When he passed 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the street, he would cover his face with his robe so that he would not see Him. Now, this man was very poor and had neither enough to eat nor warm clothes to wear. What do you think 'Abdu'l-Bahá did about him? He showed him kindness and love, and sent him food and clothes, and made sure he was being taken care of. For example, once when this man became very ill, 'Abdu'l-Bahá sent him a doctor, paid for his medicine and food, and also gave him some money. He accepted the gifts from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but did not thank him. In fact, he held out one hand to the doctor to take his pulse, and with the other hand, covered his face so

that he would not have to look upon the countenance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. And so it went on for many long years. And then, one day, the man's heart finally changed. He came to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's house, fell at His feet and with a very heavy heart and tears flowing down his face like twin rivers, cried, "Forgive me, Sir!" For twenty-four years I have done evil to You. For twenty-four years You have shown only goodness to me. Now I know that I have been wrong. Please forgive me!" Thus did the great love of 'Abdu'l-Baha triumph over hatred.

ACTIVITY:

Game

Love, List & Listen Game:

Using a timer have each child tell the group as many things as they can that they love in 15-20 seconds. After everyone has had a turn to share their loves go around and ask how many things the group can remember about what each one said. Don't tell the children ahead of time that you'll be going back to ask them what they remember from their friends lists. This is a great way for the kids to learn more about each other.

Make a bracelet – using beads with letters on them, spell LOVE on the bracelet. Each child takes the bracelet home.

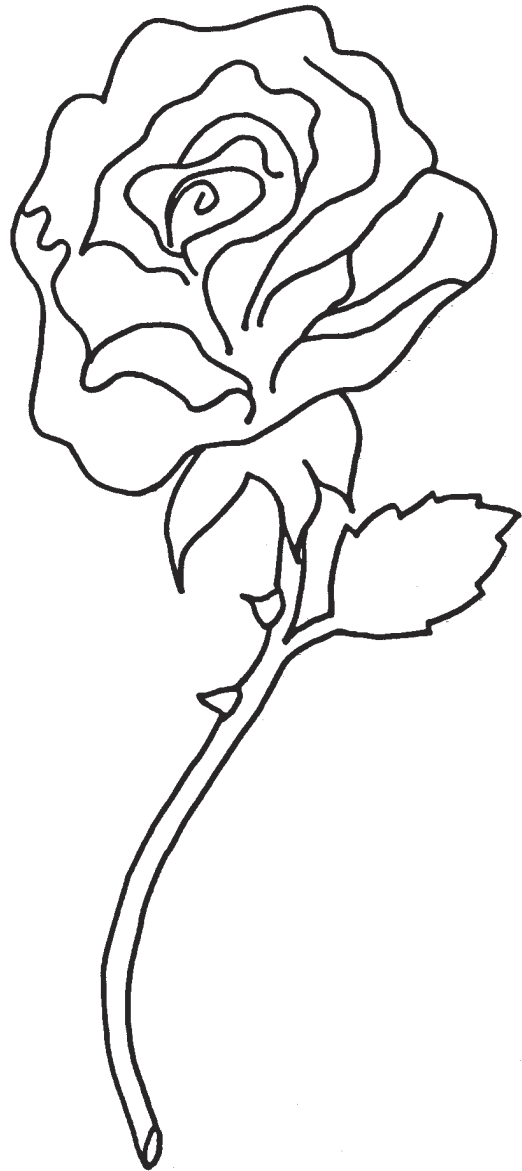
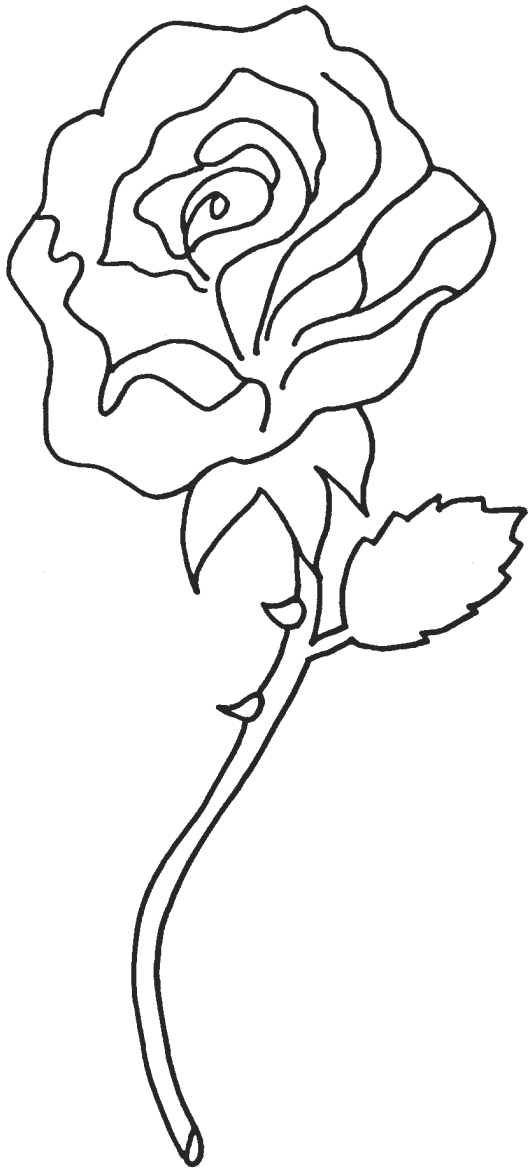
Coloring – if time

END CLASS:

Remind Children that the class was about being Love giving them example of loving family, friends and always God.

Someone says a closing prayer. Ask Children to settle down and bow their heads. Remind them that the quote talks about a Pure Heart:

**“He is God! O God my God! Bestow upon me a pure heart, like unto a pearl. -
'Abdu'l-Bahá**



“O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .”