

Lesson 4 - Justice

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 if any of them know a prayer by heart that they could recite for the class.

TODAY'S LESSON

Teacher: Today's Lesson is about Justice. Another way of explaining justice is fairness. Ask the children who knows what it means to be fair. Give examples and begin a conversation on Justice and Fairness.

God loves justice. Justice means that we must respect the rights of every human being and make sure we do not take away from anyone what they deserve. We show justice when we share with others and treat them with fairness and equally.

Memorizing quotations

Before introducing the next quotation for memorization, review previous quotes

**"O Son of Spirit! My First Counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart"
"In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love..."**

NEW QUOTE:

"Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily, is the straight path."

Words broken down:

Tread

1. Many leaves have fallen from the trees in the forest, covering the path. Fumiko walks through the forest. She treads the leaf-covered path.
2. Pedro like to help all his friends play happily together. Pedro and his friends are very unified. Pedro treads the path of unity.

Path

1. Luis has a donkey. He took it to graze in a meadow and left it alone. The donkey found the path home by itself.
2. There are two ways to go to school. Millie always likes to take the path that goes by her grandmother's house.

Justice

1. Carlos was given crayons to hand out during class. There were ten crayons and five children. Carlos gave two crayons to each child. Carlos was acting with justice in handing out the crayons.
2. Anna has lots of water in the well in her yard, but sometimes her neighbour's well runs dry. Anna never allows this neighbour to suffer and always makes her feel welcome to take water. Anna loves justice.

Quotes from other religions:

Buddhism: He, who inquires into what is right and wrong is indeed just and wise.
Dhammatthavagga

Judaism: Execute true justice. Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.
Zechariah

Christianity: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you." Psalm

Singing Time (See Lyrics Page)

My First Counsel is This
Love, Love, Love
A Noble Way
If You're Happy and You Know It

Story time

The following story about 'Abdu'l-Baha that illustrates how just He was. In recounting the story, emphasize the actions of 'Abdu'l-Baha that show His concern for justice and help the children see how they could follow His example.

One day, 'Abdu'l-Baha wanted to go from 'Akka to Haifa. He went to take an inexpensive seat in a regular coach. The driver was surprised and must have asked himself why 'Abdu'l-Baha was so frugal as to ride in this cheap coach. "Surely, Your Excellency would prefer to travel in a private carriage," he exclaimed. "No," replied the Master and He traveled in the crowded coach all the way to Haifa. As He stepped down from the coach in Haifa, a distressed fisher woman came to Him and asked for His help. All day she had caught nothing and now had to return home to her hungry family. 'Abdu'l-Baha

gave her a good sum of money, turned to the driver and said, "Why should I ride in luxury while so many are starving?"

Activity

What is justice? Making index cards in blue that say "Just" and index cards with "Unjust" (or "Not Just"). You can tell the children a story, or just give them scenarios - and they have to hold up their sign and tell if it's "just!" or "not just." Those children who can't read can use the color coding to help with the game.

- Sharing crayons with others (Just)
- Following the rules when playing a game. (Just)
- Taking away someone's toy without asking to use it. (Unjust)
- Making sure everyone gets a slice of cake. (Just)
- Cutting in front of others in line without permission. (Unjust)
- Taking equal time on the swing. (Just)
- Finding a game everyone can enjoy. (Just)
- Taking someone's candy if they were mean to you. (Unjust)

At the end of the Game, have the children give their own examples.

Sorting candy – Ahead of time, count out using M&Ms (assuming 5 children) 5 red, 5 yellow, 5 green, 5 blue and 5 orange pieces of candy. Give each child a plate and put all the candy in the center (stones, flowers can work as well). Tell the children that they have to be just and work out how to distribute the candies evenly in a matter that is just. (The best way to do it is to give each child 1 red M&M, then the next color, etc.)

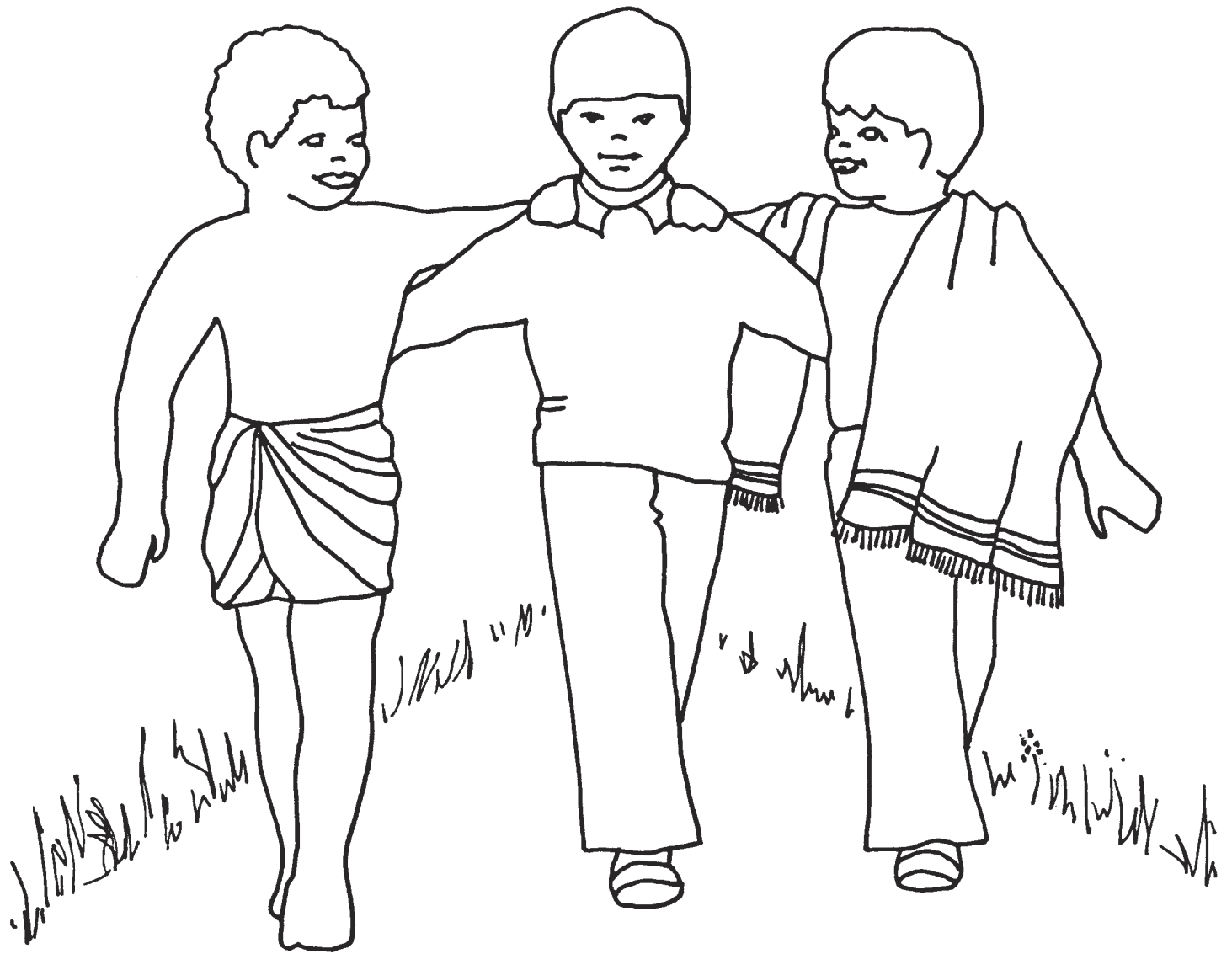
2. Color picture

END CLASS:

Remind Children that the class was about having a Pure, Kindly and Radiant Heart. Ask them for an example of a pure, kindly and radiant heart. It may be nice to ask them to try to show a pure, kindly and radiant heart and share it at the next class.

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



“Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily is the straight path. ”