

## Lesson 7: Honesty

### **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. Reminding them each time, 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.

### **Reviewing Previous Quotations**

Before introducing the next quotation for memorization, review previous quotes. Use the Index Cards to help them memorize the quotes.

**"O Son of Spirit! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting." – Bahá'u'lláh**

**"Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily, is the straight path." – Bahá'u'lláh**

**"Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself." – Bahá'u'lláh**

### **TODAY'S LESSON**

**Teacher:** Today's Lesson is Honesty

#### **Ask the class:**

- What is Honesty?
  - Being honest is being sincere, open, trustworthy, and truthful. When people are honest, they can be relied on not to lie, cheat or steal. If they tell you they like you, you know they really mean it, because they would not say anything just to get their way or to make an impression.
  - Honesty is telling the truth no matter what. It is being truthful even when admitting the truth could make someone disappointed. Honesty means not exaggerating something just to impress others.

- Being honest means you don't make false promises. You do what you said you would do. Your actions match your words. This is also called integrity.
- What is the difference between honesty, lying and exaggeration?
- What if someone is not honest to you? (Does that hurt?)
- God wants you to be honest to everyone (Honesty is a virtue we must work hard to acquire. It is a part of your character. Remind the children what character means.)

### **How Do You Practice It?**

- Don't try to fool anyone and don't let them fool you.
- Say what you mean and mean what you say. When you do something, give it your best effort, and then don't pretend you did more. Don't say or do things just to make a good impression. You don't need to make things up to look good - you're quite fine as you are, honest!
- Tell the truth, no matter what. If you make a mistake, admit it. It's the best way to fix things. Be honest with yourself, and you will always be able to be honest with others.

### **What would honesty look like if...**

- You broke one of your mother's favorite things by accident and are afraid she will be angry?
- You find yourself exaggerating about how well you did in a sporting game to impress your friends?
- You say something bad to someone when you're mad and then tell yourself he deserved it?
- You forgot to do an important homework assignment and the teacher asks you where it is.
- Some friends of yours try to convince you to steal some candy from a store?

### **Memorizing New Quotations**

Today's quotation can be presented to the children in the following way:

All of us know of beautiful things that God has created to adorn our lives and bring joy to our hearts. Yet, more than material things, it is spiritual qualities that make human beings beautiful. One of the most beautiful qualities which can adorn our lives is honesty. When we beautify ourselves with honesty, we do not take things that belong to others without their permission, and we never deceive anyone. TO help us remember the quality of honesty, let us memorize the following quotation of Baha'u'llah:

**"Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty."**

Beautify:

1. Violet planted beautiful roses in the garden. The roses beautify the garden.

2. Cash used to tell lies, but now he only tells the truth. Cash beautified his tongue with truthfulness.

Quotes from other religions:

Buddhism: The gift of Truth excels all gifts. Tanhavagga

Judaism: Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. Leviticus 19:11]

**THOUGHT: If you want your parents to listen to you, tell the truth so they can trust you. Be known as an honest person.**

### **SINGING TIME**

My First Counsel is This

Love, Love, Love

A Noble Way

Prefer Your Brother

If You're Happy and You Know It (It's best to end with this uplifting song.)

Truthfulness (New Song)

### **STORY TIME**

The story below illustrates the importance of honesty:

#### The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. He was in charge of the safety of the sheep and had to yell for help if any wolves came after the sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy sang out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said, "Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!"

But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

Later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"

But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.

"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, "Wolf!" Why didn't you come?"

An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village.

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"

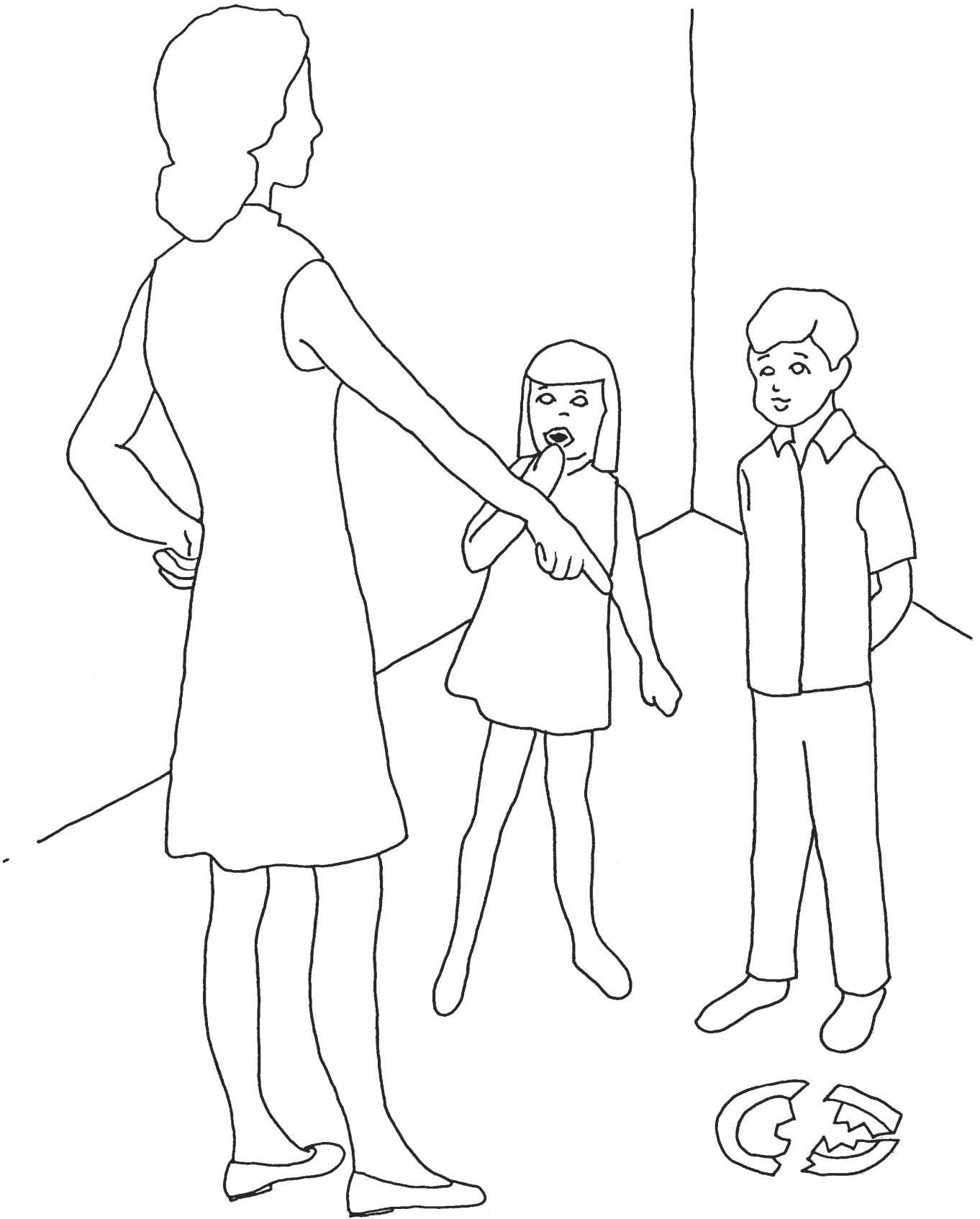
**Activity:** Beaded Honesty Necklace. (Each bead to remind you to be honest!)

**END CLASS:**

Remind Children that the class was about the honesty. Ask them what the lesson means and give an example.

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**



**“Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues.”**