

## Lesson 9: Unity in Diversity

### OPENING

**Teacher:** Everyone sits quietly, rest their arms in a position that they feel most comfortable and lower their faces to listen to the prayer and show respect to God:

**"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 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 Unity in Diversity

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

What is Unity? If people are united they get along with each other

What is Diversity? People of different backgrounds (religion, race, country, rich and poor)

Checklist: You are showing this virtue when you...

- Know that everyone's created equal by an All Loving God
- Are friendly to all people – regardless of their differences
- Are standing up against prejudice and racism
- Celebrate how differences are beautiful and good
- Want to learn about different peoples cultures and customs

## Memorizing New Quotations

God created all of humanity to live together as one family. If we are to do this, we cannot let differences come between us. Instead, we should mingle with people of every religion, race, nation and class with love and kindness in our hearts. Other religions say:

Judaism: **How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!**

Buddhism: **“Nothing ever exists entirely alone; everything is in relation to everything else.”**

Christianity: **Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”**

Baha'i Faith: **So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.**

To help us remember this, let us memorize the following quotation of Bahá'u'lláh:

**“Blessed is he who minglenth with all men in a spirit of utmost kindness and love.”**

Mingle

1. Horses and dogs are two kinds of animals that can live together and not fight. They are often seen together. These two kinds of animals mingle.
2. At the party, people of different races were mingling and all felt as members of one family.

## SINGING TIME

My First Counsel is This

Love, Love, Love

A Noble Way

Prefer Your Brother

Truthfulness

Fountain of Generosity

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

## STORY TIME

You know from some of our earlier stories that, when 'Abdu'l-Baha first arrived in Akka, many of the people treated Him badly. They were cruel to the Baha'is and did not want to speak to them. Soon, however, they came to see that the Baha'is were loving and kind, and slowly most of the townspeople began to show them kindness in return. But there were a few who clung to their anger and hatred.

Now, one day, a man who still carried much hatred in his heart towards 'Abdu'l-Baha heard others praising His greatness and goodness. The man became outraged. He would show them, he said with anger, that this Persian they all revered was not so wonderful

after all. And off he went, his heart burning with anger. He knew that 'Abdu'l-Baha could be found praying in the mosque at that hour, and he rushed there, ready to lay violent hands upon the beloved Master. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá looked at the man with serenity and dignity. Lovingly, He reminded him of the teachings of God that we are to be generous to all guests, even those that are different from us. At this, the man realized that 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Baha'is were, indeed, like guests in Akka, in his home. And like a generous host, he should welcome them with love and treat them with kindness.

### **Coloring**

Drawing 6 for the children to color

### **Activity:**

Buttons – Small “Citizen of the World” buttons

Tattoos – No Prejudice tattoos

Pom Poms of Color – create pom poms using material or yarn of different colors

### **END CLASS:**

Remind Children that the class was about Unity. 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**

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