

TO UNDERSTAND THE STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

THE STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

AS STATED BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

**SPIRITUAL QUALITIES RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC:
LOVE, HUMILITY, REVERENCE**

God sent His Prophets into the world to teach and enlighten man, to explain to him the mystery of the Power of the Holy Spirit, to enable him to reflect the light, and so in his turn, to be the source of guidance to others. The heavenly books, the Bible, the Qur'án, and the other Holy Writings have been given by God as guides to the paths of Divine Virtue, love, justice and peace...

'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, pp. 61-62

To strive to obtain a more adequate understanding of the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's stupendous Revelation must, it is my unalterable conviction, remain the first obligation of each one of its loyal adherents.

Shoghi Effendi, *World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 100

TOPIC: THE STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AS STATED BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES



KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVE

- To know that 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Writings clearly describe the Station of Bahá'u'lláh

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Present some of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements regarding the Station of Bahá'u'lláh to the children. See *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* and *Promulgation of Universal Peace*.
- Relate to the children stories of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of His Father's Station, and of His servitude to Bahá'u'lláh, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Volume One*, pp. 49-62.
- From a selection of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Writings regarding the station of Bahá'u'lláh, have children glean a compilation of the titles employed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to describe the Identity of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Ask the children to research 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Writings for references to Bahá'u'lláh's Station.
- Have children memorize some of these prayers and excerpts from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Volume One*, pp. 48, 56.



WISDOM OBJECTIVE

- To understand the significance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of His Father's Station and His selfless devotion to His Faith

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Play interactive games that relate to finding a treasure or knowing a secret. Relate this to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's early recognition of Bahá'u'lláh's Station.
- In groups, ask children to consult on specific instances from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's life that demonstrate His recognition of His Father's Station or His selfless devotion to His Father's Faith.
- Ask the children to reflect upon and find connections between 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of the Station of Bahá'u'lláh and the suffering and selfless devotion of 'Abdu'l-Bahá for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Have children listen to various pieces of music and find one to represent Their relationship; then use it as a background for reciting and meditating on the researched Writings.

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 **SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE**

- To discern the relationship of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá through one's understanding of the deep love between Them

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Teach children the song, "Look at Me, Follow Me..." making up new verses about loving and serving Bahá'u'lláh.
- Encourage children to reflect on how 'Abdu'l-Bahá loved and served His Father; envision how they personally can show love for, and devotion to, Bahá'u'lláh.
- From statements by 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the Identity of Bahá'u'lláh, have students choose a passage for meditation to strengthen their personal relationships with Bahá'u'lláh.
- Have children illustrate the titles that 'Abdu'l-Bahá uses to describe Bahá'u'lláh.

 **ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVES**

- To formulate one's understanding of Bahá'u'lláh's Station through the study of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's description of the Manifestation
- To explain to others one's understanding of the Station of Bahá'u'lláh as described by 'Abdu'l-Baha

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITY

- Help children plan a devotional meeting for the community on the Station of Bahá'u'lláh, using the Writings and talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Have children prepare an oral presentation on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of, and servitude to, Bahá'u'lláh; display visual symbols for the Station of Bahá'u'lláh, inspired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements, and recite from memory some of these passages.

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Sample Activities

ACTIVITY: 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S SERVICE TO BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

WISDOM OBJECTIVE: To understand the significance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of His Father's Station and His selfless devotion to His Faith

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Education directed toward recognition of God; Engaging mind and heart; Use of questioning; Use of stories

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 15 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- framed photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá or p. 43 of this Lesson Planning Guide
- stories from *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*

1. Reverently pass around a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, discuss the meaning of the name 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "Servant of Bahá'u'lláh."
2. Read the stories about how 'Abdu'l-Bahá served His Father and His Cause, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Volume One*, pp. 49-62, or refer to the list of additional resources.
3. Open a discussion: Why did 'Abdu'l-Bahá serve Bahá'u'lláh and His followers so selflessly? Encourage the many good replies which follow, which may include, "because 'Abdu'l-Bahá was good and kind to everyone," "He loved Bahá'u'lláh," "Bahá'u'lláh was His Father," and so on. Lead to the reply that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was able to see that His Father is the Lord of all.
4. Explain that 'Abdu'l-Bahá, at the age of nine, recognized and believed in Bahá'u'lláh when He saw His Father come out of the Síyáh-Chál. Very few others knew Who Bahá'u'lláh was until He made His Declaration in the Garden of Ridván ten years later.



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ACTIVITY: 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S STATION

WISDOM OBJECTIVE: To understand the significance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's recognition of His Father's Station and His selfless devotion to His Faith

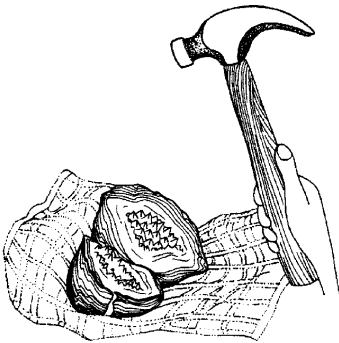
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Education directed toward recognition of God; Use of questioning; Use of nature; Use of reflection; Use of Sacred writings

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 45 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- geode, hammer, cloth
- quotations of 'Abdu'l-Bahá about His Father's station in the books listed below or copies of p. 45 of this Lesson Planning Guide
- blank cards
- calligraphy pens or colored markers

1. Obtain a geode from a naturalist supply store or a rockhound.
2. Use the rock, which appears normal from the outside but has beautiful crystals filling the hollow inside, as an analogy for 'Abdu'l-Bahá recognizing the hidden treasure of His Father's Station even before Bahá'u'lláh's Declaration.



3. To open the geode and discover the treasure inside, wrap it in a cloth and hit it sharply with a hammer.
4. Knowing who Bahá'u'lláh is and loving Him enables 'Abdu'l-Bahá to bear many hardships. Read portions of a Tablet by Bahá'u'lláh concerning His Son on p. 44 of this Lesson Planning Guide.
5. Ask: "Now that we know what Bahá'u'lláh says about 'Abdu'l-Bahá, what does 'Abdu'l-Bahá say about His Father?"
6. Divide into groups to have children read (or read to children) selected pages from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Writings. Using the indexes, see *Promulgation of World Peace*, "Bahá'u'lláh, referred to as," and *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, "Bahá'u'lláh, station of" and Bahá'u'lláh titles of." Mark the pages so that the children can find 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements about Bahá'u'lláh, or provide photocopies of p. 45 of this Lesson Planning Guide.
7. Ask each group to find one or more statements by 'Abdu'l-Bahá about Who Bahá'u'lláh is. They are to choose a sentence or two from each statement that would constitute a good memory verse. Some examples are on pp. 48 and 56 of *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Volume One*.
8. Have groups copy their selected memory verses onto cards. Use calligraphy pens or colored markers to beautify these verses.
9. Provide time for the children to read each of the finished verses aloud and for quiet reflection on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Words. Encourage the children to share their responses to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements and the love reflected in them.
10. Discuss practical ways that, like 'Abdu'l-Bahá, we can show our recognition of Bahá'u'lláh through our actions this week.

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ACTIVITY: THE BOND OF LOVE BETWEEN BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To discern one's relationship to Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá through one's understanding of the deep love between them

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Use of science; Use of art

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- access to an electrical outlet; optional extension cord
- electric lamp

1. Point to an electric outlet, and/or extension cord. This wire represents love flowing at all times from Bahá'u'lláh to us. It is always there—but unless we connect with that love, it can not light up our life.
2. While holding the lamp plug, explain that we can try our best to live a good life, but we must recognize Bahá'u'lláh, and love Him in order to shine out with His light. Plug the lamp into the outlet/extension cord.
3. Explain that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was always connected to knowing and loving Bahá'u'lláh, and so His light was always shining. We sometimes forget—forget to pray, forget to read God's Words every morning and evening, forget to obey His commandments—and then we become disconnected from loving Him (unplug the lamp)—and our light goes out.
4. Ask children to think about the relationship between Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, about Their connection.
5. Ask them to now think about how they feel about their own connection to Bahá'u'lláh.
6. Have each child draw a picture or write how they feel about the relationship between Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

ACTIVITY: IN THE WORDS OF THE MASTER

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVE: To explain to others one's understanding of the Station of Bahá'u'lláh as described by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Education directed toward recognition of God; Engaging mind and heart; Use of questioning; Use of peer teaching; Use of memorization.

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 40 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- memory verses: *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, pages 48, 56.

1. Review with the children some of the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá about the Station of Bahá'u'lláh.
2. In teams of two, have children retell in their own words the Station of Bahá'u'lláh as described by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Have them ask one another a prompting question, such as, "Why do you think 'Abdu'l-Bahá says 'Verily, ye are the proofs of Bahá'u'lláh...?'"
3. Have the children memorize these verses to be recited at an upcoming Feast or other community gathering.

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Resource Pages

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ AS A YOUNG MAN



TOPIC: THE STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
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Tablet by Bahá'u'lláh concerning His Son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá

From *'Abdu'l-Bahá* by H. M. Balyuzi, p. 26

It is the Master Who has taken every trouble upon Himself. For Our sake, in order that We may have ease and comfort, He faces the world and its peoples. For Us He has become a mighty stronghold, a mighty armour. At first He rented the Mansion of Mazra'ih. We were there for a while. Then he secured for Us this Mansion of Bahjí. He has arisen with all His power to serve the Faith, and confirmation crowns His effort. This work so occupies His days and nights that He is perforce kept away from Bahjí for weeks. We consort with the Friends and reveal His [God's] Word. He, the Master, is the target and bears all hardships.

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WHO DOES 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ SAY HIS FATHER IS?

Praise be to God! The door of divine knowledge has been opened by Bahá'u'lláh, for He has laid the foundation whereby man may become acquainted with the verities of heaven and earth and has bestowed the utmost confirmation in this day. He is our Teacher and Adviser; He is our Seer and the One clement toward us.
‘Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 228

In brief, Bahá'u'lláh hath become manifest to educate all the peoples of the world. He is the Universal Educator, whether of the rich or the poor, whether of black or white, or of peoples from east or west, or north or south.
‘Abdu'l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 195

But—praise be to God!—your Teacher and Instructor is Bahá'u'lláh. He is the Educator of the Orient and Occident. He is the Teacher of the very world of divinity and spirituality, the Sun of Truth, the Word of God. The lights of His education are radiating even as the sun. See what it has accomplished, how it is developing all humanity so that I, a Persian, have come to this meeting of revered souls upon the American continent and am standing here expounding to you in the greatest love. This is through the training of Bahá'u'lláh, which can unite and has united these hearts. In this way it has enlightened the world. Even so it has breathed the spirit of God into men. Even so it has resuscitated the hearts of men.
‘Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 78

From *Bahá'í World Faith*:

“Blessed Tree”
“Blessed Body”
“Sun of Reality”

“The One clement toward us”
“Sun of Reality”
“Sun of Truth”
“Teacher and Instructor”
“Word of God”

“Greatest Name”
“Incomparable Branch”
“The Blessed Beauty”
“The Ancient Beauty”
“Light of Reality”
“Supreme Pen”

From *Huqúqu'lláh*:

“The King of Glory”

From *Memorials of the Faithful*:

“The Divine Lote Tree”

From *Promulgation of Universal Peace*:

“Advisor”
“Educator of Orient and Occident”
“Messenger and Herald of Reality”
“Real Physician”
“Protector”
“Seer”

From *Paris Talks*:

“Blessed Beauty”
“Blessed Perfection”

From *Some Answered Questions*:

“Divine Branch”
“Greatest Luminary”

From *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*:

“Abhá Beauty”
“Light of the World”
“Prince of Peace”
“Sun of Truth”
“Tree of Life”
“Universal Educator”

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LIST OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stories & Articles:

Brilliant Star:

“Musk-Scented Pen” Nov/Dec 97

“A Teacher is an Apostle of Bahá'u'lláh” SpEd 92

List other favorite resources:

If you find any additional resources, please notify the National Teacher Training Center, or submit your findings to the Educational Materials web site.