



Lessons for Young Children

Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education®

Preschool

Strand: World Order of Baha'u'llah

Theme: The Greatest Holy Leaf



Learning Objectives

These lessons about the Greatest Holy Leaf are designed to assist your young children to achieve the following objectives:

Knowledge

- To be able to recognize the name and picture of Bahíyyih Khánum
- To know that generosity includes sharing Bahá'u'lláh's teachings with others

Wisdom

- To gain an understanding of episodes in the life of the Greatest Holy Leaf through stories of her life
- To begin to appreciate the spiritual quality of generosity

Spiritual Perception

- To reflect on the stories of the life of the Greatest Holy Leaf and our own connection to her life

Eloquent Speech

- To practice demonstrating the spiritual quality of generosity
- To be able to recite a short prayer for children
- To practice inviting and welcoming guests and other newcomers to class

Lesson 1

Bahíyyih Khánum

Materials Needed

Welcome and Introductions

None

Activity 1

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer so all can see:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Activity 2

Resource Page 258

Recorded version "What a Power Is Love," (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, www.core-curriculum.org

Activity 3

Resource Page 259, or *Stories of the Greatest Holy Leaf*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 30

Resource Page 260, or you may use toy vehicles, if available

A suitcase as a storytelling prop, if available

Activity 4

Pre-cut and pre-holed fabric dress for each child, cut from the template on Resource Page 261; use varied fabric

Pre-measured yarn or string for each child, knotted at one end; wrap the other end of the yarn or string in tape to make it stiff enough to pass through the fabric or use large craft needles without pre-cutting holes in the fabric

Doll or stuffed animal of a size that could wear the dress (optional)

Activity 5

Resource Page 262

Activity 6

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource Page 219) for each child with 6 stickers attached

Activity 7

Dresses made in Activity 4 of this lesson

Activity 8

Poster from Activity 1 of this Lesson or the following prayer written on chart paper:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá*

* *Bahá'í Prayers*, U.S. 1991 edition, p. 36

Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children. Mention a unique spiritual quality of each child as you greet each one. Include greetings in other languages as taught in previous lessons and greetings in all the languages used in the homes of children in your class.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Be sure to create a warm welcome for newcomers to the class.
- 3 Explain that during next few weeks we will be learning about Bahíyyih Khánum, the daughter of Bahá'u'lláh, known as the Greatest Holy Leaf. She will help us learn about the spiritual quality of generosity.



Materials Needed

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer so all can see:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Activity 1

Opening Prayer: O Thou Kind Lord

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Explain that we will be learning a new prayer to share during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word.
- 3 Teach the first 2 sentences of this prayer through simple repetition. After each sentence has been practiced separately, practice reciting them together. Applaud all.
- 4 Remind them that all the children of the world are "the handiwork" of God's might and the signs of God's greatness. Explain that this prayer shows us the power of God's love for all people. The class will share this prayer with people they love during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 5 Save your poster of the prayer for future classes.



Materials Needed

Resource Page 258

Recorded version of “What a Power Is Love” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, www.core-curriculum.org

Activity 2

Music: What a Power Is Love!

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that God, the Creator of all, loves all the people of the world. Invite them to learn a song about the power of love. Sing aloud this melody twice or play a recorded version.
- 2 Sing the first line of the melody again, inviting children to join in when ready.
- 3 Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 4 Practice singing the melody in its entirety several times. Applaud all.
- 5 Discuss: How does it make us feel to know that we are loved? What are some ways we show our love to others?



Materials Needed

Resource Page 259, or *Stories of the Greatest Holy Leaf*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 30

Resource Page 260, or you may use toy vehicles if available

A suitcase as a storytelling prop, if available

Activity 3

Storytelling: The Dress

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Invite children to listen carefully as you eloquently read or retell the story in your own words. Discuss: What happened in the story? What happened after that? Continue discussing to assure that the children understand the action of the story.
- 2 Show the pictures of the boat, train, and carriage as mentioned in the story. Discuss: How many of us have been on a boat or seen a boat? A train? A carriage? Acknowledge all.
- 3 If available, show the suitcase. Discuss: How many of us have gone on a long trip to someplace far away? What did we take with us? Did we take some special clothes? Do we need the same or different clothes for hot weather and cold weather?
- 4 Ask: How did the Greatest Holy Leaf show her love for the woman? Acknowledge all. Affirm that the Greatest Holy Leaf showed her love for the woman by making her a comfortable dress to wear in hot weather.



Activity 4

Making a Dress

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Pre-cut and pre-holed front and back portions of the dress for each child, using template on Resource Page 261, cut from various fabrics

Pre-measured yarn or string for each child, knotted at one end; wrap the other end of the yarn or string in tape to make it stiff enough to pass through the fabric or use large craft needles without pre-cutting holes in the fabric

Doll or stuffed animal of a size that could wear the dress (optional)

- 1 Invite children to make a dress as a reminder of the Greatest Holy Leaf's love, service, and generosity.
- 2 Encourage children to select a piece of pre-cut and pre-holed fabric for their dress.
- 3 Give each child a length of pre-measured, pre-knotted string or yarn. Demonstrate "sewing" by pulling the string in one hole and out another to make a seam on one side of the dress.
- 4 Assist children to sew one side of the dress together. Knot the remaining end of the string to hold the seam.
- 5 Provide children with a second pre-cut, pre-knotted string. Assist them to sew a second seam down the other side of the dress. Knot the string to hold the seam.
- 6 Praise the children for a job well done. If desired show how the dress could fit a doll or small stuffed animal. Remind children that the Greatest Holy Leaf made dresses to help a traveler be comfortable in the hot weather.



Activity 5

Bahíyyih Khánum

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 262

Chart paper and markers

- 1 Show a photograph of the Greatest Holy Leaf. Explain that Bahá'u'lláh gave His daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, the title "the Greatest Holy Leaf." She is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister. She shows us what it means to be a Bahá'í.
- 2 Discuss: What spiritual qualities did the Greatest Holy Leaf show in the story about the dress?
- 3 Print the name "Bahíyyih Khánum" on a poster for the children to see. Say the name of each letter as you print it. Add accent marks.
- 4 Invite the children to repeat the letters in her name and to say her name. Remind children that Bahá'u'lláh called His daughter the Greatest Holy Leaf. We can also call her the Greatest Holy Leaf.
- 5 Save this poster for the next lesson.



Activity 6

Spiritual Quality: Generosity

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Spiritual Quality Chart
(Resource Page 219) for each
child with 6 stickers attached

- 1** Remind children that we're learning about spiritual qualities. Discuss: *What are some spiritual qualities? Affirm that reverence, love, kindness, happiness, and honesty are some of the spiritual qualities in every person.*
- 2** Explain that the Greatest Holy Leaf showed her love by making comfortable dresses for the traveler. Her gift shows the spiritual quality of generosity. *We're generous when we give our time, our money, our love, or other gifts. Generosity is giving. Discuss: What did the Greatest Holy Leaf give to the woman whose clothes were too hot? What are some other examples of generosity?*
- 3** Invite children to each think of a time they were generous. Acknowledge all. Provide assistance as needed so that all the children call to mind a specific example of their own generosity.
- 4** Explain that they will have a Spiritual Quality Chart to help them practice generosity all week.
- 5** Show the Chart and explain that their parents or another adult may place a sticker on the Chart every day that they show generosity.
- 6** Explain that when they bring their chart back to class, you will give them a special sticker.
- 7** Give each child a Spiritual Quality Chart and stickers to take home.



Activity 7

Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Dresses made in Activity 4

- 1 Explain that love is a gift that we can give all people. The Manifestations of God bring God's gift of love for all people. We're generous when we share this gift with others. Bahá'u'lláh states: ". . . To assist Me is to teach My Cause."*
- 2 Explain that Bahá'u'lláh asks us to generously share His Teachings with all people. We can do that by telling others about Bahá'í class. Ask the children: What is one thing that you like about today's class? Listen carefully and acknowledge all.
- 3 Discuss: Whom can we tell about Bahá'í class—our parents, our grandparents, our friends, our neighbors? Encourage each child to say the name of one special person they can tell about today's Bahá'í class.
- 4 Invite children to practice telling about Bahá'í class by showing the dress they made and saying what they like about today's class. Applaud all.
- 5 Remind children that when they tell others about Bahá'í class, they are practicing generosity. They are sharing God's love and God's teachings with others.
- 6 If desired, sing again "What a Power Is Love!"



Activity 8

Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Poster from Activity 1 of this Lesson or the prayer from Activity 1 written on chart paper

- 1 Explain that we will continue learning a prayer to share during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word.
- 3 Teach the first 2 sentences of this prayer through simple repetition. After each sentence has been practiced separately, practice reciting them together. Applaud all.
- 4 Remind them that all the children of the world are the handiwork of God's might and the signs of God's greatness. Explain that this prayer shows us the power of God's love for all people. Explain that the class will share this prayer with people they love during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.

* Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 196

The Greatest Holy Leaf

Welcome and Introductions

None

Activity 1

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

Activity 2

Resource Page 258

Recorded version of “What a Power Is Love” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, www.core-curriculum.org

Activity 3

Resource Page 259 or *Stories of The Greatest Holy Leaf* by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 30

Resource Page 258

Activity 4

Shopping bags

Articles of clothing, shawls, or pieces of fabric

Activity 5

Resource Page 262

Activity 6

Resource Page 264, copied on cardstock for each child

Access to the outdoors (if possible)

A collection of various leaves; if real leaves are unavailable, cut some in various colors of construction paper

Glue

Newspaper to cover work area

Activity 7

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource Page 219) for each child with 6 stickers attached

Special sticker for each child

Activity 8

Assorted dolls or stuffed animals

Activity 9

Poster from Activity 1 of this Lesson or the following prayer written on chart paper:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

* *Bahá’í Prayers*, U.S. 1991 edition, p. 36

Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children, showing your special love for each one. Include greetings in different languages that you have taught in previous lessons.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Welcome newcomers! Invite children to use several languages to greet each other.
- 3 Remind children that we are learning about the daughter of Bahá'u'lláh, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum, and about the spiritual quality of generosity.



Materials Needed

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Activity 1

Opening Prayer: O Thou Kind Lord

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Invite the children to continue learning a prayer that the class will share during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word.
- 3 Teach the first 4 sentences of this prayer through simple repetition. After each sentence has been practiced separately, practice reciting them together. Applaud all.
- 4 Remind them that all the children of the world are the handiwork of God's might and the signs of God's greatness. Explain that this prayer shows us the power of God's love for all people. Explain that the class will share this prayer with people they love during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.



Activity 2

Music: What a Power Is Love!

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 258

Recorded version of “What a Power Is Love” (optional)

- 1 Remind children that God, the Creator of all, loves all the people of the world. Invite them to learn a song about the power of love. Sing aloud this melody twice or play a recorded version.
- 2 Sing the first line of the melody again, inviting children to join in when ready.
- 3 Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 4 Practice singing the melody in its entirety several times. Applaud all.
- 5 Remind children that one way to show love is to be generous with our family and friends. We can give hugs generously; we can share our toys generously; we can give away a favorite bite at snack time. When we show our love and generosity, we are following the example of the Greatest Holy Leaf.



Activity 3

Storytelling: The Dress

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 259, or *Stories of The Greatest Holy Leaf*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 30

Resource Page 258

- 1 Invite the children to listen carefully as you eloquently read or retell the story in your own words. Discuss: *What happened in the story? What happened after that? Continue discussing to assure that the children understand the action of the story.*
- 2 Show the pictures of the boat, train, and carriage as mentioned in the story. Discuss: *How many of us have been on a boat or seen a boat? A train? A carriage? Acknowledge all.*
- 3 Discuss: *How many of us have lost something? How does it feel? Who can imagine how this woman must have felt when her luggage was lost?*
- 4 Explain that the Greatest Holy Leaf showed her love and generosity by making the woman a comfortable dress to wear during her trip.



Activity 4

The Trip

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Shopping bags

Articles of clothing, shawls, or pieces of fabric

- 1 Explain that we will now take a trip, just like the woman in our story.
- 2 Invite the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Remind the children that in the story, the woman was taking a very long trip.
- 3 Invite a volunteer to become a “traveler” by selecting a few articles of clothing to put in their traveling (shopping) bag. Encourage the child walk around the circle of students several times carrying the bag.
- 4 Then instruct the child to put down the bag and all children to briefly close their eyes while you hide the bag nearby.
- 5 When the children re-open their eyes, the bag has disappeared! Discuss: How does it feel to lose the bag? What happened in the story when the woman lost her bag? What can the other children do to help the traveler in our class? Affirm that we can show our love by sharing what we have.
- 6 Invite children to each think of a way we could show generosity to the traveler. Applaud all.
- 7 Let each child take a turn as traveler in this activity. See how many ways to show generosity the class can identify!



Activity 5

Bahíyyih Khánum

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 262

Poster of Bahíyyih Khánum's name created in Lesson 1

- 1 Show a photograph of the Greatest Holy Leaf. Explain that Bahá'u'lláh gave His daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, the title “the Greatest Holy Leaf.” She is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s sister. The Greatest Holy Leaf shows us what it means to love God and serve humanity.
- 2 Discuss: What can we learn from the Greatest Holy Leaf in the story about the dress?
- 3 Point to the poster with the name “Bahíyyih Khánum.” Invite the children to say with you the name of each letter in turn.
- 4 Invite the children to repeat again the letters in her name and to say her name. Remind children that Bahá'u'lláh called His daughter the Greatest Holy Leaf. We can also call her the Greatest Holy Leaf.



Materials Needed

Resource Page 264, copied on cardstock for each child

Access to the outdoors, if possible

A collection of various leaves; if real leaves are unavailable, cut some in various colors of construction paper

Glue and cotton swabs

Newspaper to cover work area

Activity 6 The Greatest Holy Leaf

Time: 20 minutes

- 1 If possible, invite the children to go outside with you and gather interesting or pretty leaves. As they gather leaves, comment on the beauty of the leaves and how important they are to the tree. If it is not possible to take the children outdoors, display the collection of diverse leaves or paper leaves.
- 2 Cover work area with newspaper and place the leaves and glue within reach of the children.
- 3 Distribute a piece of cardstock, with the name of the Greatest Holy Leaf, to each child. Discuss: Who can identify this name? Affirm that this is the name of the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahiyyih Khánum, the daughter of Bahá'u'lláh. Remind them that Bahá'u'lláh gave her the title of the Greatest Holy Leaf.
- 4 Invite the children to select a few leaves to glue to the cardstock without covering her name. Assist as needed.
- 5 Explain that you will save these pictures to decorate the classroom for guests during Lesson 4. Carefully stack them under heavy books to press the leaves.



Materials Needed

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource Page 219) for each child with 6 stickers attached

Special stickers for each child

Activity 7 Spiritual Quality: Generosity

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that we're practicing the spiritual quality of generosity and that the Greatest Holy Leaf lived a life of generosity. In the story we read today, the Greatest Holy Leaf showed her love and generosity by making comfortable dresses for the traveler. We're generous when we give our time, our money, our love, or other gifts. Generosity is giving.
- 2 Invite children to each think of a time they were generous. Acknowledge all. Place a special sticker on each child's chart. If any children cannot think of a time they showed generosity, think of a time you saw their generous actions in class.
- 3 Remind them that their Spiritual Quality Chart can help them practice generosity all week. Show the Chart and explain that their parents or another adult may place a sticker on the Chart every day that they show generosity.
- 4 Explain that when they bring their chart back to class, you will give them a special sticker. Give each child a Spiritual Quality Chart and stickers to take home.



Materials Needed

Stuffed animals or dolls

Activity 8 Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Explain that love is a gift that we can give all people. The Manifestations of God bring God's gift of love for all people. We're generous when we share this gift with others. Bahá'u'lláh tells us: ". . . To assist Me is to teach My Cause."*
- 2 Explain that Bahá'u'lláh asks us to share His Message of love and unity with all people. We're generous when we share God's Message of unity with others. One way to share is to tell our friends and family what we do in Bahá'í class.
- 3 Invite children to share one thing they liked about Bahá'í class today. Encourage each child to say the name of one special person they can tell about today's Bahá'í class.
- 4 Invite children to practice telling about Bahá'í class by selecting one of the dolls or stuffed animals to tell about today's class. Applaud all.
- 5 Remind children that when they tell others about Bahá'í class, they are practicing generosity by sharing God's love and God's teachings with others.
- 6 If desired, sing again "What a Power Is Love!"



Materials Needed

Poster from Activity 1 of this Lesson or the prayer from Activity 1 written on chart paper

Activity 9 Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Explain that we will continue learning a prayer to share during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word. Teach the first 4 sentences of this prayer through simple repetition. After each sentence has been practiced separately, practice reciting them together. Applaud all.
- 3 Remind them that all the children of the world are "the handiwork" of God's might and the signs of God's greatness. This prayer shows us the power of God's love for all people. The class will share this prayer with people they love during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.

* Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 196

Lesson 3

An Invitation

Materials Needed

Welcome and Introductions

None

Activity 1

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Activity 2

Resource Page 258

Recorded version of "What a Power Is Love" (optional)

Activity 3

Resource Page 265, or *Stories of The Greatest Holy Leaf*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 22

Pita, bread roll, or slice of delicious bread

Activity 4

Pita, bread roll, or slice of bread from Activity 3

Cheese

Grapes or other small pieces of fresh or dried fruit

Activity 5

Resource Page 262

Activity 6

Construction paper

Pre-printed invitations to the next class, perhaps using Resource Page 266 as a model. Fill in the blanks and sign the name of your class before copying.

Pre-cut strips of ribbon

Glue

Craft stick or cotton swab

Newspaper

Activity 7

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource Page 219) for each child with 6 stickers attached

Special sticker for each child

Activity 8

Sample invitation from Activity 6

Activity 9

Poster from Activity 1 of this Lesson or the following prayer written on chart paper:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá*

* *Bahá'í Prayers*, U.S. 1991 edition, p. 36

Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children. Make newcomers feel that they are wholeheartedly welcome as members of the group. Include greetings in the diverse languages used by children in your class.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Invite the children to say one happy thing about their week.
- 3 Remind children that we are learning about the daughter of Bahá'u'lláh, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum, and about the spiritual quality of generosity. We are also getting ready to welcome guests to our special presentation during the next class.



Activity 1

Opening Prayer: O Thou Kind Lord

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

- 1 Remind the class that we are learning a prayer to share during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word.
- 3 Teach this prayer through simple repetition. After practicing each sentence separately, practice reciting the entire prayer together. Applaud all.
- 4 Remind them that all the children of the world are the handiwork of God's might and the signs of God's greatness. Explain that this prayer shows us the power of God's love for all people. Explain that the class will share this prayer with people they love during a special presentation about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum during the next class.



Activity 2

Music: What a Power Is Love!

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 258

Recorded version of this “What a Power Is Love” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, www.core-curriculum.org

- 1 Remind children that God, the Creator of all, loves all the people of the world. Invite them to learn a song about the power of love. Sing aloud this melody twice or play a recorded version.
- 2 Sing the first line of the melody again, inviting children to join in when ready.
- 3 Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 4 Practice singing the melody in its entirety several times. Applaud all.
- 5 Remind children that we will share this song with visitors during a special presentation about the Greatest Holy Leaf. Discuss: Would we also like to share another favorite song?



Activity 3

Storytelling: Tidbits

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 265, or *Stories of The Greatest Holy Leaf*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 22

Pita, bread roll, or slice of delicious bread

- 1 Read the story with warm expression. Explain that a tidbit is a tiny bite of something delicious.
- 2 Ask questions to assure comprehension such as: What does it mean to be poor? Why was Bahá'u'lláh's family “poor” when they were in the Holy Land? Were they happy or sad? Why? What did they do with the things they had? Were they generous?
- 3 Remind the children that sometimes the family of Bahá'u'lláh might have no more to eat than a piece of bread (show the pita, roll, or slice of bread) but they always shared what they had and they were very happy. The Greatest Holy Leaf saved the best bits for the children.
- 4 Explain that we will practice generosity by sharing together, just as they did in the story. We will each have a tiny bite of this bread.



Activity 4

Sharing Tidbits

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Pita, bread roll, or slice of bread from Activity 3

Cheese

Grapes or other small pieces of fresh or dried fruit

- 1 Invite the children to sit in a circle. Remind the children that Bahíyyih Khánum, the Greatest Holy Leaf, and her brother 'Abdu'l-Bahá, shared their food with others.
- 2 Take a small piece of the bread, add a tiny bit of cheese, and serve it to a child. Continue until you have served all the children tidbits from half of the available bread. Encourage children to wait to eat until all are served. Invite them to enjoy their tidbit and then discuss: How does it feel to share these tidbits?
- 3 Serve the entire circle of children another tidbit from the remaining bread. Then invite children to take turns serving each other grapes or other small pieces of fruit. Discuss: How does it feel to make others happy through our generosity and sharing?
- 4 Explain that they will have the opportunity to serve tidbits (bread and cheese, nuts, dried or fresh fruit, or other small treats) to their friends, neighbors, parents, and grandparents as their special guests during the next class.
- 5 Encourage children to practice serving guests by taking turns serving each other another tidbit of fruit.



Activity 5

Bahíyyih Khánum

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Resource Page 262

Poster of Bahíyyih Khánum's name created in Lesson 1

- 1 Show a photograph of the Greatest Holy Leaf. Explain that Bahá'u'lláh gave His daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, the title "the Greatest Holy Leaf." She is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister and shows us what it means to be a Bahá'í.
- 2 Discuss: What can we learn from the Greatest Holy Leaf in the story about the tidbits?
- 3 Point to the name "Bahíyyih Khánum" printed on a poster. Say the name of each letter as you point to it.
- 4 Invite the children to repeat the letters in her name and to say her name. Remind children that Bahá'u'lláh called His daughter the Greatest Holy Leaf. We can also call her the Greatest Holy Leaf.



Activity 6

An Invitation

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Construction paper

Pre-printed invitations to the next class, perhaps using Resource Page 266 as a model. Fill in the blanks and sign the name of your class before copying.

Pre-cut strips of ribbon

Glue

Cotton swabs or craft sticks

Newspaper

Advance Preparation: Make a sample invitation. Create a guest list as children work.

- 1 Cover the work area with newspaper and provide glue and a cotton swab or craft stick for 2–3 children to share.
- 2 Explain to the children that they will be practice generosity by sharing their greetings, song, prayer, stories, and tidbits with guests that they will invite to the next class. Remind the children of the stories about Greatest Holy Leaf's generosity. Encourage them to practice generosity while they share supplies for making their invitations.
- 3 Observe carefully, notice children sharing supplies with each other, and praise their generosity and sharing. Provide coaching as necessary so that you're able to praise each child during this activity.
- 4 Invite each child to select a sheet of construction paper. Demonstrate how to fold the paper to make a card. Demonstrate spreading the glue on the seam edge of the card and then attaching a strip of ribbon (the ribbon may extend beyond the edge of the card).
- 5 Instruct the children to open the card and attach the invitation with the glue. Suggest to the groups that the friend who used the glue first may invite another friend to use it first this time.
- 6 As children work, encourage them to think of people in addition to their parents to invite to their program. Record these names to share with parents at the end of class. Encourage children to make 2 invitations: one for a parent and one for a friend. Allow invitations to dry until the end of the class.



Activity 7

Spiritual Quality: Generosity

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource Page 219) for each child with 6 stickers attached

Special sticker for each child

- 1 Remind children that we're practicing the spiritual quality of generosity. In the story we read today, the Greatest Holy Leaf showed her love and generosity by sharing tasty tidbits with children. She and 'Abdu'l-Bahá also shared their food with people who needed it.
- 2 Invite children to share about a time they were generous, and give a special sticker to each. Discuss: Who can tell a story about sharing God's message of love with others? Will the whole world be happy when everyone shares?
- 3 Remind children that they will have a Spiritual Quality Chart to help them practice generosity all week. Give each child a Chart and stickers to take home.



Activity 8

Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed

Sample invitation from Activity 6

- 1 Explain that Bahá'u'lláh asks us to share God's message of love with all people. He says: "... Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Bahá. . . ." *
- 2 Encourage children to share times that they told their friends, neighbors, parents, grandparents, and others about Bahá'í class. Acknowledge all.
- 3 Explain that they will have the opportunity to share Bahá'u'lláh's message of love for all people by inviting their friends and relatives to come to their program about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 4 Demonstrate giving the sample invitation and saying, "We hope that you can come to our program at Bahá'í class next week."
- 5 Encourage children to practice inviting friends and relatives to their program. Warmly acknowledge all. Affirm that they are teaching the Cause of God by sharing God's message of love for all people.
- 6 Invite each child to select a particular greeting to say to their parents and other guests at the beginning of the program. Practice these greetings several times.



Activity 9

Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

The prayer from Activity 1 written on chart paper

- 1 Explain that we will continue learning a prayer to share during our special presentation in the next class about Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánum.
- 2 Read aloud the prayer written on chart paper, pointing to each word. Teach this prayer through simple repetition. After each sentence has been practiced separately, practice reciting them together. Applaud all. Then sing a favorite song to conclude the class

* Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pg 278

Gifts for Families and Friends

Remind children to invite their friends, neighbors, parents, grandparents, and others to this special class. Teachers may also invite guests. Decorate with the leaf pictures you have saved from Lesson 2 and arrange seating for your guests.

Welcome and Introductions—None

Activity 1

To reflect on the stories of the life of The Greatest Holy Leaf and its connection to the events of their lives

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Activity 2

Resource Page 258, sheet music or recorded version of “What a Power Is Love” (optional)

Leaf artwork from Lesson 2, Activity 6

Resource Page 262

Sample dress from Lesson 1, Activity 4

Resource Page 265, or *Stories of the Greatest Holy Leaf*, p. 22

Activity 3

Consider arranging light refreshments for guests and students, perhaps including:

- Juice, water, or other beverage in small cups
- Tray of bread or crackers and cheese
- Sliced fruit
- Napkins and small plates

Activity 4

Bowl of nuts, dried fruit, or other small treat, and spoon

Napkins

Pre-cut ribbon

Basket

Activity 5

Copies of Resource Page 263, cut apart

Round paper doilies

Crayons

Glue and cotton swabs

Activity 6

None

Activity 7

None

Welcome and Introductions

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome children and their friends and families. Explain that the children will share greetings, a prayer, a song, a story, and tidbits with all guests.
- 2 Explain that children have been practicing greetings in several languages. Explain that “Allah-u-Abhá” is a Bahá’í greeting in the Arabic language that means, “God, the All-Glorious.” Introduce yourself with Allah-u-Abhá and one of the other greetings practiced in the class.
- 3 Invite children to introduce themselves and greet their guests with Allah-u-Abhá and another of their favorite greetings. Be sure to include greetings in all of the languages spoken by children in the class and their families.
- 4 Acknowledge children and thank the guests for coming to the program.



Activity 1

Opening Prayer: O Thou Kind Lord

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

Chart paper and markers

Before class begins, write out the following prayer:

O Thou Kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness.

O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity.

O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

- 1 Invite children to recite their memorized prayer, individually or as a class.
- 2 Children also may say other favorite prayers, if desired.



Materials Needed

Resource Page 258 (optional)

Recorded version of “What a Power Is Love” (optional)

Leaf artwork from Lesson 2, Activity 6

Resource Page 262

Sample dress from Lesson 1, Activity 4

Resource Page 265, or *Stories of the Greatest Holy Leaf*, p. 22



Materials Needed

Consider arranging light refreshments for guests and students, perhaps including:

- Juice, water, or other beverage in small cups
- Tray of bread or crackers and cheese
- Sliced fruit
- Napkins and small plates

Activity 2 The Program

Time: 15 minutes

- 1 Invite the children to sing, “What a Power Is Love” and other favorite songs.
- 2 Explain that the children have been learning about Bahá’u’lláh’s daughter, Bahiyyih Khánum, known as the Greatest Holy Leaf. Show the leaf pictures of Bahiyyih Khánum’s name. Invite the children to recite with you the letters that spell her name.
- 3 Show the picture of the Greatest Holy Leaf and invite children to answer questions: Who is this? What is her name? What special title did Bahá’u’lláh give her?
- 4 Explain that the children have been learning about the spiritual quality of generosity through stories about the Greatest Holy Leaf. Show a sample of the dress made in Lesson 1 for this topic. Invite children to share what they remember about the Greatest Holy Leaf’s generosity to the traveler. Assist as needed.
- 5 Invite guests to listen as you re-tell the story “Tidbits” with warmth and enthusiasm.
- 6 Invite children and guests to share their favorite parts of the stories.

Activity 3 Serving Tidbits

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Invite the guests to relax while the children serve tidbits.
- 2 Organize refreshments so that each child has the opportunity to serve. One may serve napkins. Others may carry half-full cups of juice or water (one at a time). Others may carry plates of small pieces of bread or crackers and cheese. Others may serve fruit. Coach the children to serve the oldest people first.
- 3 After the guests are served, invite the children to enjoy refreshments with their guests.
- 4 Invite children to remove soiled napkins, dishes, and other supplies, after refreshments are finished.



Activity 4

Preparing Gifts for Families

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Bowl of nuts, dried fruit, or other small treat

Napkins

Pre-cut ribbon

Spoon

Basket

- 1 Invite children to prepare gifts to take home to share with their family.
- 2 Give each child (including young guests) a napkin and a ribbon.
- 3 Demonstrate opening the napkin and instruct the children to open theirs.
- 4 Place the bowl of nuts and the spoon in front of one child at a time. Invite the child to take turns placing 2 spoonfuls of nuts into the napkin. Assist the child to tie the napkin closed with the ribbon. Repeat if desired.
- 5 When children have prepared gifts for their families, place them in a basket for safekeeping until it is time to go home.



Activity 5

Doily

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Copies of Resource Page 263, cut apart

Round paper doilies

Crayons

Glue and cotton swabs

- 1 Have the children count how many friends are in class today.
- 2 Place the same number of crayons as there are children in the center of the workspace. Remind the children that in the stories we read, Bahiyiyh Khánum shares. Explain that we can also share and invite them to practice sharing crayons.
- 3 Provide each child with a paper doily.
- 4 Invite the children to share the crayons to color the doily and to be patient as they wait for a color they want to use.
- 5 When they have finished coloring, invite them to attach the picture of the Greatest Holy Leaf to the center with glue. Write each child's name on the back of the doily. Encourage them to take the picture home to share with their families.



Activity 6

Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

None

- 1** Encourage children to say one thing that they like about Bahá'í class.
- 2** Warmly invite young guests to join the class beginning the next week. Invite parents and grandparents to come with their children if they like.



Activity 7

Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

Materials Needed

None

- 1** Invite the children to recite again the prayer memorized for this topic, other favorite prayers, or sing additional songs in the whole group.
- 2** Enjoy fellowship and playtime after the class.

Suggested Activities for Additional Lessons

You may choose to add these activities to the lessons for this topic. You may also create new lessons by repeating some activities from the first four lessons and adding these new activities as desired.



Materials Needed

8–10 pictures of women and men in similar work settings

Poster that has the quotation “Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God.”*

Women and Men Are Equal

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Show 4–5 pictures of ethnically diverse women and men in similar work settings. After displaying each picture ask children if the picture is of a woman or a man. Affirm all correct responses.
- 2 Then point to the quotation poster. Explain that Bahá’u’lláh says: “Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God.”*
- 3 Then show 4–5 more pictures of ethnically diverse women and men. After showing each picture ask the children if the picture is of a woman or a man. Affirm correct responses.
- 4 After each response, encourage the class to repeat together: “Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God.” Repeat this short quotation until all have memorized it.



Materials Needed

Stories of the Greatest Holy Leaf, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, page 37

Storytelling: A Favorite Song

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Read the story, “A Favorite Song” or share the following summary: Bahiyyih Khánum love to make people happy and she loved to share. Everyone loved to share with her also. One day she heard some students singing. The songs made her so happy that she invited the students to sing for her another day. The students prepared a special program of beautiful songs. They brought great happiness to the Greatest Holy Leaf.
- 2 Assure understanding by discussing the questions: What did the students do? Did the Greatest Holy Leaf like their singing?
- 3 Discuss: When have we made people happy by sharing our songs? When would we like to do this again?

* Bahá’u’lláh, *The Compilations of Compilations*, vol. II, page 379



The Name of Bahíyyih Khánum

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed

Picture of Bahíyyih Khánum

Index cards with the letters of her name

- 1** Show a photograph of Bahíyyih Khánum. Ask the children, “Who is this?” Affirm that Bahíyyih Khánum is the daughter of Bahá’u’lláh and the sister of Abdu’l-Bahá, and that Bahá’u’lláh gave her the title of the Greatest Holy Leaf.
- 2** Remind the class that through her stories we learn about the spiritual qualities of generosity and sharing.
- 3** Arrange the index cards to spell her name. Have the children repeat each letter in turn.
- 4** Scramble the cards so they are out of order. Invite the class to help you with putting her name in order (help them sound out the letters).
- 5** Repeat the game as desired.