



# Lessons for Young Children

## Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education®

### Preschool

#### Strand: World Order of Baha'u'llah

#### Theme: The Guardian, Shoghi Effendi



### Learning Objectives

These lessons about Shoghi Effendi are designed to assist your young children to achieve the following objectives:

#### **Knowledge**

- To be able to recognize the written name of Shoghi Effendi
- To know that Shoghi Effendi was the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith
- To recognize that patience is a spiritual quality

#### **Wisdom**

- To appreciate the value of patience
- To begin to understand that the spiritual quality of patience helps us to wait and helps us during times of difficulty

#### **Spiritual Perception**

- To connect stories of Shoghi Effendi's prayerfulness with our own experiences with prayer

#### **Eloquent Speech**

- To practice demonstrating the spiritual quality of patience
- To practice telling others about Bahá'í class
- To be able to recite a short quotation about patience

# Lesson 1

## Shoghi Effendi

### Materials Needed

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#### Welcome and Introductions

None

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#### Activity 1

None

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#### Activity 2

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of the melody  
“Love Is a Wonderful  
Thing” (optional)

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#### Activity 3

Resource Page 268, or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 140

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#### Activity 4

Interesting beads, at least 24  
per child

String

Small fabric bags or boxes (optional)

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#### Activity 5

Resource Page 269 or other photo-  
graph of Shoghi Effendi as a child

Blank chart paper or poster board  
and marker

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#### Activity 6

Story on Resource Page 270

Spiritual Quality Chart (Resource  
Page 219) for each child with 6 stick-  
ers attached

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#### Activity 7

Copy of a book of the Hidden Words  
to show children

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic  
no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there  
is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude  
under My decree and patience un-  
der My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

Copies of Resource Page 271

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#### Activity 8

None

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#### Activity 9

None

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# Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children acknowledging the special gifts and spiritual qualities of each.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Encourage children to greet each other in a friendly way.
- 3 Explain that over the next few weeks we will be learning about Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Shoghi Effendi was the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the great-grandson of Bahá'u'lláh.



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## Materials Needed

None

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## Activity 1 Opening Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind the children that we will begin and end every class with prayer. This week, the teachers will recite favorite prayers from memory. Beginning with the next class, you will invite some of the children to recite their favorite prayers as well.
- 2 Eloquently recite or sing one or more memorized prayers. Allow children to recite also, if they like.



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## Materials Needed

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of "Love Is a Wonderful Thing" (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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## Activity 2 Music: Love Is a Wonderful Thing

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Explain that we will be learning a new song over the next few lessons. Sing the melody twice for the children or play a recorded version. Consider adding simple hand motions to accompany the lyrics.
- 2 Sing the first line of the first verse again, inviting children to join in when they are ready. Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 3 Continue in this manner to teach the remaining lines of the first verse, repeating each line several times. Then practice singing the first verse in its entirety. Applaud all.



## Activity 3

### Storytelling: Prayers

Time: 10 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Resource Page 268 or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 140

- 1 Invite the class to carefully listen to a story about Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Eloquently read aloud or retell the story, explaining any words as necessary.
- 2 Discuss together: How does this story make you feel? What was your favorite part? What did Shoghi Effendi do? What did you learn about prayer?



## Activity 4

### Prayer Beads

Time: 20 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Interesting beads, at least 24 per child  
String  
Small fabric bags or boxes (optional)

- 1 Explain that we will be making prayer beads to use when we pray. Discuss: How many of us remember that "Alláh-u-Abhá" means "God, the All-Glorious"? Bahá'u'lláh tells us to say this short prayer 95 times every day. We can use beads to help us count.
- 2 Give each child a piece of string. Invite children to select at least 2 colors or styles of beads to place on the string in a pretty pattern. Assist the children to place 24 beads on their string and to tie the string so that 5 of the beads are separated from the remaining 19.
- 3 Explain that we can use prayer beads to help us count the number of times we say "Alláh-u-Abhá." Encourage children to practice all together saying "Alláh-u-Abhá" each time they touch a bead. It is not necessary to assure complete accuracy in using the 19 beads 5 times at this stage of the children's development.
- 4 If desired, invite children to select a small fabric bag or a pretty box to hold their prayer beads. Encourage them to keep these beads in a special place at home.



### Materials Needed

Resource Page 269 or other photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child

Blank chart paper or poster board and marker

## Activity 5 Shoghi Effendi

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Remind the children that they are learning about Shoghi Effendi who served as the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Show a photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child and practice pronouncing his name.
- 2 Show the photograph again and invite children to identify him. Applaud all!
- 3 Write the letters of the Shoghi Effendi's name on a piece of poster board. Invite children to name each letter as you write it. Save this poster for future classes.



### Materials Needed

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

Resource Page 270

## Activity 6 Spiritual Quality: Patience

Time: 10 minutes

- 1 Explain that we will be practicing a new spiritual quality: patience. Ask the children: Can you say "patience"?
- 2 Explain that we are patient when we wait calmly or we show kindness to others and keep happiness in our hearts while we wait. Invite the children to think of examples of patience and share 1 or 2 examples of patience that you have observed in the class. Acknowledge all.
- 3 Then share in your own words the story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on Resource Page 270. Briefly discuss the story to ensure understanding.
- 4 Discuss: Why should we be patient if someone makes a mistake? Answers may include: We should look for the good in people; everyone makes mistakes sometimes; and other ideas. Remind them that patience helps us be happy and show kindness to others while we wait.
- 5 Explain that they will have a Spiritual Quality Chart to help them practice patience 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 patience.
- 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

# The Hidden Words: Patience Under Trials

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

Copy of a book of the Hidden Words to show children

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

Copies of Resource Page 271

- 1 Invite children to listen as you read aloud the Hidden Word. Explain that these words come from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh. Show this book to the children. Discuss: What does Bahá'u'lláh tell us to do when we have difficulties or trials? Remind children that we are learning about patience.
- 2 Reread the Hidden Word once slowly, pointing to each word on the poster as you read. Encourage the class to join in as you read together the first half of the Hidden Word 3–4 times. Acknowledge all.
- 3 Then practice the final half of the Hidden Word in the same way. Explain that we will practice saying the entire Hidden Word in the coming week.
- 4 Distribute quotation cards from Resource Page 271 and invite them to continue practicing this Hidden Word at home.



## Activity 8

# Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 10 minutes

### Materials Needed

None

- 1 Explain that Bahá'u'lláh brings God's message of love for all people. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we can share this message with others: "... To assist Me is to teach My Cause."\*
- 2 Explain that one we can share this message is by telling our friends and neighbors about our class. Discuss: What are some things we enjoyed about today's class that we could share with others?
- 3 Invite children to practice telling each other about Bahá'í class by each sharing one favorite thing about today's class. Applaud all.
- 4 Ask: Who could you tell about our class today? Encourage children to tell at least one other person about Bahá'í class before the next class.

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



## Activity 9

# Closing Prayer

**Time: 5 minutes**

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### Materials Needed

None

- 1** Remind the children that we begin and end every class with prayers. This week, the teachers will begin by reciting a closing prayer. Invite children also to recite their favorite prayers if they like.
- 2** Eloquently recite these memorized prayers. Consider also singing a favorite prayer all together as a class.

# Lesson 2

## The Guardian

### Materials Needed

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#### Welcome and Introductions

None

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#### Activity 1

None

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#### Activity 2

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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#### Activity 3

Resource Page 268, or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 140

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#### Activity 4

Copies of the prayers and quotations on Resource Pages 228, 238, 244, 271, and 274, for each child

Colorful cardstock, construction paper, or other paper for prayer book covers

Hole punch

Ribbon, yarn, or other means for binding the book

#### Advance Preparation:

Copy and cut apart the selected prayers and quotations for each child. Assemble one sample book.

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#### Activity 5

Resource Page 269 or other photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, if available

Copy of Resource Page 273 or other photograph of Shoghi Effendi as an adult

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#### Activity 6

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

Special sticker for each child

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#### Activity 7

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

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#### Activity 8

None

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#### Activity 9

None



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# Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children, showing them your genuine happiness to see each one.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Encourage children to greet each other in a friendly way.
- 3 Remind children that we are learning about Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. We are also learning about the spiritual quality of patience.



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## Materials Needed

None

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## Activity 1 Opening Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that we have the opportunity to recite prayers at the beginning and end of each class.
- 2 Invite some of the children to recite from memory their favorite prayer. Teachers may also recite from memory.



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## Materials Needed

Resource Page 267, sheet music of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing”

Recorded version of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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## Activity 2 Music: Love Is a Wonderful Thing

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that we are learning a new song about love. Sing the melody twice for the children or play a recorded version. Consider adding simple hand motions to accompany the lyrics.
- 2 Sing the first line of the first verse again, inviting children to join you when they are ready. Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 3 Continue in this manner to teach the remaining lines of the first verse, repeating each line several times.
- 4 Then practice singing the first verse in its entirety. Applaud all.



## Activity 3

### Storytelling: Prayers

Time: 10 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Resource Page 268, or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 140

- 1 Invite the class to listen carefully to the same story they heard last week about Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Ask: Who remembers something about the way Shoghi Effendi chanted prayers when he was a small child? Acknowledge all. Then eloquently retell or read the story aloud, explaining any words as necessary.
- 2 Discuss together: What did Shoghi Effendi do in the story? What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá do? How do we know that Shoghi Effendi and 'Abdu'l-Bahá love each other very much? What can we learn about prayer from this story?



## Activity 4

### Prayer Book

Time: 20 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Copies of the prayers and quotations on Resource Pages 228, 238, 244, 271, and 274 for each child

Colorful cardstock, construction paper, or other paper for prayer book covers

Hole punch

Ribbon, yarn, or other means for binding the book

#### Advance Preparation:

Copy and cut apart the selected prayers and quotations for each child. Assemble one sample book.

- 1 Remind children of the story they just heard about Shoghi Effendi praying as a child.
- 2 Explain that we will make prayer books to use at home that will also remind us of this story. Show the sample book and explain that we have learned all of these prayers and quotations in our class.
- 3 Invite children to beautifully decorate their book covers. As they work remind them of each prayer and quotation selected for their books.
- 4 Assist them to insert the selected prayers and writings from Resource Pages 228, 238, 244, 271, and 274, and to punch 2 holes on the left edge of all pages and book covers.
- 5 Assist children to bind the prayer book by tying a beautiful ribbon or pretty yarn through the 2 holes.
- 6 Discuss: When can we use our prayer books? Acknowledge all.



## Activity 5

# The Guardian

**Time: 10 minutes**

### Materials Needed

Resource Page 269 or other photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, if available

Resource Page 273, or other photograph of Shoghi Effendi as an adult

- 1** Remind the children that we are learning about Shoghi Effendi. Shoghi Effendi served as the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Show photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and then as an adult. Practice pronouncing his name.
- 2** Show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child again and invite children to identify him.
- 3** Display the poster of Shoghi Effendi's name and invite children to identify each letter. Save this poster for future classes.
- 4** Then show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as an adult and invite children to identify him. Applaud all.



## Activity 6

# Spiritual Quality: Patience

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 are practicing patience. We are patient when we're happy while we wait. We're patient when we show kindness to others while we're waiting. We're patient if we don't get upset when someone makes a mistake.
- 2** Invite all children to share one thing they did during the past week to show patience. After each example, place a special sticker on that child's Chart from the previous week. Teachers may share also. Acknowledge all. If children have not practiced or if they are new to the class, affirm that we know they can show patience and that they will have another opportunity this week.
- 3** Remind them of the story from the last lesson about 'Abdu'l-Bahá's patience (on Resource Page 270). Discuss: What do we remember about this story? Praise all ideas and retell the story as needed.
- 4** Explain that Bahá'u'lláh teaches us to be patient when things are difficult. Discuss: How did 'Abdu'l-Bahá show patience in this story? What are some other examples of patience?
- 5** Give children a new set of stickers for the Spiritual Quality Chart and remind them to bring it back next week.



## Activity 7

# The Hidden Words: Patience Under Trials

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

Poster of the Hidden Word,  
Arabic no. 48, printed in large  
letters

*O Son of Man! For everything  
there is a sign. The sign of love  
is fortitude under My decree  
and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

- 1** Invite children to listen as you read aloud the Hidden Word. Explain that these words come from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh. Ask: What can we do when we have difficulties or trials? Affirm that we are practicing patience. Affirm that patience is a sign of our love for God.
- 2** Reread the Hidden Word once slowly, pointing to each word on the poster as you read. Encourage the class to join in as you read together the first half of the Hidden Word 3–4 times. Acknowledge all.
- 3** Then practice the final half of the Hidden Word in the same way. Finally, practice reciting the Hidden Word in its entirety. Applaud all!



## Activity 8

# Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

None

- 1** Explain that Bahá'u'lláh brings God's a message of love for all people. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we can share this message with others: "... To assist Me is to teach My Cause."\*
- 2** Explain that one way to share this message is by telling our friends and neighbors about our class. Discuss: What are some things we enjoyed about today's class? What could we tell others about our class?
- 3** Invite children to practice telling each other about their favorite parts of today's class. Applaud all. Encourage children to share these thoughts with at least one other person before the next class.



## Activity 9

# Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

None

- 1** Remind the children that we begin and end every class with prayers recited from memory.
- 2** Invite some of the children to recite favorite prayers. Teachers may also wish to recite. Conclude by singing a favorite prayer all together.

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

# Lesson 3

## Sweet Dreams

### Materials Needed

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#### Welcome and Introductions

None

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#### Activity 1

None

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#### Activity 2

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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#### Activity 3

Resource Page 272 or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 148

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#### Activity 4

Pieces of construction paper for each child, labeled “Sweet Dreams”

Assorted “happy” images of nature or people cut from magazines

Crayons, markers, or other art supplies

Glue and cotton swabs

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#### Activity 5

Resource Pages 269 and 273 or other photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and adult and of his resting place outside London, England

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, p. 141 of this book, if available

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#### Activity 6

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

Special sticker for each child

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#### Activity 7

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá’u’lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

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#### Activity 8

None

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#### Activity 9

None

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## Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children. Encourage them to greet each other as the children arrive, using a variety of languages for these greetings as taught in previous lessons.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same. Welcome newcomers!
- 3 Remind the children that we are learning about Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith and we are learning about the spiritual quality of patience.



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### Materials Needed

None

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## Activity 1 Opening Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Invite some of the children to recite from memory their favorite prayer. Teachers may also recite from memory.
- 2 Remind children that they have the opportunity to recite prayers at the beginning and end of each class.



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### Materials Needed

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of the melody "Love Is a Wonderful Thing" (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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## Activity 2 Music: Love Is a Wonderful Thing

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that we are learning a fun song together. Sing the song twice for the children or play a recorded version. Consider adding simple hand motions to accompany the lyrics.
- 2 After reviewing the first verse together, begin teaching the second verse. Sing the first line of the second verse, inviting children to join in when they are ready. Teach the second line in the same way, and then practice singing the 2 lines together.
- 3 Continue in this manner to teach the remaining lines of the second verse, repeating each line several times.
- 4 Practice singing the second verse in its entirety. Then sing both verses together. Applaud all!



## Activity 3

### Storytelling: A Dream

Time: 10 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Resource Page 272, or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 148

- 1 Invite children to find a comfortable position for listening to a new story about Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Eloquently retell or read aloud the story, explaining any words as necessary.
- 2 Discuss together: *What happened in this story? And then what happened? What was your favorite part? What did Shoghi Effendi do? What did you learn about dreams? How does this story make you feel? How did 'Abdu'l-Bahá help Shoghi Effendi show patience when he had this difficulty?*



## Activity 4

### Sweet Dreams Collage

Time: 20 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Pieces of construction paper for each child, labeled "Sweet Dreams"

Assorted "happy" images of nature or people cut from magazines

Crayons, markers, or other art supplies

Glue and cotton swabs

- 1 Invite children to make a "sweet dreams" collage to remind us of the story about Shoghi Effendi.
- 2 Invite children to each select a piece of construction paper and create a collage to show pictures of good dreams, using magazine images or other art materials.
- 3 Display all collages and invite children to explain their artwork. Encourage them to share their work with their families and friends.





## Activity 5

# The Guardian

Time: 10 minutes

### Materials Needed

Resource Pages 269 and 273 or other photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and adult and of his resting place outside London, England

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, p. 141 of this book, if available

- 1** Remind the children that we are learning about Shoghi Effendi who served as the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Show photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and as an adult and practice pronouncing his name.
- 2** Show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child again and invite children to identify him.
- 3** Display the poster of Shoghi Effendi's name and invite children to identify each letter. Save this poster for future classes.
- 4** Then show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as an adult and invite children to identify him.
- 5** Show a photograph of his resting place and explain that he is buried outside London, England. Invite children to identify who is buried outside London. Applaud all.



## Activity 6

# Spiritual Quality: Patience

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 are practicing patience. Ask: What does it mean to be patient? Acknowledge all. Affirm that we are patient when we can wait happily for something or someone.
- 2** Invite children to share one thing they did during the past week to show patience. After each example, place a special sticker on that child's Chart from the previous week. Teachers may share also. Acknowledge all. If children have not practiced or if they are new to the class, affirm that they will have another opportunity this week. Find a way to affirm an action for each child.
- 3** Retell the story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's patience in the story on Resource Page 270. Explain that 'Abdu'l-Bahá used only the kindest words with the man who was unkind to Him.
- 4** Remind them that just as we are patient with others, it is also important to be patient with ourselves because we all make mistakes sometimes. Ask: How can we show patience to ourselves and others? Answers may include: apologize, forgive ourselves and others, show kindness, say prayers, asking our parents or other adults to help, and so on.
- 5** Discuss and then role-play the following scenarios:
  - Your friend accidentally broke your favorite toy. How could you show patience?
  - You did something you feel is very bad. How could you show patience? How could your parents or other adults help?
  - Your brother keeps using something of yours without asking. How could you show patience? How could your parents or other adults also help?
  - Someone gets really angry with you and later says that they're very sorry for getting angry. How could you show patience?
- 6** Praise all for their thoughtful work. Give children a new set of stickers for the Spiritual Quality Chart and remind them to bring it back next week. Read again the Arabic Hidden Word, no. 48:

O Son of Man!

For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under  
my decree and patience under my trials.

—Bahá'u'lláh

Affirm that patience is a sign of our love for God. Sometimes patience means getting the help we need.



### Materials Needed

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh, *The Hidden Words*, Arabic no. 48



### Materials Needed

None



### Materials Needed

None

## Activity 7

### The Hidden Words: Patience Under Trials

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Invite children to listen as you read aloud the Hidden Word, including the citation. Explain that these words come from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh.
- 2 Reread the Hidden Word once slowly, pointing to each word on the poster as you read. Then encourage the class to join in as you read together the first half of the Hidden Word 3–4 times. Acknowledge all.
- 3 Then practice the second half of the Hidden Word in the same way. Finally, practice reciting the Hidden Word in its entirety, including the citation. Applaud all!

## Activity 8

### Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Explain that Bahá'u'lláh brings God's a message of love for all people. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we can share this message with others: "... To assist Me is to teach My Cause."<sup>\*</sup>
- 2 Explain that one we can share this message is by telling our friends and neighbors about our class. Discuss: *What are some things we enjoyed about today's class? Who could we tell about our happy class today?*
- 3 Invite children to practice telling each other about their favorite parts of this class. Applaud all. Encourage children to share these thoughts with at least one other person before the next class.

## Activity 9

### Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind the children that we begin and end every class with prayers.
- 2 Invite some of the children to recite favorite prayers from memory. Teachers may also wish to recite. Conclude by singing a favorite prayer all together.

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

# Words of Encouragement

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## Welcome and Introductions

None

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## Activity 1

None

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## Activity 2

Resource Page 267

Recorded version of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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## Activity 3

Resource Page 272 or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 148

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## Activity 4

Chart paper and markers

Note card and pen

Rose stickers (optional)

Rose water or rose oil to give the letter a sweet scent (optional)

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## Activity 5

Resource Pages 269 and 273 or other photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and adult and of his resting place outside London, England

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, p. 141 of this book, if available

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## Activity 6

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

Special sticker for each child

Blank paper for each child

Crayons, markers, or other drawing materials

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## Activity 7

Poster of the Hidden Word, Arabic no. 48, printed in large letters

*O Son of Man! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

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## Activity 8

None

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## Activity 9

None

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## Welcome and Introductions

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Warmly welcome the children. Encourage them to greet each other as they arrive.
- 2 Introduce yourself and invite children and other adults to do the same.
- 3 Remind the children that we are learning about Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. We are also learning about patience.



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### Materials Needed

None

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## Activity 1 Opening Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Invite some of the children to recite from memory a favorite prayer. Teachers may also recite from memory.
- 2 Remind children that we have the opportunity to recite prayers at the beginning and end of each class.



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### Materials Needed

Resource Page 267, sheet music of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing”

Recorded version of the melody “Love Is a Wonderful Thing” (optional), available on the Core Curriculum website, [www.core-curriculum.org](http://www.core-curriculum.org)

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## Activity 2 Music: Love Is a Wonderful Thing

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Remind children that we are learning a fun song together. Sing the song twice for the children or play a recorded version. Consider adding simple hand motions to accompany the lyrics.
- 2 Invite children to join in as you sing the song again in its entirety, repeating as desired. Applaud all!



## Activity 3

### Storytelling: A Dream

Time: 10 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Resource Page 272, or *Three Gifts of Love*, by Jacqueline Mehrabi, p. 148

- 1 Invite the class to listen again to a story about Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Eloquently retell or read the story aloud, explaining any words as necessary.
- 2 Discuss together: How does this story make you feel? What was your favorite part? What did Shoghi Effendi do? What did you learn about dreams?



## Activity 4

### Words of Encouragement

Time: 15 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Chart paper and markers  
Note card and pen  
Rose stickers (optional)  
Rose water or rose oil to give the letter a sweet scent (optional)

- 1 Explain that we are going to write a group letter to someone in the community to make them feel happy, just like the letter from 'Abdu'l-Bahá encouraged Shoghi Effendi after his bad dream. We will compose it together.
- 2 Invite children to offer suggestions of one or two community members, whom we all know, that they think should receive this letter. Consult together until a decision is made.
- 3 Using chart paper, list ideas from the children about what they would like to say in this letter. Encourage them to think of the story we heard today about Shoghi Effendi and how 'Abdu'l-Bahá's letter cheered his heart.
- 4 After collecting ideas, use these ideas to draft a letter on the chart paper that everyone likes. Possibilities might include:

Dearest (recipient),

We love you so much. You make us happy by the things that you do. We will say prayers for you. We love talking with you. Thank you for loving us so much!

Your friends,  
(names of children)
- 5 When the draft is complete, write it on a pretty note card and invite children to decorate it with stickers or other embellishment. You may wish to scent it with rose water or rose oil for added sweetness.

- 6 Decide how to deliver this letter before the next class.



## Activity 5

# The Guardian

Time: 10 minutes

### Materials Needed

Resource Pages 269 and 273 or other photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and adult and of his resting place outside London, England

Poster from Activity 5 of Lesson 1, p. 141 of this book, if available

- 1** Remind the children that they are learning about Shoghi Effendi who served as the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Show photographs of Shoghi Effendi as a child and as an adult and practice pronouncing his name.
- 2** Show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as a child again and invite children to identify him.
- 3** Display the poster of Shoghi Effendi's name and invite children to identify each letter.
- 4** Then show the photograph of Shoghi Effendi as an adult and invite children to identify him.
- 5** Show a photograph of his resting place and explain that he is buried outside London, England. Invite children to identify who is buried outside London, England. Applaud all.



## Activity 6

# Spiritual Quality: Patience

Time: 10 minutes

### Materials Needed

Spiritual Quality Chart  
(Resource Page 217) for each  
child with 6 stickers attached

Special sticker for each child

Blank paper for each child

Crayons, markers, or other  
drawing materials

- 1 Remind children that we are practicing patience. Discuss: What does it mean to be patient? Acknowledge all and add to the definition as appropriate.
- 2 Invite all children to share one thing they did during the past week to show patience. After each example, place a special sticker on that child's Chart from the previous week. Teachers may share also. Acknowledge all. If children have not practiced or if they are new to the class, affirm that they will have another opportunity this week. We all can practice patience.
- 3 Explain that there are many different ways to show patience. Sometimes we wait, sometimes we show kindness to others, and sometimes we get help from adults just like Shoghi Effendi did when he had a bad dream. Encourage children to think of one new action to practice patience in the coming week. Invite them to draw a picture of this action to remind them to carry out their plan. This picture may be on the back of their Spiritual Quality Chart.
- 4 Give children a new set of stickers for the Spiritual Quality Chart and remind them to bring it back next week.



## Activity 7

# The Hidden Words: Patience Under Trials

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

Poster of the Hidden Word,  
Arabic no. 48, printed in large  
letters

*O Son of Man! For everything  
there is a sign. The sign of love  
is fortitude under My decree  
and patience under My trials.*

—Bahá'u'lláh,  
*The Hidden Words*,  
Arabic no. 48

- 1 Invite children to listen as you read aloud the Hidden Word, including the citation. Explain that these words come from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh.
- 2 Reread the Hidden Word once slowly, pointing to each word on the poster as you read. Encourage the class to join in as you read together the Hidden Word in its entirety, including the citation. Repeat as desired.
- 3 Invite any volunteers to recite the Hidden Word alone or with a partner. Acknowledge all!





## Activity 8

# Spiritual Practice: Teaching

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

None

- 1** Explain that Bahá'u'lláh brings God's a message of love for all people. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we can share this message with others: "... To assist Me is to teach My Cause."\*
- 2** Explain that we can share this message by telling our friends and neighbors about our class. Discuss: What are some things we enjoyed about today's class that we could share with others? Who would we like to tell about our class?
- 3** Invite children to practice telling each other about their favorite parts of this class. Applaud all. Encourage children to share these thoughts with at least one other person before the next class.



## Activity 9

# Closing Prayer

Time: 5 minutes

### Materials Needed

None

- 1** Remind the children that we begin and end every class with prayers.
- 2** Invite some of the children to recite favorite prayers. Teachers may also wish to recite. Conclude by singing a favorite prayer together.

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

# 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

Resource Page 275

## The Bahá'í Funds

Time: 5 minutes

- 1 Explain that the Bahá'í Fund is used to host meetings, pay for children's class supplies, build Houses of Worship, and many other important things. Make a connection to local activities, if possible. Giving also helps us grow spiritually.
- 2 Explain that we can contribute to Bahá'í Funds.\*
- 3 Teach "The Fund Song" on Resource Page 275.
- 4 Discuss: Why is it important to give to the Bahá'í Fund? When can we give to the Fund? Acknowledge all.



## Materials Needed

Old coffee can, small cardboard box, or other "repurposed" container to decorate

Glue

Decorative materials such as bits of fabric, colored paper, bits of ribbon, feathers, etc.

## Make a Fund Box

Time: 15 minutes

- 1 Assist the children to make their personal Fund box by gluing decorations to the containers available.
- 2 As you work sing the song on Resource Page 275:  
Give a little penny or a nickel. Give whatever you can afford.  
Give a little something to Bahá'u'lláh. Sacrifice for your Lord.

\*Shoghi Effendi's secretary wrote on his behalf: "Bahá'í children have always given to the Cause, everywhere. Whatever situation may arise in a class is for the teacher of the class to solve. No ruling should be made to cover such things."

*The Compilation of Compilations*, vol. I, p. 307