

Lesson Plan for Year 1, Lesson 11

Aim

- a to learn about Hinduism
- b to have an introduction to progressive revelation and the unity of religions.

Objectives

After fully participating in both the lesson and the homework, the student should be able to:

- a. state that Krishna was a Messenger of God for the Hindu religion.
- b. state a Hindu teaching.
- c. list three other Messengers of God.

Materials

Ball or object for whispers game;
The Virtues Guide for virtue;
“20 Campaigners for Change” (from a library, or other book for sacrifice story);
Tales of the jungle, Book II;
Simple refreshments (see no.13.);
Worksheet for each student.

1. Game/News – Whispers game (as in Lesson 4)
If they find it too easy, pass a ball, or some object, round the circle in the opposite direction to the whisper.
2. Mark Homework
Each student to say the Hidden Word from memory.
Check that names of beautiful things written on worksheet; if none then write at least one now; are there some pictures as well? If so, give praise.
Check when to use to help spirituality has been written, if not then write in Nineteen-Day Feast now.
3. Virtue – Confidence.
EITHER use up to ¼ of what is in ‘The Virtues Guide’ and use virtue handout next lesson, OR use virtue handout now.
4. New Topic – Hinduism.
Krishna was born in India about 5,000 years ago and was a Messenger of God. Hindus regard Him as a Manifestation of their God Vishnu. Hinduism teaches that true religion is a spiritual Symphony whose predominant note is the love of God. Other notes are forgiveness, patience, truthfulness, meditation, justice, mercy, etc. Hindus believe that “The true law is to respect and deal with the things of others as one would respect and deal with one’s own” and “Systems of faith differ, but God is One.” Married life is very important to Hindus. Their ideal for the family is a beautiful relationship between the children and their parents, between brothers and sisters, all cultivating the quality of spiritual love. The most popular book of their scripture in the Bhagavad-Gita.
5. Writings
Krishna said “In every age I come back to deliver the holy, to destroy the sin of the sinner, to establish righteousness.” We believe that He has come back in this age in the form of Bahá’u’lláh.

6. Music
Sing, “If you’re happy and you know it...” [Join with year N1 if teacher agrees.]
Add verses: “If you love Bahá’u’lláh, clap your hands”
“If you love ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, clap your hands”
etc.

7. New Topic. Progressive revelation.
Each Messenger of God brings a new light to the world in the Age that He comes. It is like the spring. Every year we have a cold, dark winter, but we know that Spring will come to chase away the winter and that the days will get bright and warm again. Whenever the world is dark because it is full of trouble and people are unhappy, and then God sends His Messenger to start a new spring and bring hope to everyone. Although people have strayed from the path of God since the previous Messenger, they have also learnt new things and made progress materially and socially, so are ready for more of God’s message. There is a poem written by an eleven-year-old girl about God’s Messengers in worksheet.

8. Writings – this is in handout for daily reading.
‘Abdu’l-Bahá said, “The Message of Krishna is the message of love. All God’s prophets have brought the message of love.” [*Paris Talks*, p.35.]

9. Story – Squirrel meets Mona (*Tales of the Jungle*, Book II, pp.3-11)

10. Activity.
Have some simple refreshments for the students, e.g. some fairy cakes and a bottle of lemonade. Remind them that Bahá’ís have many different sorts of meeting, but common features are a devotional and refreshments. Ask them why we have refreshments (food for our body) and why we have a devotional (food for our soul). Explain that we believe that we are carrying out the wishes of Jesus when we provide these two types of food, whereas most Christians believe that He meant us to have specially prepared bread and wine; we believe that His reference to these was in a spiritual sense, food for our soul. All sit in a circle and everyone says a prayer or reading, either from memory or using a book. Then teacher acts as host and hands out the refreshments. While they are eating, remind them that when their family is hosting a meeting, they can help by taking some of the food round to people.

11. Worksheet

12. Revision of this lesson

13. Set Homework.
Find the names of the 9 Messengers in the word search Read the ‘Abdu’l-Bahá quotation, morning and evening, each day.
Share the poem with your family and friends.
Remember: A Hindu teaching is **respect the things of others.**
A devotional is **food for the soul.**