

Lesson Plan for Year 1, Lesson 22

- Aim** learn about
- a) Avoiding gossip, and
 - b) Equality of opportunity for men and women.

Objectives

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

- a. state that we should not gossip and
- b. give one reason for this.
- c. know that men and women should have equal opportunities everywhere and
- d. this also applies to boys and girls, especially in Bahá'í communities.

Materials

A few leaves for each student, unless you are going to pretend (see 6.);
Orchestral music, for meditation and at other times;
Worksheet.

1. Game/News –Game: “Observation”
Have a tray ready with some objects on. Students look at it for a minute, then you cover it with a cloth, secretly remove one object, mix the others up and take the cloth off. See who can tell what is missing. [Confirm by putting object back on tray, repeat as appropriate.]
2. Mark Homework
3. Virtue. revise Prayerfulness
4. New Topic – Avoiding gossip
5. Talk about it first, find out what students know already and build on that.
6. Writings [in worksheet for learning]
“... backbiting queneth the light of the heart and extinguisheth the life of the soul.”

Bahá'u'lláh, *Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 193.
7. Activity – Scattering leaves
[If you can't do this in reality, have a pretend session down the corridor.]
If not raining, and a suitable walk outside, take several leaves for each student; the students are to tear pieces off leaves and drop them as they walk in a suitable place. When all leaves scattered, ask students to pick up all the pieces on the way back, with the idea of sticking them back together! Before long it will be realised that they cannot; return to classroom and discuss why it was impossible. Point out that the scattering of leaves is like the spreading of gossip; once it spreads around, you can't take it back.
8. Story
Tales of the Jungle, book II, pp.13-19 contains a very nice illustrated story about the Fox who caused a lot of trouble by backbiting and lying about the other animals, then

he was punished and peace returned to the jungle; a message for children follows, including the quote of *Bahá'u'lláh* in 5 above.

9. Music – Listen to some nice orchestral music today.
10. New Topic – Equality of opportunity for men and women (but we can't all be the same).
Find out what they think of this first, then lead on to a discussion of what sorts of jobs used to be only done by men, and what sorts of jobs used to be only done by women, whereas today there should be equality of opportunity.
11. Writings
“The equality of men and women is not, at the present time, universally applied. In those areas where traditional inequality still hampers its progress we must take the lead in practising this Bahá'í principle. Bahá'í women and girls must be encouraged to take part in the social, spiritual and administrative activities of their communities...”
Universal House of Justice, Ridván 1984 to the Bahá'ís of the World.
12. Activity
Have a meditation on the quotation above, then discuss whether women and girls take an appropriate part in the activities of the communities of the students.
13. Writings
“Humanity is like a bird with its two wings -- the one is male, the other female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards.”
‘Abdu'l-Bahá, cited in Dr. J.E. Esslemont, *Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*, p. 147
14. Worksheet – Give it out and read the top quote again.
15. Activity – Colour the wings and the world, which represents humanity.
16. Revision of this lesson – Read the second quote and remind students about the activity with the leaves, then read the words at the bottom.
17. Set Homework
Reading each day,
Learning,
Colouring leaves.