

GAMES AND DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES FOR RUHI CURRICULUM GRADES 1-4

(These courses are updated over time, so the themes, units, and lesson plans may not match what a particular teacher has access to.)

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Games

All Grades

True VS False

This game can be used for any grade, any lesson, any unit. (That said, kids under 6 may have trouble understanding its rules). It is great for review, and is highly active. It all depends on the statements one makes, which can relate to any of the concepts and memory verses taught in a unit. For example, for Grade 2 relating to the units on prayer and laws, and a few other discussions, songs, and activities we had with the students regarding these topics, here are some statements:

TRUE STATEMENTS

- God desires that we strive to show virtues and love humanity.
- To be a shining lamp and a brilliant star means we shine spiritually in the darkness of the world
- We shine spiritually when we show virtues, study the Words of God and say prayers
- We should memorize the Words of God and prayers
- We are like plants and reading prayers and the Word of God is like turning to sunlight and receiving rain for our souls
- The Laws and Teachings of God are the Water of Life for our souls
- Some of the fruits of the human tree are virtues
- We should forget all else when communing with God
- One of the commands of God is that we should pray and study the Words of God every day
- Through prayer, God can change weakness into strength, fear into calm
- We will find true happiness when we obey God's laws
- God's laws protect us and others from our own ignorance

FALSE STATEMENTS

- Its really easy to serve God and humanity
- Christ is the only divine messenger from God
- By reading the words of God and saying prayers we have done enough spiritual work
- We should read the Words of God and pray only once a week
- To be a fruitful tree means to get a nice car and pretty jewelry
- Prayer is a ladder by which we can climb up a building
- We should keep our eyes open during prayer so we don't miss anything
- Prayer is communing with the spirit of ourselves
- God always answers our prayers the way we expect
- God has no right to change His laws
- We should only obey God's laws if we agree with them

Three Memorization Techniques for Memory Verses

(Like the above True VS False game, these techniques can be used with any theme, any unit. They bring a game-like feel to memorization).

1. Go over the verse out loud as a group 2-3 times. Then ask kids to squat on their feet. Start reading the verse and leave obvious blanks. Any child who can fill in the correct word gets to jump up and say it. Then they squat back down for the next one. With each new reciting of the verse, alter the word that is left blank. For example:

His ordinances constitute the mightiest _____(stronghold) for the protection of the _____(world) and the safeguarding of its _____(peoples)....

His _____(ordinances) constitute the _____(mightiest) stronghold for the _____(protection) of the world and the _____(safeguarding) of its peoples....

The jumping allows for movement while memorizing, though not terribly reverent....

2. Recite the memory verse as a group out loud 2-3x. Then make the room a bit dark if possible by turning off the lights. Have a flashlight ready. Start saying the memory verse, leaving out key words. Shine the light on the heart area of a child you want to fill in the blank. Then (hopefully) they get to “shine” with their answer. If they can’t get it, give a hint or two until they succeed. Explain that when we have the Word of God in our hearts and minds, they become illumined and enlightened, which is represented by the light shining on them.

3. Using card stock and marker, write the memory verse or prayer in large font. Cut into sections of 3-6 words. Have students work together to arrange them in the correct order. If too easy or once the kids master it, cut into smaller number of words.

Grade 1

Grade 1 is all about virtues.

Over half of the games in the New World Order Manual relate to virtues in general or specific virtues, including favorites such as *Noble VS Naughty*, *Virtue Pictionary Tag*, *Virtue Tag*, *Flower Virtue Rescue*, *Snakes in the Grass*, etc.. The Table of Contents will guide you to those general ones and also to specific virtues for individual lesson plans. Too many to list here.

Grade 2

Grade 2, *Turning to God in Prayer Unit*:

The virtues of Enkindlement, Thankfulness, and Detachment are emphasized. Some Choices for Games: (Games that involve themes of Generosity and Sharing, also teach detachment. Find those under *Being a Good Friend Unit*).

- Sacred Rain (See variations quotes at end of description for prayer version, same rules as for Sacred Writings version)
- Sacred Light
- Hula Hoop Pass (Prayer Circle Version)
- Heart Motion (Goes w/ Unite the Hearts prayer)

Grade 2, *Adhering to the Laws of God Unit*:

The virtues of Contentment, Courage and Faithfulness are emphasized. Some Choices for Games:

- Sacred Rain (Same Rules as version relating to Sacred Writings. See variation quote: *The sincere among His servants will regard the precepts set forth by God as the Water of Life to the followers of every faith..... ~Baha'u'llah: The Kitab-i-Aqdas, page 29*)
- Striving for the Stronghold
- Laws Symbol Search
- Illustrative Game
- Armed With the Power of Thy Name
- The Spiritual Path
- Quest for Contentment
- Follow a Wise Leader

Grade 2, *Seeking Knowledge Unit*:

The virtues of Humility, Truthfulness, Purity, and Justice are emphasized:

- Get Knowledge and True Understanding
- Ego Balloons
- Faith and Firmness & Variations (see variations)
- Trustworthiness Tug (truthfulness variation)
- Justice in the Nick of Time
- Wake Up Call parachute game, variation regarding truthfulness

- Traveling with Truthfulness (likely too elaborate for most classes)
- See first 8 games under *Living in Harmony with Others* for themes of Justice

Grade 2, *Living in Harmony with Others* Unit:

The virtues emphasized in this unit are Justice, Love, Compassion, and Radiance. (This list is not exhaustive). Games relating to Compassion can be found under *Being a Good Friend* Unit, regarding Kindness.

The first 8 games listed below relate particularly to the memory verse in Lesson 4.2:

We ask God to endow human souls with justice so that they may be fair, and may strive to provide for the comfort of all.....~Abdu'l-Baha

- Justice in the Nick of Time
- Fair Share
- Chair Island
- People of the Mountain
- E.R. (Essential Rights)
- Stand Up
- The Shirt Off Your Back
- The Golden Rule

Love Theme:

- Loving Hands
- Love VS Hate
- Synchrony Straw Pass
- Heart Motion
- Love Pass

The rest relate to unity in diversity, reciprocity, oneness, cooperation, etc. (This list is not exhaustive).

- Unity Chase
- United We Stand, Divided We Fall
- World Rescue
- Grouped Soccer
- Streamer Wrap
- Unified Body Parts
- Planet Pass
- Streamer Tag
- Elbow Tag
- Tube Tag
- United We Stand
- Rainbow Chase
- The Knot
- Silly Bones
- Unity Ball
- Unity Toss
- Unity Rise
- Hop Along
- Balloon Bump Trio
- Ego-Balloons (relate to how the ego gets in the way of unity, humility is essential)
- All of Us, All at Once
- Synchrony Straw Pass
- Unity Dolls
- Diverse Face Game
- Peace?
- Rope Shapes
- *Most of the Partner Games and Parachute Games would also work*

Grade 2, *Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being* Unit

The virtues of Patience, Sincerity, and Honesty are emphasized, but the games below mostly reflect respecting the value of all people, fairness, and kindness as a way of respecting their dignity. Courtesy and Loving-Kindness are the themes of 2 of the memory verses in this unit so games that promoted those are included in this list.

- Play with Me
- Protecting from Putdowns
- People of the Mountain
- Chair Island
- Fair Share
- The Golden Rule
- Kindness Pictionary
- Love Pass

Grade 2, *Being a Good Friend* Unit

The Virtues of Trustworthiness, Kindness, Generosity, and Forgiveness are emphasized throughout this unit.

- Games listed above under *Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being* all apply regarding Kindness and Generosity
- Support Me
- The Shirt Off Your Back
- Forgiveness VS the Grudge
- Sleeping Grump Board Game
- Ver Ver Aras Lamas—Use Version for class on generosity only, not original version
- Elbow Tag

A Strong relationship with God is focused on in the first lesson. So these games relate well:

- Armed With the Power of Thy Name
- Get Faith

Trustworthiness is emphasized in the 2nd lesson. These games relate nicely:

- Trustworthiness Tag
- Trustworthiness Tug
- Faith and Firmness & Variations (See Variations)

And in the 3rd lesson:

- Faithful Friends

Grade 2, *Devoting One's Life to Service* Unit

The Virtues of Selflessness, Joyfulness, Hopefulness, and Steadfastness are emphasized in this unit. The first 7 games all relate directly to service.

- United We Serve
- Service Pictionary Tag
- Many Hands Make Light Work
- Help, Save Me!
- Stand Up
- Loving Service VS Corrupt and Selfish Desires
- Service Relay
- Magical Clay (Selflessness)
- Faith and Firmness (Steadfastness)

Grade 3

Grade 3, *Progressive Revelation and the Manifestations* Units

- The Golden Rule
- Go to the Source (We used a giant book that was a compilation of the major teachings of the major world religions for the beginning units for our class with interfaith students.)
- Get Faith (Explain that if we seek and obtain the Faith of God as revealed through His Manifestations, we are more protected from our lower nature, from our own ignorance of what is true and false, right and wrong).

Because all the Manifestations have taught the importance of unity and virtues, any activities in the Games Manual that touch on these themes can be tied into a class in Grade 3. There are way too many to list all of them here. But here are 11 we have used recently:

- Body Sculptures (Relate to one of the main reasons God sends His Messengers/Manifestations—to promote unity and oneness).
- Flower Virtue Rescue (Explain that a main purpose that God sends His Manifestations/Messengers is to teach us to develop our virtues, our inner beauty, our spiritual powers).
- Peace? (Tie into fact that all the Manifestations of God have brought teachings to guide humanity towards World Peace, unity, and oneness)
- Snakes in the Grass (Explain that every Manifestation of God taught His followers to avoid vices and develop virtues instead).
- People of the Mountain (Explain that every Manifestation has come to promote the virtues of generosity, sharing, caring, sacrifice, caring for the poor, and detachment in humans. When we sacrifice some of our comfort and space for others, and strive to provide for their well being, we are exercising these virtues).
- Stand Up (Relate to some of the main reasons God sends His Messengers/Manifestations—to make the world a better place, to teach us how to serve humanity and grow our virtues.)
- Go to the Source, Interfaith Version
- Unified Body Parts
- Noble VS Naughty
- Virtue Tag
- Virtue Pictionary Tag

Here are some games that can be easily correlated to the emphasis of the different Manifestation's teachings other than unity and virtues. Sometimes you may have to adjust the dialogue a bit when introducing the game to relate the game more closely to Their main message.

Lesson on **Abraham**, emphasis on oneness of God.

- For the Love of God (Adapt introductory dialogue to correspond with how loving the one God can protect us from our lower natures.)

Lesson on **Moses**, emphasis on obedience to Laws and Teachings of God-given.

- Laws Symbol Search (The symbols are taken from the Kitab-i-Aqdas, but can relate to God's Laws in general.)
- Striving for the Stronghold
- The Spiritual Path

Lesson on **Krishna**, emphasis on following the light of God's teachings to dispel the darkness of ignorance

- In the Dark
- Sacred Light (Light symbol would represent light of God's Teachings through Krishna).

Lesson on **Buddha**, emphasis on the Straight Path and Virtue

- Make Firm Our Steps (make the path straight in this case)
- Any games that are about virtues

Lesson on **Zoroaster**, emphasis on praiseworthy character—good thoughts, good deeds, good speeches

- Any games that are about virtues
- Protecting from Putdowns

Lesson on **Christ**, emphasis on love

- Love VS Hate
- Heart Motion
- Synchrony Straw Pass

- Love Pass
- Twisting Tubes
- Loving Hands

Lesson on **Muhammad**, emphasis on obedience to God's will, submission

- Magical Clay

Grade 3, The Bab Unit

- Search for The Bab
- Seek the Seekers
- Balloon Pass
- Searching for the Promised One
- Beamo Toss (Pass the Message)

Quotes relating to Manifestations and Their teachings on peace, unity, and virtues

(Some can be shared with the students in relation to an activity to emphasize relevancy.)

Verily, the words which have descended from the heaven of the Will of God are the source of unity and harmony for the world. ~Baha'u'llah as quoted by Shoghi Effendi in The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 37

The purpose of the one true God in manifesting Himself is to summon all mankind to truthfulness and sincerity, to piety and trustworthiness, to resignation and submissiveness to the Will of God, to forbearance and kindliness, to uprightness and wisdom. His object is to array every man with the mantle of a saintly character, and to adorn him with the ornament of holy and goodly deeds. ~Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, page 299

The Great Being saith:The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. . ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 215

God's purpose in sending His Prophets unto men is twofold. The first is to liberate the children of men from the darkness of ignorance, and guide them to the light of true understanding. The second is to ensure the peace and tranquillity of mankind, and provide all the means by which they can be established. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, pages 79-80

The purpose underlying the revelation of every heavenly Book, nay, of every divinely-revealed verse, is to endue all men with righteousness and understanding, so that peace and tranquillity may be firmly established amongst them. ~Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 205

The Divine Messengers have been sent down, and their Books were revealed, for the purpose of promoting the knowledge of God, and of furthering unity and fellowship amongst men. ~Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 12

We have created you from one tree and have caused you to be as the leaves and fruit of the same tree, that haply ye may become a source of comfort to one another. Regard ye not others save as ye regard your own selves, that no feeling of aversion may prevail amongst you so as to shut you out from Him Whom God shall make manifest..... ~The Bab, Selections From the Writings of The Bab, page 129

Peoples of the earth! Verify the resplendent Light of God hath appeared in your midst, invested with this unerring Book, that ye may be guided aright to the ways of peace and, by the leave of God, step out of the darkness into the light and onto this far-extended Path of Truth..... ~The Bab, Selections From the Writings of The Bab, page 61

These holy Manifestations of God are... the teachers of the world of humanity. They liberate man....from despair, error, ignorance, imperfections and all evil qualities. They clothe him in the garment of perfections and exalted virtues. Men are ignorant; the Manifestations of God make them wise. ~Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 110

God sent His Prophets into the world to teach and enlighten man, to explain to him the mystery of the Power of the Holy Spirit, to enable him to reflect the light, and so in his turn, to be the source of guidance to others. The Heavenly Books, the Bible, the Qur'an, and the other Holy Writings have been given by God as guides into the paths of Divine virtue, love, justice and peace. Therefore I say unto you that ye should strive to follow the counsels of these Blessed Books, and so order your lives that ye may, following the examples set before you, become yourselves the saints of the Most High! ~Abdu'l-Baha: Paris Talks p. 61

The holy Manifestations of God come into the world to dispel the darkness of the animal or physical nature of man, to purify him from his imperfections in order that his heavenly and spiritual nature may become quickened, his divine qualities awakened, his perfections visible, his potential powers revealed and all the virtues of the world of humanity latent within him may come to life. These holy Manifestations of God are the educators and trainers of the world of existence, the teachers of the world of humanity. They liberate man from the darkness of the world of nature, deliver him from despair, error, ignorance, imperfections and all evil qualities. They clothe him in the garment of perfections and exalted virtues. Men are ignorant; the Manifestations of God make them wise. They are animalistic; the Manifestations make them human. They are savage and cruel; the Manifestations lead them into kingdoms of light and love. They are unjust; the Manifestations cause them to become just. Man is selfish; they sever him from self and desire. Man is haughty; they make him meek, humble and friendly. He is earthly; they make him heavenly. Men are material; the Manifestations transform them into semblance divine. They are immature children; the Manifestations develop them into maturity. Man is poor; they endow him with wealth. Man is base, treacherous and mean; the Manifestations of God uplift him into dignity, nobility and loftiness. ~Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 110

Grade 4: Baha'u'llah

- Seek and Ye Shall Find
- Balloon Pass
- Go to the Source
- Get Faith
- In the Dark
- Beam Toss (Pass the Message—Get the Message variation)
- And of course any of the games relating to virtues, oneness, peace and unity can be used for the lessons on Baha'u'llah based on all the quotes above ---and these as well:

Through the power of the words He hath uttered the whole of the human race can be illumined with the light of unity.....~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 286

He Who is your Lord, the All-Merciful, cherisheth in His heart the desire of beholding the entire human race as one soul and one body. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 214

Be ye as the fingers of one hand, the members of one body. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 140

We, verily, have come to unite and weld together all that dwell on earth. ~Baha'u'llah: Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, page 24.

Dramatic Activities

(These courses are updated over time, so the themes, units, and lesson plans may not match what a particular teacher has access to.) As in the games manual, over half of the entries described in this manual can be tied into the Ruhi children's class curriculum, especially Grades 1-4. For example:

Grade 1

Grade 1 is all about virtues. You will find many, many dramatic activities related to virtues. Some may be a bit sophisticated for kids under 7, but many are not and many can even be used with preschoolers. The Table of Contents will guide you to those related to virtues in general and also to specific virtues for individual lesson plans. Too many to list here.

Grade 2

Grade 2, *Turning to God in Prayer* Unit:

The virtues of Enkindlement, Thankfulness, and Detachment are emphasized but all except the first five of the activities below focus on the power and blessings of prayer. (The virtue of detachment is expressed and labeled throughout many, many of the skits but there is no activity that is solely on that virtue.)

- “Patience, Self, Control & Gratitude” (Gratitude is the 3rd virtue in this description, and was based on quotes regarding thankfulness to God. It was originally designed for a preschool class, but the scenarios under gratitude would be fun for older kids.)
- “Miscellaneous Exercises about Gratitude”
- “Ingratitude VS Gratitude Scenario”
- “Gratitude Pantomime Pursuit”
- “Hurray for the World”
- “Lena and the Dragon Slave Children” is all about the power of prayer—includes related fun game.
- “Some of the Many Excellent Reasons to Pray” skits
- “Prayer is a Ladder” song and motions
- “Pray Everyday” song and motions
- “O God Guide Me” motions
- “The Plant Metaphor” is a powerful visual aid, though perhaps not technically drama.
- Also, a beautiful music video called “Believing” which is part of an old video called “People” is about how different people around the world from different religions pray. We shared this in our first class with 10 Nepali students. You can access it for free on Youtube here: [Believing](#).
- “The Swing-Set Swindler”

Grade 2, *Adhering to the Laws of God* Unit:

The virtues of Contentment, Courage and Faithfulness are emphasized. These virtues are expressed throughout the activities in the manual, but here are some that tend to emphasize them more in addition to the first one which is directly about the Laws in the Kitab-i-Aqdas.

- “Loveable Laws skits”
- “Contentment Pantomime”
- “Lena and the Dragon Slave Children”
- “Loyalty Lessons”

Grade 2, *Seeking Knowledge* Unit:

The virtues of Humility, Truthfulness, Purity, and Justice are emphasized.

- “Humility Skits”
- “Skits for Various Virtues”
- “Zymic Zelda” (Focus on Justice)

Grade 2, *Living in Harmony with Others* Unit:

The virtues emphasized are Justice, Love, Compassion, and Radiance. (Puppet Shows are generally for kids under 6 or 7, however.) All but the first 9 activities listed below focus on unity, cooperation, and oneness.

- “The Many Expressions of Love” (L.O.V.E. Warm Fuzzies, and Magic Penny are for younger children)
- “The Scar-Faced Child”
- “The Stolen Toy”
- “Kindness to Humanity Skits”
- “Tablet of the Heart Drama”
- “The Power of Words”
- “The Power of Put Downs and Put Ups”
- “Virtue Skits”
- in Level 2, “Zymic Zelda” -- particularly relates to justice, fairness, & providing for the comfort of all as focused on in 4.2)
- “Unity in Diversity Skits”
- “Unity in Diversity Puppet Show and Activity”
- “Cooperation, Unity & the Difference Between Them”
- “Practicing Being Unified”
- “All of Us All at Once”
- “Floor Designs”
- “3 Puppet Shows about Virtues and Unity”
- “4 Mini-Puppet Shows about Virtues and Unity”
- “Body Sculptures”
- “Hearts and Hands” musical activity
- “Power of Unity Sticks”
- and in Level 2: “Unity House”
- and in Level 3: “Children of the World” and “A World United”.

Grade 2, *Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being* Unit

Patience, Honesty, Sincerity, are emphasized, but also Courtesy and Loving-Kindness are the themes of 2 of the memory verses. (Some activities were left out of this list b/c they were for much younger kids.)

- “Waiting for Dinner”
- “Patience, Self Control, & Gratitude”
- “Skits for Various Virtues”
- “Tablet of the Heart Drama”
- “Virtue Skits”
- “Facets of Courtesy”
- “Moody Matilda”
- “The Grocery Line and the Baby”
- “The Cookie Courtesy Test”
- “The Big Load”
- “Manners Skits”
- “The Scar-Faced Child”
- “The Stolen Toy”
- “The Power of Words”
- “The Power of Put Downs and Put Ups”
- “Kindness to Humanity Skits”
- “I Think You’re Wonderful”
- “To Everyone in All the World”
- “Touch a Hand, Make a Friend”
- “Beauty is What You Do”
- “Digging for Diamonds”

Grade 2, *Being a Good Friend* Unit

The Virtues of Trustworthiness, Kindness, Generosity, and Forgiveness are emphasized throughout this unit. So these apply: (Some activities were left out of this list b/c they were for much younger kids).

A Strong relationship with God is focused on in the first lesson:

- “Recipe for Nearness to God Skits”

- “Trustworthiness Skits”
- “Cool Colleen”
- “The Scar-Faced Child”
- “The Grocery Line and the Baby”
- “The Stolen Toy”
- “The Power of Words”
- “The Power of Put Downs and Put Ups”
- “Kindness to Humanity Skits”
- “Sharing and Generosity Scenario”
- “The Difference Between Sharing and Generosity”
- “The Flood”
- “Forgiveness Scenarios”
-

Also, we had the youth teachers dress up simply as Ancient Greek characters for the skit in lesson 6.2 regarding Damon and Pythias. They acted out the story. The students found it extremely engaging. We had props, and even though the youth held the script in their hands, it was truly memorable. (This is not in the Drama Manual).

Grade 2, *Devoting One’s Life to Service* Unit

There are **9 entries related to service** in the Creative Dramatics Manual (Just see **Table of Contents**, **service** is in the titles except for “With These Hands” and “Beauty is What you Do” musical activities—they are also related to service). The Virtues of Selflessness, Joyfulness, Hopefulness, and Steadfastness are emphasized in this unit. Regarding the virtues mentioned: (Joyfulness is not quite the same as happiness, but its very related.)

- “Exercise in Selflessness and Surrender”
- “Joy Gives Me Wings”
- “Skits for Various Virtues”
- “Happiness H2O”
- “Recipe for True Happiness Skits”
- “In the Days to Come”, “A World United” & “Children of the World” (All Level 3, relate to hopefulness)
- “Wily Wanda”
- “Testing Steadfastness”
- “Cool Colleen”

Grade 3

Grade 3, *Progressive Revelation and the Manifestations* Unit:

Because all the Manifestations have taught the importance of unity and virtues, any activities in the Drama Manual that touch on these themes can be tied into a class in Grade 3. *They are easy to spot in the Table of Contents (just search for the words “unity”, “virtues”, or specific virtues, and also in the list in Grade 2 under “Living in Harmony with Others”, though the puppet shows may be too young for this age group. (Also, the Games Manual has a surplus of games related to these themes). That said, here are some activities that relate more specifically to the main emphasis of the Manifestations teachings other than unity and virtues.*

Lesson on **Abraham**, emphasis on oneness of God.

- “God is One” song (M)

Lesson on **Moses**, emphasis on obedience to Laws and Teachings of God-given.

- “Loveable Laws” (Just use some of the 10 Commandments instead of Baha’u’llah’s—though some are the same.)

Lesson on **Krishna**, emphasis on following the light of God’s teachings to dispel the darkness of ignorance

- None directly relate, but of course virtue skits relate to any of the Manifestation’s teachings.

Lesson on **Buddha**, emphasis on the Straight Path and Virtue

- “Higher VS Lower Nature Role Plays”

Lesson on **Zoroaster**, emphasis on praiseworthy character—good thoughts, good deeds, good speeches

- “The Power of Words”
- “The Power of Put Downs and Put Ups”

Lesson on **Christ**, emphasis on love

- “The Many Expressions of Love”
- (The other entries w/ the word “love” in them may be too young for Grade 3 kids).

Lesson on **Muhammad**, emphasis on obedience to God's will, submission

- “Exercise in Selflessness and Surrender” (Also in Games Manual under “Magical Clay”).

Quotes relating to Manifestations and Their teachings on peace, unity, and virtues

(Some can be shared with the students in relation to an activity to emphasize relevancy.)

Verily, the words which have descended from the heaven of the Will of God are the source of unity and harmony for the world. ~Baha'u'llah as quoted by Shoghi Effendi in The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 37

The purpose of the one true God in manifesting Himself is to summon all mankind to truthfulness and sincerity, to piety and trustworthiness, to resignation and submissiveness to the Will of God, to forbearance and kindliness, to uprightness and wisdom. His object is to array every man with the mantle of a saintly character, and to adorn him with the ornament of holy and goodly deeds. ~Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, page 299

The Great Being saith:The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. . ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 215

God's purpose in sending His Prophets unto men is twofold. The first is to liberate the children of men from the darkness of ignorance, and guide them to the light of true understanding. The second is to ensure the peace and tranquillity of mankind, and provide all the means by which they can be established. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, pages 79-80

The purpose underlying the revelation of every heavenly Book, nay, of every divinely-revealed verse, is to endue all men with righteousness and understanding, so that peace and tranquillity may be firmly established amongst them. ~Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 205

The Divine Messengers have been sent down, and their Books were revealed, for the purpose of promoting the knowledge of God, and of furthering unity and fellowship amongst men. ~Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 12

We have created you from one tree and have caused you to be as the leaves and fruit of the same tree, that haply ye may become a source of comfort to one another. Regard ye not others save as ye regard your own selves, that no feeling of aversion may prevail amongst you so as to shut you out from Him Whom God shall make manifest..... ~The Bab, Selections From the Writings of The Bab, page 129

Peoples of the earth! Verily the resplendent Light of God hath appeared in your midst, invested with this unerring Book, that ye may be guided aright to the ways of peace and, by the leave of God, step out of the darkness into the light and onto this far-extended Path of Truth..... ~The Bab, Selections From the Writings of The Bab, page 61

These holy Manifestations of God are... the teachers of the world of humanity. They liberate man....from despair, error, ignorance, imperfections and all evil qualities. They clothe him in the garment of

perfections and exalted virtues. Men are ignorant; the Manifestations of God make them wise. ~Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 110

God sent His Prophets into the world to teach and enlighten man, to explain to him the mystery of the Power of the Holy Spirit, to enable him to reflect the light, and so in his turn, to be the source of guidance to others. The Heavenly Books, the Bible, the Qur'an, and the other Holy Writings have been given by God as guides into the paths of Divine virtue, love, justice and peace. Therefore I say unto you that ye should strive to follow the counsels of these Blessed Books, and so order your lives that ye may, following the examples set before you, become yourselves the saints of the Most High! ~Abdu'l-Baha: Paris Talks p. 61

The holy Manifestations of God come into the world to dispel the darkness of the animal or physical nature of man, to purify him from his imperfections in order that his heavenly and spiritual nature may become quickened, his divine qualities awakened, his perfections visible, his potential powers revealed and all the virtues of the world of humanity latent within him may come to life. These holy Manifestations of God are the educators and trainers of the world of existence, the teachers of the world of humanity. They liberate man from the darkness of the world of nature, deliver him from despair, error, ignorance, imperfections and all evil qualities. They clothe him in the garment of perfections and exalted virtues. Men are ignorant; the Manifestations of God make them wise. They are animalistic; the Manifestations make them human. They are savage and cruel; the Manifestations lead them into kingdoms of light and love. They are unjust; the Manifestations cause them to become just. Man is selfish; they sever him from self and desire. Man is haughty; they make him meek, humble and friendly. He is earthly; they make him heavenly. Men are material; the Manifestations transform them into semblance divine. They are immature children; the Manifestations develop them into maturity. Man is poor; they endow him with wealth. Man is base, treacherous and mean; the Manifestations of God uplift him into dignity, nobility and loftiness. ~Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 110

Also, under Level 2 in the Drama Manual, “**The Beautiful Bab**” can be used for the last set in **Grade 3**.

Grade 4 - Baha'u'llah

Grade 4: dramatic activities

There are several entries related to **Baha'u'llah**, a song in Level 1, “Baha'u'llah Has Come”, and a puppet show in Level 2, and over 7 activities in Level 3—though any entry in a Level 3 takes considerable time and effort. They can be located by perusing the table of contents.

And of course any of the dramatic activities relating to virtues, oneness, peace and unity can be used for the lessons on Baha'u'llah based on the quotes above ---and these as well:

Some Quotes

Through the power of the words He hath uttered the whole of the human race can be illumined with the light of unity.....~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 286

He Who is your Lord, the All-Merciful, cherisheth in His heart the desire of beholding the entire human race as one soul and one body. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 214

Be ye as the fingers of one hand, the members of one body. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 140

We, verily, have come to unite and weld together all that dwell on earth. ~Baha'u'llah: Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, page 24.

Some Miscellaneous Tips

- Try to always **discuss Memory Verses**, ask questions to promote deeper understanding. For example:

O Lord! I am a child; enable me to grow beneath the shadow of Thy loving-kindness. I am a tender plant; cause me to be nurtured through the outpourings of the clouds of Thy bounty. I am a sapling of the garden of love; make me into a fruitful tree. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful, and Thou art the All-Loving, the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing. ~Abdu'l-Baha

What does this prayer mean? What are we asking for? How are each of you like a tender plant? What are the outpourings from the clouds of bounty? Why does it say we are a sapling? What do we want to grow into? What fruits will come from us? Apples? Oranges? Bananas?

O SON OF LIGHT! Forget all save Me and commune with My spirit. This is of the essence of My command, therefore turn unto it.~Baha'u'llah

Who is “Me” / “My”? How do we commune? What is the essence of God’s command? Is this just a good idea? Or is it a command? Why do we “turn” to this “command”? Is it because it is an essential spiritual habit?. (talk about this)

- Most of the lesson plans have **introductory dialogue** that can be difficult for students to focus on due to their didactic feel. The ideas in these mini-speeches are important, so when we share them, we engage the students by leaving out key words for them to guess. Just make sure the same children (especially older or more experienced) are not always the first to answer, thereby causing the slower or younger ones to disengage. Here is an example from Lesson 2, Grade 3:

Opening presentation on the Manifestations and their relationship to us and to God—highlighted words children can fill in—this will keep them engaged.

The purpose of this lesson is to enhance the children’s understanding that we know God through His Manifestations and that, by listening to and following their words, we do what is pleasing to God. You could begin the exploration of this theme by saying that the Manifestations of God tell us about the Will of God and the purpose of our lives, that we were created to know God and to worship Him, and that we should learn to live according to His Will. You could then proceed along the following lines:

“God knows what is **best** for us. He has **created** us and bestowed upon us great **capacities** that we must each develop. To do so, we must **recognize** the **Manifestations** of God and follow their **teachings**. For example, we all have the capacity to be **generous** to our friends, not wanting everything for **ourselves**. The Manifestations of **God** teach us how to be generous and when we **follow** this teaching, we are acting in a way that is **pleasing** to God. When we forgive others, as all the Manifestations have **taught** us to do, we know we are doing what **God** desires.” You could continue in this way with other exhortations—that we should love one another and be kind to each other, that we should tell the truth and be sincere, and so on.

The next idea the children should consider is that the knowledge brought to humanity by God’s Manifestations is not acquired through book learning or schooling. You could discuss this idea with them by sharing the following:

“The **Manifestations** of God know exactly what we **need**. They are all-knowing and all-**wise**, for their knowledge comes directly from **God**, Whose knowledge holds all things. What does it mean that God’s knowledge holds all things? Is there anything whatsoever that can escape God?” After discussing these questions with the children, you could go on: “The Manifestations of **God** are the source of His **knowledge** on earth. What they say is true, and through their teachings we are able to distinguish between right and **wrong**. They reflect the beauty of God, which we learn to **love** and cherish. The more we follow their teachings, the closer we get to **God**. And we help the world become more **beautiful**, as He created it to be.”

- Also, please **never just read the stories** (especially in Grade 3) direct from the text. They should be presented in one’s own words with expression and gestures. So many of the stories are way too confusing or not of interest or relevant to children’s interests otherwise.
- **The Chime Transition Cue and Reverence Standards:** Every class starts with devotions in the morning (and a short devotional with just musical selections after lunch if full day program). The devotional portion begins with a 3 bar chime, (sounded by a child), then a deep breath (to release busy material world thoughts and tensions) then 1 or 2 recorded musical selections. Between the musical selections, those who wished to do so recited a prayer or scripture from memory, or spontaneously from their heart or own Faith tradition, or from the classroom supply of Baha’i books. Students are to sit up, legs crossed or on their knees, not chew gum or talk during devotions. If using a prayer book or book of Baha’i writings, students are to find their prayer or selected writing before devotions begin so they are not leafing through the book while others are praying, or making us wait while they find the right one. I encourage them to close their eyes to shut out the material world. They may sing along to the musical selection if they know it.

If using a bar chime, kids do need a bit of training: Using the mallet, avoid hitting string, wood, touching bars, let tone end before hitting next one.

- We always display a large **decorated poster of a list of virtues** that the students and teachers can refer to throughout the class during stories, discussions, or conflicts, etc. This list is at the end of the [Creative Dramatics Manual](#). Each class a virtue is chosen off the list and we discuss it using questions such as:

What does this virtue mean? How do we show it? Why is it important? What happens if we don’t show it?

- After a while we also bought a set of **Virtues Cards**. After prayers, a student gets to blindly choose one card out of a golden satin sack and the student or teacher reads it then we ask students to share a time they showed this virtue. (The questions above are pretty much covered on the cards.) After a card is shared, it is put in a different colored satin sack so we can keep track of which ones we have covered.
- 3 additional ways to use these cards:
 1. Spread them on a table or on a pretty cloth on the floor. Ask students to each choose one that they think they are strong in or need to work on more. They read them to the group and explain why they chose it.
 2. Have a student choose one out of the sack and read to the group. Then assign teams and they each go off and develop a simple short skit to illustrate that one virtue. This reveals the myriad ways one virtue can be expressed.
 3. Assign teams. One member chooses blindly from the sack of cards that has already been shared with the class. (So hopefully that means the students are at least a bit familiar w/ it.) The teams keep their chosen card a secret from the rest of the class. Then they go off to separate areas to create a short skit illustrating that virtue. They are advised not to use the name of the virtue or a synonym in their dialogue. The other class members have to guess which virtue they were demonstrating. This also reveals that often many virtues are shown at once, for example the virtue of generosity can also show detachment, kindness, sacrifice, etc.
- Here is a source for the classroom version of the virtues cards: <https://bahairesources.com/p/classroom-virtue-cards/>

(They also have a set for youth and adults: <https://bahairesources.com/p/virtue-reflection-cards/> and also for families: <https://bahairesources.com/p/bahai-virtue-cards/>)

Some memory verse substitutions

Prayer Unit Grade 2

This goes w/ Lena and the Dragon Slave Children Story but can be used regardless of whether that story is used.

*Do Thou ordain for me . . . O my Lord, the good of this world and of the next. . .
Thou art He Who changeth through His bidding... weakness into strength,
and powerlessness into might, and fear into calm, and doubt into certainty.*

No God is there but Thee, the Mighty, the Beneficent. ~Baha'u'llah: Prayers and Meditations, page 249

We felt that this prayer was more appropriate for children than the one in the Ruhi book b/c its more concrete and personally relevant b/c it speaks to how kids often feel weak, powerless, and fearful in the face of hardships, chaos, aggression, world events, etc., and also doubtful about their abilities and whether things will improve.

Service Unit Grade 2:

Think ye at all times of rendering some service to every member of the human race. ~`Abdu'l-Baha: Selections from the Writings of `Abdu'l-Baha, page 3

Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind..... Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth. ~Baha'u'llah: Gleanings, page 305

Love all the world, love humanity and try to serve it. ~Abdu'l-Baha (Quoted by Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 71)

The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds..... Baha'u'llah: A Chaste and Holy Life, page 62

Betterment=improvement, progress

accomplished =achieved, done

Pure= unselfish, virtuous (A pure deed is doing for the good of others, love of God and love of others, not for personal gain).

Deeds=actions

Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches. ~Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, page 138

Merit=value/worth

Pageantry=display

Love ye all religions and all races with a love that is true and sincere and show that love through deeds..... ~`Abdu'l-Baha: Selections from the Writings of `Abdu'l-Baha, page 69

....service in love for mankind is unity with God. ~`Abdu'l-Baha, Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 186

Grade 3, Lesson 2

There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God. ~ Baha'u'llah, Gleanings page 217