

Selflessness

- > **Prayers** “Blessed is the Spot...”
...review the memorising of this prayer. Sing it. Introduce new prayer to memorise:
“O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants...”
- > **Theme** *Selflessness* – when we are selfish, we are worshipping ourselves, when we become selfless, we are like stars shedding the light of truth on the world of humanity, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us. The more selfless we become the better we are able to help change our world into a better place and bring about the unity of humankind. One is honourable if one arises to serve others; one is wretched and low when one ignores the good of society and thinks only of selfish interests. (see p35 of ‘Teaching Children’s Classes Grade 2’ book, for more explanations)
- > **Quote** – read, explain and memorise it.
“If man be imbued with all good qualities but be selfish, all the other virtues will fade or pass away and eventually he will grow worse.” –Bahá’u’lláh
(...use memorisation booklets from last lesson to practice)
- > **Song** – ‘Kam Kam’ (http://www.ruhi.org/resources/songs/25_KAM_KAM.mp3) see lyrics on that webpage too
- > **Story** – p.36 in Ruhi Book 3a: *About an old farmer and his meeting a king.* ‘Abdu’l-Bahá often used to tell stories to illustrate praiseworthy qualities, and this is one of them.
- > **Drama** – To develop skills and abilities, learning to control our actions within a defined space (p.37):
 - > imaginary square, moving within, along the edge of it, stretching as high as the sky, etc.
 - > then we learn to move around in a larger space (making sure not to bump into one another)

Tell the children to walk around the room randomly, making broad sweeping motions with their arms and legs and large flowing movements, high and low, with their whole bodies. When they hear the teacher say FREEZE, they stop and stand still in whatever position they’re in. The teacher then asks one of them ‘What are you doing?’ and the child has to think of an appropriate answer, corresponding to their position. (ie. picking apples, painting fence, etc)

Then move on to improvising/enacting a story related to today’s theme ‘selflessness’:
Improvise the story of about the king and old farmer. Let children ‘embellish’ it to their heart’s content – how does the king travel? on horseback? with escorts? is the farmer working alone? what does he do when the king approaches? etc.
- > **Craft/art** Reinforcing the idea of ‘selflessness’ in the children’s minds, and as a reminder of the story we are making craft trees... you’ll need paper rolls, craft paper (slightly thicker), scissors, paint or crayons > see examples on the next page.
- > clean up
- > **Closing Prayers:** let children say prayers they know off by heart

Selflessness – Tree craft



images found from a google search

