

# Baha'i Scripture Classes Stage 2 Scope and Sequence

## Developing Habits and Patterns of Conduct

Having learnt about the Spiritual Qualities in Grade 1, that is, learning to **think, reflect and apply** qualities to their lives and the lives of their family and society. They will now be exploring the habits and patterns of conduct that are a manifestation of the inner qualities that are taking root in their hearts and minds.

The purpose of this course therefore is to help children develop habits and patterns of conduct that will help them lead a fruitful and productive life.

<b>Duration</b>	<b>80 weeks (30 mins per week)</b>		
<b>Themes of habits and patterns of conduct (Outcomes)</b>	<p><u>Maintaining a Prayerful Attitude:</u></p> <p>1) What is prayer</p> <p>2) Why do we pray</p> <p>3) How do we pray</p> <p><u>Adhering to the Laws of God:</u></p> <p>4) Love is the reason for our creation</p> <p>5) Obedience to the Laws because of our love for Him</p> <p>6) Effort is needed</p> <p><u>Seeking Knowledge:</u></p> <p>7) Knowledge of God</p> <p>8) Material and Spiritual knowledge</p> <p>9) Making effort to search after truth</p>	<p><u>Living in Harmony with others:</u></p> <p>10) Unity</p> <p>11) Justice</p> <p>12) Cooperation</p> <p><u>Being a Good Friend:</u></p> <p>13) God is our True and Incomparable Friend</p> <p>14) Trustworthiness</p> <p>15) Forgiveness and bringing joy to the heart of our friend</p>	<p><u>Devoting One's Life to Service:</u></p> <p>16) we draw closer to God by being of service to others</p> <p>17) Effort is needed, we must be diligent and hard-working</p> <p>18) Have a useful occupation with the talents we are given</p> <p><u>Engaging in Consultation</u></p> <p>19) What is Consultation</p> <p>20) Why do we Consult</p> <p>21) How do we Consult</p>
<b>Methods, tools and activities</b>	<p>Memorization of Prayers and Quotations, songs, stories, drama and art.</p> <p>Using the Ruhi Institute: Teaching Children's Classes Grade 2 book.</p>		

Unit/Topic	Duration	Early Stage 2 Outcomes – Year 3 & 4
Introduction	First lesson	Get to know the children and make them familiar with the structure of the lessons. Letting them know that for the next two years we have seven themes to learn about and that each theme has three lessons. These themes are: <u>Maintaining a Prayerful Attitude</u> , <u>Adhering to the Laws of God</u> , <u>Seeking Knowledge</u> , <u>Living in Harmony with others</u> , <u>Being a Good Friend</u> , <u>Devoting One’s Life to Service</u> , <u>Engaging in Consultation</u> , and we will use prayers, songs, stories, drama and memorisation of the quotes to help us learn these themes.
<u>Maintaining a Prayerful Attitude</u>  What is prayer	3 Weeks	Children will learn about prayer being “conversation with God”. They will learn about how God loves us more than we could possibly imagine and prayer will help our love for Him to grow and will help us draw closer to Him.
<u>Maintaining a Prayerful Attitude</u>  Why do we pray	3 Weeks	Children will learn that God does not need our prayer as He knows what is in our hearts but that prayer helps to strengthen our souls, for prayer is like food for the soul. Just as we must eat every day so that our bodies do not become weak and sick, we must give nourishment to our souls by turning our heart and mind to our Creator daily.  They will learn that we can pray for different things, to thank God for the many blessings He has given us, for our families, our friends, for humanity and in times of difficulty we can ask Him for help.
<u>Maintaining a Prayerful Attitude</u>  How do we pray	3 Weeks	The children will learn that when we pray, we must always remember that we are in the presence of God, the Almighty, and we show humility before Him. We act with deep respect and reverence, we sit quietly in a prayerful posture and take a few moments before beginning to pray, in order to cleanse our minds of the things of this world.
<u>Adhering to the Laws of God:</u> Love is the reason for our creation	3 Weeks	Children will learn that we have been created out of God’s love for His creation, and we are constantly nurtured and protected by His love which is like a fortress. ‘Abdu’l-Baha tells us that life was created for happiness, not for sorrow, for pleasure, not for grief and it is through following God’s guidance and living according to His teachings that we find true happiness, a happiness that will last forever.
<u>Adhering to the Laws of God:</u>	3 Weeks	The children learn that out of His infinite love, God has given us laws and teachings to live by. These laws and teachings are like lamps that illumine our path. We obey the laws of God out of our love for Him, knowing the laws are there for protection and happiness. ‘Abdu’l-Baha used to say, “Nothing is too much

Obedience to the Laws because of our love for Him		trouble when one loves, and there is always time.”
<u>Adhering to the Laws of God:</u>  Effort is needed	3 Weeks	Children learn that effort is needed to obey the laws of God for example praying every day, even if we are tired, not taking part in gossip and back biting, treating animals with kindness, being courteous and hospitable at all times, engaging in a worthy profession, etc.  They also learn that as ‘Abdu’l-Baha said, this can be achieved “little by little, day by day” that we should not look at our weaknesses and shortcomings but to turn towards God and rely on His mercy and assistance.
<u>Seeking Knowledge:</u>  Knowledge of God	3 Weeks	Children learn that throughout our lives we strive to obey the commandments of God and to reflect in all our actions qualities such as love, justice, humility and generosity, praying to Him for guidance and assistance. We are also seeking the knowledge of God and of His creation. As our knowledge increases so does our love for Him.  We know God through those Special Beings that He sends to humanity from time to time to bring us His laws and teachings. We draw closer to Him by listening to the Manifestation of God for today and applying His laws to our lives.
<u>Seeking Knowledge:</u>  Material and Spiritual knowledge	3 Weeks	Children learn that in order for us to build a better world, we must gain knowledge of the sciences and the arts. They learn that both material and spiritual knowledge are important, that our the teachings of God give a deeper understanding of the world around us and inspire us to use our material knowledge for the benefit of others, to remove conflict and to promote cooperation and harmony.
<u>Seeking Knowledge:</u>  Making effort to search after truth	3 Weeks	Children learn that truth is one, no matter where we may find it. For example, light is good, from whatever lamp it may shine. ‘Abdu’l-Baha explains that, in our search after truth, we must let go of prejudices and superstition, we must keep our minds open at all times, looking for answers. He always encouraged people to ask questions and He responded with great courtesy, love, patience and wisdom.  The children learn that we should strive and persevere, be attentive, be observant and to think deeply, to

		know that we will make mistakes, but our understanding increases as we think about what we did and we continue to put in effort.
<u>Living in Harmony with others:</u> Unity	3 Weeks	Children learn that all the people of the world were created by one God. We all breathe the same air, live on the same earth and receive light and warmth from the same sun. We are all part of one human family. And just like a garden bursting with flowers of every shape and colour, humanity is made up of peoples of different colours and races, different talents and capacities, which are harmonized in a beautiful whole. When the diverse people of the world come together in unity, the true strength and potential of humanity can be seen.
<u>Living in Harmony with others:</u> Justice	3 Weeks	Children learn that people of the world are meant to live together in unity, as one family. In a family, everyone is treated with fairness. We find ways to work together for everyone's benefit. The well-being of every member is connected to the well-being of the family as a whole. If any harm come to one member, all are affected. Similarly, we should be fair in our dealings with all those who cross our path, never taking advantage of anyone. We should show such fairness and justice in our lives that we become worthy of the trust and confidence of our fellow human beings.
<u>Living in Harmony with others:</u> Cooperation	3 Weeks	Children learn that as members of one human family, we work together for the good of all. We cooperate with one another and do everything we can to contribute to the goals we all share. They learn that without cooperation, little can be accomplished in this world for example for a bridge to be built, for good quality food to be grown, for medicine to advance, for finding new ways to communicate and many other things have come about as a result of cooperation. They also learn that sometimes this means that we must be ready to give up what we want for ourselves for the good of the whole. We should show kindness to those with whom we are working with patience when someone makes a mistake.
<u>Being a Good Friend:</u> God is our True and Incomparable Friend	3 Weeks	Children learn that we all have so many people around us, family, friends, teachers, classmates and neighbours. As we grow we make more friends, some of these friendships last a long time, others not as long. No matter how many people come and go from our lives, but God is always with us. He loves each one of us and has created every good thing for our well-being and has given us laws and teachings to guide and protect us. He overlooks our shortcomings and faults and sees that which is praiseworthy in us. If we do something wrong, He forgives us. He is the All-Merciful, the Compassionate. We listen to Him and follow His counsels through times of joy and difficulty, because we know He is our Creator and our true Friend.

<p><u>Being a Good Friend:</u> Trustworthiness</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Children learn that true friends trust each other. A trustworthy person is honest and truthful and can be counted on to keep his or her word. True friends see the good in each other and do not focus on their shortcomings and faults. Of course we all make mistakes sometimes but true friends forgive each other and help each other to do what is pleasing in the sight of God. A true friend is careful not to ask us to do that which is unacceptable before God. The trust that is shared between two friends grows stronger the more they know each other. We should be trustworthy and choose friends who are trustworthy and will help us to stay on the straight path.</p>
<p><u>Being a Good Friend:</u> Forgiveness and bringing joy to the heart of our friends</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Children learn that true friends care for each other and try to bring joy to each other's hearts, and they want what is best for their friend. In friendship we give of our time, possessions and share happiness and learning to help our friends be happy and to progress. Of course, sometimes a friend makes a mistake that makes us sad but we should remember that God is forgiving and we should also forgive and when our heart is filled with generosity and we remember our love for our friend, the sadness goes away. There may also be time when we make a mistake ourselves and our friend will be forgiving towards us. It was the wish of 'Abdu'l-Baha that no soul should ever be hurt or grieved. He used to pray: "I beg of God, that ye will be bringers of joy, even as are the angels in Heaven."</p>
<p><u>Devoting One's Life to Service:</u>  we draw closer to God by being of service to others</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Children learn that God loves us and always wants us to be near Him. One way that we are able to draw closer to God is through serving His loved ones. They learn that there are many ways in which we can serve our fellow human beings. We can, for example, visit the sick, help those in need, share our knowledge with others. We should strive to serve all people, whether rich or poor, friends or strangers. The children will learn from the example of 'Abdu'l-Baha who spent His entire life serving humanity.</p>
<p><u>Devoting One's Life to Service:</u>  Effort is needed, we must be diligent and hard-working</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Children learn that to serve God and humanity, effort is needed, we must be diligent and hard working. We should remember that God will assist us. So we rise everyday, turn our hearts to Him in prayer, and then set out, confident of His love surrounding us and eager to do what little we each can to make this world an earthly paradise. At the end of each day, we think about what we have done and thank God for His help, knowing that we will try even harder the next day.</p>
<p><u>Devoting One's Life to Service:</u></p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Children learn that with love and kindness, joy and eagerness, we work diligently throughout our lives, striving to contribute to the good of those around us. They learn that as we grow we will use our talents and acquire the knowledge and skills needed to serve. They learn that there are many avenues for service, for</p>

Have a useful occupation with the talents we are given		example, working as a framer, a teacher, a scientist or a musician. They will learn that according to the Baha'i Writings no matter what profession we choose, as long as we do it in a spirit of service it is accepted by God as worship.
<u>Engaging in Consultation</u> What is Consultation	3 Weeks	The children are reminded that we have thought about the importance of showing our love for God through service to His loved ones, that we try to contribute to the betterment of the world we live in. Sometimes, of course, we do not know how to best move forward, but God again has given us a most wonderful gift to help us learn little by little how to put His teachings into practice and follow His guidance. It is the gift of consultation. 'Abdu'l-Baha explains that true consultation is a spiritual conference and not mere voicing of personal views in opposition and debate.
<u>Engaging in Consultation</u> Why do we Consult	3 Weeks	Children are reminded that the entire universe is created and held together by the force of love, that everything is connected into a beautiful whole and humanity is like one family. Unity and harmony are a part of creation. And when we come together to consult and share ideas, we are able to understand the world around us better, we see its unity and harmony and become more united in our thoughts and understanding. Sometimes we may need to talk for a long time to see a united way forward; other times the path is clear more quickly. When our thoughts and views are united, our strength is great and we are capable of achieving great things.
<u>Engaging in Consultation</u> How do we Consult	3 Weeks	The children learn the art of consultation the way it is taught by Baha'u'llah. They learn that when people come together to consult, they share their ideas with purity of heart and radiant spirits. They all know that, in order to discover the right way forward, they must each contribute their thoughts and understanding. They speak courteously to one another and use kind and gentle words. More important, they learn that they must listen carefully to one another and think about what each person is saying. It is in listening and thinking that ideas come together not just in speaking. They learn from the example of 'Abdu'l-Baha; how He was always detached, patient and humble. He always encouraged others to talk and He listened with calm attentiveness. He never argued or insisted on an idea. He spoke as if offering a gift to a king.