

Baha'i Scripture Classes Stage 3 Scope and Sequence

Progressive Revelation – Learning about the lives and Missions of God’s Manifestations

The children will learn about God’s infinite love for humanity which He has shown to us by sending His Manifestations throughout the ages to guide us. The lessons seek to strengthen in the minds of the children the connection between the knowledge of God acquired through His Manifestations and the habits and patterns of conduct that were the focus of the lessons in Grade 2.

It is hoped that by learning about the lives and teachings of the Manifestations that have appeared down the ages the children will understand that God, out of His love for humanity, has sent His Messengers to make His Will and Purpose known to us and that our relationship with God is ultimately one of love and as humanity follows the teachings of these Special Beings, society progresses and souls grow closer to their Creator.

Duration	80 weeks (30 mins per week)		
Progressive Revelation (Outcomes)	<p>GRADE 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-Importance of seeking knowledge of God. 2- We know God through His Manifestation. 3- The promise of universal peace has been fulfilled 4- Abraham – The oneness of God 5- Moses – They bring laws and ordinances suited to the capacity of the ages. 6- Krishna – They appear from age to age when there is decline in religion. 7- Buddha – Purpose of life, nature of existence, suffering and death. 8- Zoroaster – Developing an upright character and carrying out pure and goodly deeds.. 9- Jesus - Divine love. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10- Muhammad – Submitting to the will of God. 11- The Báb. A Manifestation of God. 12- The Bab – Forerunner of Bahá’u’lláh. 13- The Báb - burned away the veils. 14- The Báb - Herald of a new era. 15- The Báb - began the Heroic Age. 16- The Báb - joyfully sacrificed His life. <p>GRADE 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Bahá’u’lláh is the Manifestation of God for today. 2- Humanity is waking to the call of Bahá’u’lláh. 3- Bahá’u’lláh has come to establish the unity of humankind. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4- We must share Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings with all. 5- The suffering Bahá’u’lláh endured for humanity. 6- Bahá’u’lláh called on the rulers to practice Justice, we must teach the Faith in order for justice to be established on earth. 7- His power to transform souls. 8- He was at all times victorious, despite the persecutions. 9- His Revelation is His most precious gift to humanity. 10- He established a covenant before His passing.
Methods, tools and activities	<p>Memorization of Prayers and Quotations, songs, stories, drama and art.</p> <p>Using the Ruhi Institute: Teaching Children’s Classes Grades 3 and 4 books.</p>		

Unit/Topic	Duration	Early Stage 3 Outcomes – Year 5 & 6
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 will be learning about the lives and Missions of God’s Manifestations, and we will use prayers, songs, stories, drama and memorization of the quotes to help us learn about these special Beings.
Seeking knowledge of God	3 Weeks	The children are reminded of the importance of seeking knowledge, in particular the knowledge of God which can be achieved through the light that His Manifestations shine on the world of humanity, guiding it and helping it to advance, materially and spiritually. This lesson also teaches children that Bahá’u’lláh is the Manifestation whose teachings we follow today.
Knowing God through His Manifestations	3 Weeks	The children’s understanding is enhanced that we know God through His Manifestations and that, by listening to and following their words, we do what is pleasing to God.
The promise of Universal peace has been fulfilled	3 weeks	The children will begin to learn that the promise of universal peace made by the Manifestations of God Who have appeared down the ages has been fulfilled in the Person of Bahá’u’lláh.
Abraham	3 Weeks	The children are provided with the opportunity to think about the concept of the oneness of God and to recognize that all the Manifestations proclaim the unity of God. In this context, they will learn about Abraham, a Manifestation who thousands of years ago guided His people to an understanding of God’s essential oneness. At another level the children will begin to see that the human heart was created to love and that, if it is not filled with the love of God, it will find something else as the object of its affection and adoration, an “idol”.
Moses	3 Weeks	The children will understand that the Manifestations of God are Divine Educators, that Each brings a set of laws and ordinances suited to the capacity of the age in which He appears, and that these laws enable human beings to develop their spiritual powers and create a more just and beautiful world. The children will learn specifically about the life of Moses, Who, as explained by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, established laws and ordinances that “gave life to the people of Israel, and led them to the highest possible degree of civilization at that period.”
Krishna	3 Weeks	The children are reminded that God’s Manifestations appear from age to age when there is a decline in religion and hearts have turned away from their Creator. The children will learn about the life of Krishna and how His appearance helped the people draw closer to God. They will learn that the universe is in a constant state of motion, that nothing is stationary, it is hoped that learning about this concept will help the children develop a sense of purpose in their lives as they grow into adults, capable of contributing to the betterment of the world.

Buddha	3 Weeks	The children will learn about several related subjects – the purpose of life, the nature of existence in this world, suffering, and death – explaining to them that the teachings of every Manifestation of God address the most profound spiritual yearnings of the human soul. In this context, the children will become familiar with the life of Buddha, whose teachings helped people learn to exist in a spiritual state while living in the physical world.
Zoroaster	3 Weeks	The children will learn about the importance that all Manifestations of God have placed on developing an upright character and carrying out pure and goodly deeds. In this connection, they will learn about the life of Zoroaster, whose teachings spread among the people of Persia, refining human character and transforming society.
Jesus	3 Weeks	The children learn that all the Manifestations of God brought the same message of Divine love to the world. In this context, they will learn about the life and teachings of Jesus, a Manifestation of God whose Message of love and fellowship eventually spread through the entire world.
Muhammad	3 Weeks	The children will learn that all the Manifestations of God call upon humanity to live in a state of submission to His Will. They will learn specifically about the life of Muhammad, whose teachings spread among the Arab people, who through their submission to the Will of God became superior in learning, in arts, mathematics, civilization, government and other sciences. They will learn that the purpose of submission to His Will is to unite people and to promote order and prosperity.
The Báb	3 Weeks	The children will be provided with the opportunity to think about the statement: “The Báb is a Manifestation of God.” They will learn about the concept of a Manifestation and how they manifest the qualities of God, in the same way as a mirror will manifest the qualities of the sun when it is turned towards it.
The Báb’s mission	3 Weeks	The children will learn that the Báb’s Mission was to prepare humanity for the coming of Bahá’u’lláh. In this sense we say that the Báb was the Forerunner of Bahá’u’lláh. He urged His followers to cleanse their hearts of egotism, ambition, jealousy, hatred and earthly attachments, and to be humble, pure and prayerful, so that their spiritual eyes would see the Supreme Manifestation of God when He appeared.
The Báb burned away the veils	3 Weeks	The children will learn that when a Manifestation of God appears, there are always some people with pure hearts that would recognize Him immediately when He appears, but there are others who because of their attachments, prejudice, superstition or ignorance which are like veils, will fail to see His greatness. Wherever the Báb went, through His gentle, loving character and penetrating Words soon burned away these veils and the anger, pride, or cruelty that these people carried in their hearts gave way to love and adoration for Him.
The Báb was the Herald of a new Era	3 Weeks	The children will learn that throughout history, humanity has grown in number, in experience and in knowledge. There was a time when lived in caves in small bands and as we developed we formed tribes, then we built villages and later on, towns and cities. Gradually great civilizations came into being. During this long history, humanity has accomplished extraordinary things, but often its life has been full of fear and grief.

		Injustice and wars have been brought misery to the world. But humanity has always lived in the hope that someday a new world would be built, and a glorious era would begin in the life of humanity. We know that this day has now dawned and that Bahá'u'lláh has come to lead humanity into an era of great peace and prosperity and the Báb was the Herald of this new Era.
The Báb began the Heroic Age of the Bahá'í Era	3 Weeks	The children will learn that the first years of every religious dispensation are marked by deeds of great heroism. In the Bahá'í Era, the first seventy-seven years are known as the Heroic Age. This Age began in 1844 with the declaration of the Báb and is distinguished by the sacrificial acts of thousands of courageous souls who resisted the most cruel persecutions so that that the religion of God could be firmly established and mankind could benefit from it.
The Báb joyfully sacrificed His life	3 Weeks	The children will learn that a fire that is ignited by human hands can be put out. But the fire of God's love enkindled by the Hand of the Almighty Himself cannot be extinguished, even if all the people of the world unite to do so. They will learn that no matter how fierce and powerful the enemies of the Báb were, the love that He had for God and for Bahá'u'lláh whose coming He was preparing the people for, that He wished for nothing more than to sacrifice His life in His path. This, He did joyfully, knowing that Bahá'u'lláh's Mission will bring the peace and prosperity that mankind is waiting for.
Bahá'u'llah is the Manifestation of God for today	3 Weeks	The children are provided with the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the statement: "Bahá'u'llah is the Manifestation of God for today". They will be reminded that the Manifestations of God are very special Beings Who come from time to time to guide humanity along the right path. They are like perfectly polished mirrors that reflect the attributes of God as a mirror reflects the light of the sun. Humanity is like a child who needs education. When a child has learned all that there is to learn in one grade, he must move on to the next. In this new grade, he will have another teacher, as wonderful as the previous one, who will teach him what he could not have understood before and that Baha'u'llah is the that Teacher who has come to guide humanity today.
Humanity is waking to the call of Baha'u'llah	3 Weeks	The children will learn that Bahá'u'lláh came at a time when humankind was moving farther and farther away from God. The vast majority of people were, and continue to remain, unaware of their spiritual nature. With the appearance of Bahá'u'lláh, and as more and more people recognize Him, this world will gradually change: Suffering will be replaced by prosperity. Sadness will turn into joy. Ignorance will give way to knowledge. Oppression will be overcome by justice. Truthfulness, righteousness and peace will appear and union, love and fellowship will rule the hearts of people everywhere.

Mission of Bahá'u'lláh	3 weeks	The children are reminded that all the religions of the past speak of a time when God would send to humanity a Manifestation Who would establish peace and harmony on earth. We are fortunate to live in this day as Bahá'u'lláh is the Promised One of All Ages. His teachings will enable humanity to do away with war and establish lasting peace. He has come to unite the peoples of the world into one family. His teachings create love in our hearts for everyone. We see others as friends, not strangers. Think of the flowers in a garden, each kind of flower has a different colour, fragrance, and texture, but it is these differences that make the garden beautiful. Although in appearance we are different from one another, we are all the children of one God Who loves us, cares for us and wishes us to grow and live together in harmony.
Sharing the message of Bahá'u'lláh	3 Weeks	The children learn that the message of Bahá'u'lláh is to unify humankind and to establish a just and peaceful world where all people can find true happiness and prosperity. Therefore His teachings need to reach every human being on the planet and it is our duty to share it with them.
A glimpse of the ordeals and sufferings Bahá'u'lláh endured for us	3 Weeks	The children are reminded about how every Manifestation of God suffered at the hands of leaders concerned only with their own wealth and power and how they used their influence over the people who blindly followed them, convincing them to arise against God's Manifestations. Bahá'u'lláh, too, lived a life of suffering and affliction. For forty years He suffered in prison and exile, facing opposition, lies, rejection and the merciless persecution of His loyal followers. During all this time He showed loving-kindness to every human being and never stopped shedding God's light upon the whole world.
Bahá'u'lláh called on the rulers to practice Justice	3 Weeks	The children are reminded about the importance of the virtue of justice and how without it we can become cruel and ignore the rights of others. Bahá'u'lláh appeared at a time when the light of justice was fading from the world and the rulers kept their subjects ignorant and used their position to gather wealth and power for themselves. Bahá'u'lláh called on these rulers to dedicate themselves to the well-being of their people. Unfortunately more than a century later, our world is still filled with injustice and suffering. It is therefore important for us to share the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh with everyone to help bring about justice, unity and peace.
Bahá'u'lláh's power to transform souls	3 Weeks	The children are reminded that all the Manifestations reflect the attributes of God. One of these attributes is His infinite love for every human being. Bahá'u'lláh told us that God created us out of His love for us and His love permeates the entire creation. It is because of this all-embracing love that the sun shines, the plants grow, the animals have offspring and human beings receive blessings with every breath of their lives. It is this love that is Manifested by Bahá'u'lláh today that has the power to transform our souls, through prayer, the study of His Writings and constant effort, we can fill our hearts with His love and develop the capacity to perform great deeds in service to humankind. We can be transformed as a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly.

<p>Bahá'u'lláh was victorious and God's Holy Purpose was achieved despite the bitter persecutions and waves of tribulations that came over Him</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>The children are reminded that Bahá'u'lláh's life on this earth was filled with suffering. He was imprisoned, put in chains, stripped of His worldly possessions and exiled four times. But despite all the efforts to still His Voice and destroy His Faith, His Word became more firmly planted in the hearts of people and His Cause grew stronger and wider each day. The rulers of Persia and the Ottoman Empire were too blinded by ambition to understand that they were powerless to inflict harm on the Cause of God or to see that their acts of injustice and oppression were contributing to their own destruction.</p>
<p>Bahá'u'lláh has brought us the Word of God and His Revelation is His most precious gift to humanity.</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>The children learn that all the Manifestations of God brought the Word of God to humanity. Bahá'u'lláh revealed the Word of God for nearly forty years. The Word of God is an expression of His love for us. His laws are the light that guides us throughout our lives, they are like a fortress that will protect us from the promptings of our lower nature. It is through His Word that this world can be transformed into a new world where people will learn to live in unity and harmony.</p>
<p>Bahá'u'lláh established a covenant with the believers before His passing to maintain the unity of the followers and to prevent schisms</p>	<p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>The children will learn that among the many Writings of Bahá'u'lláh is a most precious one called the Kitáb-i-'Ahd (the Book of the Covenant). In this book He gives His last wishes to His followers. He proclaims the fundamental purpose of His Revelation and provides loving counsels to His followers on how they should conduct themselves. Most important, He appoints 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of His Covenant, the One Whom all the believers should turn to after His passing. By focusing on 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of His Covenant and the Perfect Exemplar of His teachings we remain united as one worldwide community and work until the oneness of humankind has been firmly established and this world becomes God's Holy Kingdom.</p>