



Bahá'í Resources for the Children's Sabbath

This chapter provides a variety of resources for children, youth, and adults in the Bahá'í community that they can use to participate in the Children's Sabbath weekend:

- ◆ Suggestions for Observances and Related Activities
- ◆ Passages and Prayers from the Bahá'í Writings
- ◆ FEAST of 'ILM (Knowledge) Children's Sabbath Program
- ◆ Resources for Continuing the Community's Involvement in the Themes of the Children's Sabbath

Also, be sure to read Glen Fullmer's reflection in the Faith Voices section on page 47.

Lesson plans for all ages are available to download from www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths.

Suggestions for Observances and Related Activities

- **Feast of 'Ilm (Knowledge):** Because this Nineteen Day Feast falls within the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* timeframe, consider using the program described and/or including the readings and prayers about faith in action reprinted in this section for the devotional, consultative and fellowship portions of Feast. Include a diversity of readers, including children and youth. Consider inviting others to serve refreshments to the children and youth and/or to those who work to fill the needs of children and youth, such as teachers, parents, grandparents, social workers, and health care providers. During the administrative portion of Feast, encourage consultation about specific needs and hopes of children and youth in your community.
- **Devotional meetings:** Encourage community and individual devotional meetings during the Children's Sabbath weekend to focus on the theme of A Call to Justice and Peace, perhaps including some of the readings and prayers reprinted in this section. Consider inviting children and youth to be involved in planning and presenting a devotional meeting on the subject of service to humanity.
- **Children's and youth classes:** Encourage children's and youth classes in the community to utilize the materials in this manual for their participation in observing the Children's Sabbath.
- **Ongoing community learning through local study groups or weekend workshops:** Consider beginning study circles in your community that help develop strong, vibrant communities and families in which children and youth can thrive. Many Bahá'í curricula support the themes of justice and peace for children and youth, applying compassion for the poor, vulnerable and oppressed, since service to the world of humanity is an essential aspect of Bahá'í individual and community life. For a variety of educational resources, see www.ruhiresources.org and www.core-curriculum.org.
- **Encourage every family in your community to subscribe to (and read with their child) *Brilliant Star*,** the Bahá'í children's magazine. Included in this section are many activities and articles from past issues. For subscription information, contact BDS at www.bahai-bookstore.com, call 1 (800) 999-9019, or visit www.brilliantstarmagazine.org.
- **Deepen your personal understanding about the principles of justice and peace by perusing the Bahá'í Writings** through books from the Bahá'í Distribution Service at www.bahai-bookstore.com/index.cfm or talks and web resources available at www.bahai.us/bahai-multimedia.

Glossary of some Bahá'í terms:

Abdu'l-Baha: (1844-1921) Son of Baha'u'llah, designated His successor and authorized interpreter of His writings. Named Abbas after His grandfather, Abdu'l-Baha was known to the general public as Abbas Effendi. Baha'u'llah gave Him such titles as “the Most Great Branch,” “the Mystery of God,” and “the Master.” After Baha'u'llah's passing, He chose the name Abdu'l-Baha, meaning “Servant of Baha'u'llah.” Abdu'l-Baha visited the United States on an extensive speaking tour in 1912.

Bab, the: The title, meaning “Gate,” assumed by Siyyid 'Ali-Muhammad, who was the Prophet-Founder of the Babi Faith and the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah. Born 20 October 1819, the Bab proclaimed Himself to be the Promised One of Islam and announced that His mission was to alert the people to the imminent advent of “Him Whom God shall make manifest,” namely, Baha'u'llah. Because of these claims, the Bab was executed by order of Naziri'd-Din Shah on July 9, 1850.

Bahá'í Writings: The Writings of Baha'u'llah, the Bab and 'Abdu'l-Baha constitute Bahá'í Sacred Scripture.

Baha'u'llah: Title assumed by Mirza Husayn-Ali, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. Born on 12 November 1817, He declared His mission as the Promised

One of all Ages in April 1863 and passed away in Akka, Palestine, on 29 May 1892, after 40 years of imprisonment, banishment, and house arrest. Baha'u'llah's writings are considered by Bahá'ís to be direct revelation from God.

Local Spiritual Assembly: The local administrative body in the Bahá'í Faith, ordained in the Kitab-i-Aqdas. The nine members are directly elected by secret ballot each year at Ridvan from among the adult believers in a community.

Nineteen Day Feast: The principal gathering in each local Bahá'í community, every Bahá'í month, for the three-fold purpose of worship, consultation, and fellowship. The Bahá'í calendar is composed of nineteen months of nineteen days each. The names of the months are attributes of God, such as Glory, Mercy, Knowledge, etc. The months are referred to by both their Arabic names and the English translation.

Social and Economic Development (SED)

Project:

An initiative designed to upraise the quality of human life. For Bahá'ís, this involves efforts to develop the capacity of the community to address its own needs and ensure the well-being of all its members through the application of spiritual principles including education, consultation, and reflection.

Passages and Prayers from the Bahá'í Writings

The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life.

Bahá'u'llah, (Words of Wisdom), *Tablets of Bahá'u'llah Revealed After the Kitab-i-Aqdas*, p. 269

O my servants! Ye are the trees of My garden; ye must give forth goodly and wondrous fruits, that ye yourselves and others may profit therefrom. Thus it is incumbent on every one to engage in crafts and professions, for therein lies the secret of wealth, O men of understanding! For results depend upon means, and the grace of God shall be all-sufficient unto you. Trees that yield no fruit have been and will ever be for the fire.

Bahá'u'llah, *The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'llah*, p. 50

O ye rich ones on earth! The poor in your midst are My trust; guard ye My trust, and be not intent only on your own ease.

Bahá'u'llah, *The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'llah*, p. 52

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Bahá'u'llah, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'llah*, p. 346

Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.

Bahá'u'llah, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'llah*, p. 259

Strain every nerve to acquire both inner and outer perfections, for the fruit of the human tree hath ever been and will ever be perfections both within and without. It is not desirable that a man be left without knowledge or skills, for he is then but a barren tree. Then, so much as capacity and capability allow, ye needs must deck the tree of being with fruits such as knowledge, wisdom, spiritual perception and eloquent speech.

Bahá'u'llah, From a Tablet, translated from the Persian [9], *A Compilation on Bahá'í Education* compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice, Bahá'í World Centre, August 1976

Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!

The Bab, *Bahá'í Prayers: A Selection of Prayers Revealed by Bahá'u'llah, the Bab, and Abdu'l-Baha*, p. 28

O Thou kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness. O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity. O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness. Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.

Abdu'l-Baha, *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 36

O Lord! Make this youth radiant, and confer Thy bounty upon this poor creature. Bestow upon him knowledge, grant him added strength at the break of every morn and guard him within the shelter of Thy protection so that he may be freed from error, may devote himself to the service of Thy Cause, may guide the wayward, lead the hapless, free the captives and awaken the heedless, that all may be blessed with Thy remembrance and praise. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

Abdu'l-Baha, *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 39

Bahá'í Resources for the Children's Sabbath

The attainment of any object is conditioned upon knowledge, volition and action. Unless these three conditions are forthcoming, there is no execution or accomplishment. In the erection of a house it is first necessary to know the ground, and design the house suitable for it; second, to obtain the means or funds necessary for the construction; third, actually to build it. Therefore, a power is needed to carry out and execute what is known and admitted to be the remedy for human conditions—namely, the unification of mankind. Furthermore, it is evident that this cannot be realized through material process and means. The accomplishment of this unification...cannot be through patriotic power, for nationalities are unlike. Nor can it be effected through political power since the policies of governments and nations are various. That is to say, any effort toward unification through these material means would benefit one and injure another because of unequal and individual interests. Some may believe this great remedy can be found in dogmatic insistence upon imitations and interpretations. This would likewise be without foundation and result. Therefore, it is evident that no means but an ideal means, a spiritual power, divine bestowals and the breaths of the Holy Spirit will heal this world sickness of war, dissension and discord. Nothing else is possible; nothing can be conceived of. But through spiritual means and the divine power it is possible and practicable.

Abdu'l-Baha, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 470

Soon will your swiftly-passing days be over, and the fame and riches, the comforts, the joys provided by this rubbish-heap, the world, will be gone without a trace. Summon ye, then, the people to God, and invite humanity to follow the example of the Company on high. Be ye loving fathers to the orphan, and a refuge to the helpless, and a treasury for the poor, and a cure for the ailing. Be ye the helpers of every victim of oppression, the patrons of the disadvantaged. Think ye at all times of rendering some service to every member of the human race. Pay ye no heed to aversion and rejection, to disdain, hostility, injustice: act ye in the opposite way. Be ye sincerely kind, not in appearance only. Let each one of God's loved ones center his attention on this: to be the Lord's mercy to man; to be the Lord's grace. Let him do some good to every person whose path he crosseth, and be of some benefit to him. Let him improve the character of each and all, and reorient the minds of men. In this way, the light of divine guidance will shine forth, and the blessings of God will cradle all mankind: for love is light, no matter in what abode it dwelleth; and hate is darkness, no matter where it may make its nest.

Abdu'l-Baha, *Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha*, pp. 1-3

While the children are yet in their infancy feed them from the breast of heavenly grace, foster them in the cradle of all excellence, rear them in the embrace of bounty. Give them the advantage of every useful kind of knowledge. Let them share in every new and rare and wondrous craft and art. Bring them up to work and strive, and accustom them to hardship. Teach them to dedicate their lives to matters of great import, and inspire them to undertake studies that will benefit mankind.

Abdu'l-Baha, *Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha*, p. 129

According to the teachings of Baha'u'llah, the family, being a human unit, must be educated according to the rules of sanctity. All the virtues must be taught the family. The integrity of the family bond must be constantly considered, and the rights of the individual members must not be transgressed. The rights of the son, the father, the mother—none of them must be transgressed, none of them must be arbitrary. Just as the son has certain obligations to his father, the father, likewise, has certain obligations to his son. The mother, the sister and other members of the household have their certain prerogatives. All these rights and prerogatives must be conserved, yet the unity of the family must be sustained. The injury of one shall be considered the injury of all; the comfort of each, the comfort of all; the honor of one, the honor of all.

Abdu'l-Baha, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 168

Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future. They bear the seeds of the character of future society which is largely shaped by what the adults constituting the community do or fail to do with respect to children. They are a trust no community can neglect with impunity. An all-embracing love of children, the manner of treating them, the quality of the attention shown them, the spirit of adult behaviour toward them—these are all among the vital aspects of the requisite attitude. Love demands discipline, the courage to accustom children to hardship, not to indulge their whims or leave them entirely to their own devices. An atmosphere needs to be maintained in which children feel that they belong to the community and share in its purpose.

Ridvan Messages of the Universal House of Justice,
Ridvan 157, 2000, p. 8

FEAST of 'ILM (Knowledge) Children's Sabbath Program

(The Nineteen Day Feast is the principal gathering in each local Bahá'í community, every Bahá'í month, for the three-fold purpose of worship, consultation, and fellowship.

This activity may also be used at other community gatherings.)

Preparation

- Prepare an environment that warmly welcomes friends of all ages. Consider adding color, through flowers or artwork; create inviting, comfortable areas and surfaces on which all ages can sit, including on the floor with pillows and throws. As friends enter, have cheerful music playing, such as melodies from different cultures or children's songs.
- In advance, make several photocopies of the previous pages, "Passages and Prayers from the Bahá'í Writings."
- Make one or more sets (depending on numbers of participants expected) of cards from the "Helping Hands" activity (see following pages). Photocopy the pages 2-sided onto cardstock. For extra durability, have them laminated. Cut each card in half as indicated. Place the cards, mixed up, in a basket or tray.²⁴
- Make photocopies of the illustrated memory verse, "Service to Humanity," to give each guest a copy. Gather art materials for decorating this page.²⁵
- See "Fellowship Portion" for suggestions of refreshments tied to the theme, as well as stories and games to prepare.

Devotional Portion

- Lovingly introduce the theme of the evening's/day's devotions: Putting our faith into action for children. Invite readers to intone selections from the photocopied "Passages and Prayers."
- Consider using music to help set the tone, such as: "It Takes a Village," *It Takes a Village*, Joe Crone; "Care for the Stranger," "O God! Educate These Children," *Immerse Yourselves: Prayers and Writings for the Young at Heart*, Joe Crone; "Behold a Candle," *Lift Up Your Voices and Sing*, vol. 1.

- Tell the guests that for the next readings, everyone will need to get up and move around! Pass out the prepared "Helping Hands" cards and briefly explain what these are. Ask everyone to mingle, looking for someone whose "hand" connects with their own. Invite each new pair to sit together. Once everyone has found a match, go around the room with each pair reading the quotation from the back of their two cards and describing the service being done in their photo.
- Distribute copies of the previously mentioned memory verse, "Service to Humanity." As a group, work to commit this verse to memory. Try various methods, such as repeating it several times together, writing it on a chalkboard or whiteboard and erasing a few words at a time, or setting the words to music. Provide art materials for those who would like to beautify the verse.

Consultative Portion

- Open the consultative portion of Feast (or other gathering) by reading aloud the last selection on the previous page (*Passages and Prayers from the Bahá'í Writings*, bottom of p. 65) from the Universal House of Justice.
- Introduce the theme and purpose of the Children's Sabbath and suggest that consultation be centered on the needs of our children and youth and how we may respond, putting our faith into action, in our daily acts of justice and compassion for the poor, vulnerable, and oppressed. How can our Bahá'í communities create an atmosphere in which children, "our most precious treasure," feel that they belong and share in its purpose, and thus ensure the character of our future society?
- Refer to the Suggestions for the Observances and Related Activities (see page 62 of this chapter) for ideas and possible action steps or tools your community may wish to pursue after identifying issues.

²⁴ From *Brilliant Star*, May/June 1995, p. 14.

²⁵ From *Brilliant Star*, January/February 2003, outside back cover.

Bahá'í Resources for the Children's Sabbath

- For larger gatherings, consider breaking into smaller (8-12 person) multi-age consultation groups to address the issues facing children and youth and how we might respond. Ask each group to appoint someone to record their findings and suggestions. Allow smaller groups sufficient time (about 30 minutes) for their consultation before returning to the large group for sharing ideas.
- Together, plan action steps that can be completed in three to six months. Decide how progress will be evaluated, and who will communicate needs and encouragement to others. Celebrate your collective dedication to our children and youth!

Fellowship Portion

◆ Refreshments:

- Consider making a “friendship soup” or “friendship salad,” with many diverse vegetables or fruits representing how we each bring a special sweetness and flavor to the community. If possible, ask each person or family to bring one ingredient—these can be added to the simmering soup pot, or to the salad bowl or salad bar, as each arrives.

◆ Activities:

- Read or tell the folktale, *Stone Soup*, prior to serving the “friendship soup” or “friendship salad.” You may ask your children’s librarian for a copy of this Swedish folktale.

- “*The Promise of Peace*” worksheet: Distribute copies of this worksheet (see following pages) to small groups of friends working together. Allow a few minutes to complete it, then take turns verbally sharing one answer at a time.²⁶
- Make available copies of the document, *The Promise of World Peace*, so that those who are inspired by the worksheet may study it in its entirety. [*The Promise of World Peace*, Oct. 1985, sometimes referred to as the “Bahá'í Peace Statement,” may be downloaded from this site: www.bahai.org/article-1-7-2-1.html, or it is also available for purchase in booklet form from the Bahá'í Distribution Service (BDS) at www.bahai bookstore.com or by calling 1 (800) 999-9019.]
- Make and play the board game, “Servant Game” (see following pages).²⁷
- Play a cooperative game such as “Helping Hands Relay” in the downloadable Bahá'í educational materials, Children’s Class, Level Two, at www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths.
- Invite a Bahá'í Youth Workshop dance group to perform the “Poverty Dance” or another performance arts piece about overcoming social injustice.

²⁶ From *Brilliant Star*, July/August 2003, p. 18.

²⁷ From *Brilliant Star*, May/June 1996, p. 20.

Helping Hands

Photographs by Stephanie Dornbrook ©1995

***“Praise be to God!
that the door of
servitude is already
opened before thy face.
Therefore, be thou
the cause of happiness
to the souls of the
friends of God.”***

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Tablets of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 698

The hands on the following pages are all living a Bahá’í life. Some hands are praying, some study the Writings, some teach. Most of the hands are serving others.

Busy hands in Orlando play the Helping Hands game.

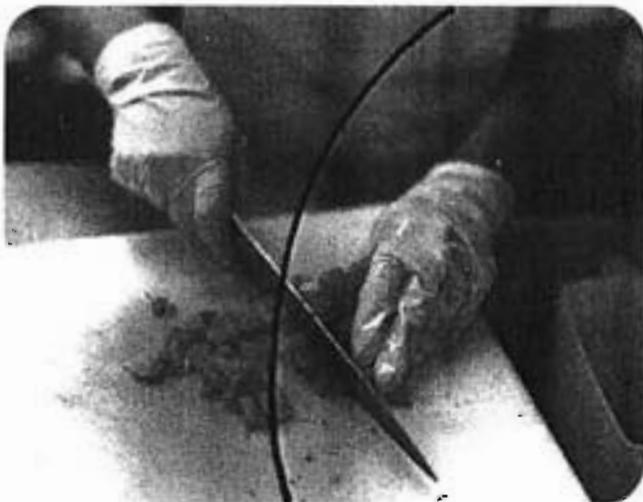
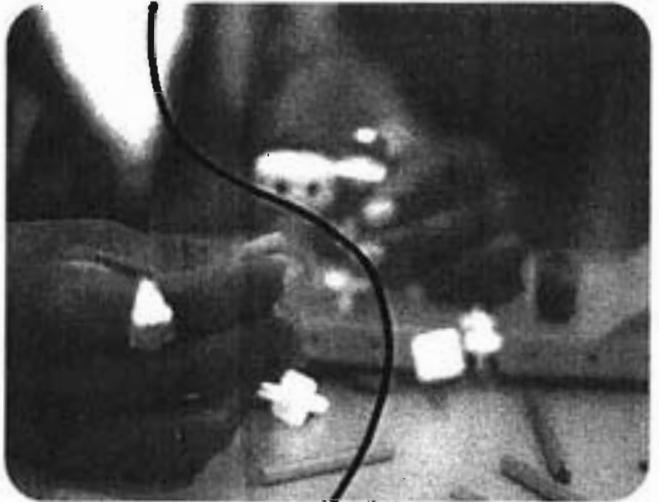
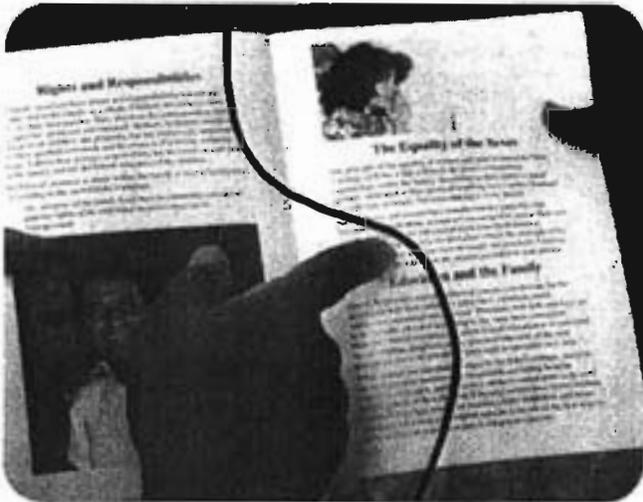
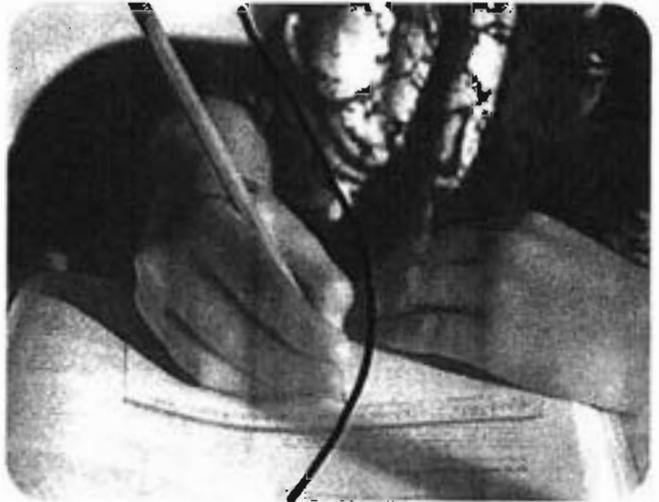


The Helping Hands Game

1. Cut out the 18 pictures of hands.
2. Cut each picture into two parts on the solid line.
3. Mix up all the picture halves.
4. Each picture half will have one of a pair of hands. Match the pairs of hands.
5. Read the verse on the back.
6. Under each verse is a place to
 - write a favorite prayer (*praying hands*)
 - write a book title (*studying hands*)
 - write a teaching story (*teaching hands*)
 - write some way to serve (*serving hands*)
7. If you are in a group, give each person a picture half. Find your picture match and consult as a pair. Decide what to write on the back together.
8. Read your cards to all the other groups. Discuss how you will put all these great ideas into action.

***“Extend at all times
the helping hand
to the poor, the sick,
the disabled, the
orphan, the widow,
irrespective of color,
caste and creed.”***

— Shoghi Effendi, *Bahá’í Administration*, p. 38



“Be chiefly devoted to the reading and study of the writings of Bahá’u’lláh and the Master.”

—Shoghi Effendi, *Arohanui: Letters to New Zealand*, p. 41

“We work and pray for the unity of mankind.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 100

“Every child must be taught crafts and arts.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 134

“Arise, then, to teach My Cause.”

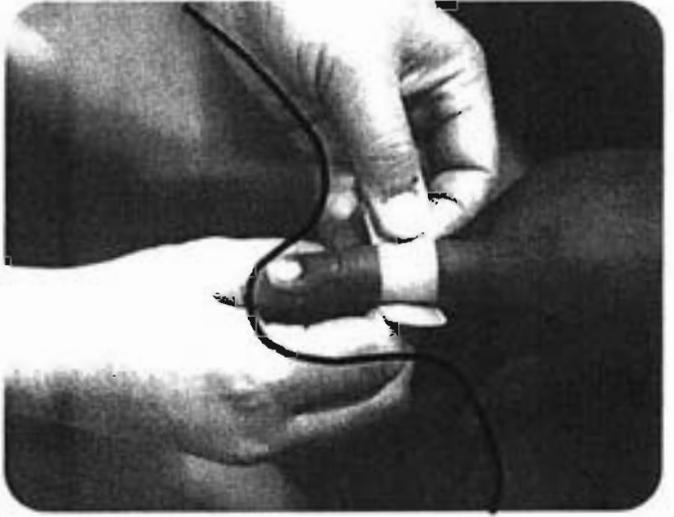
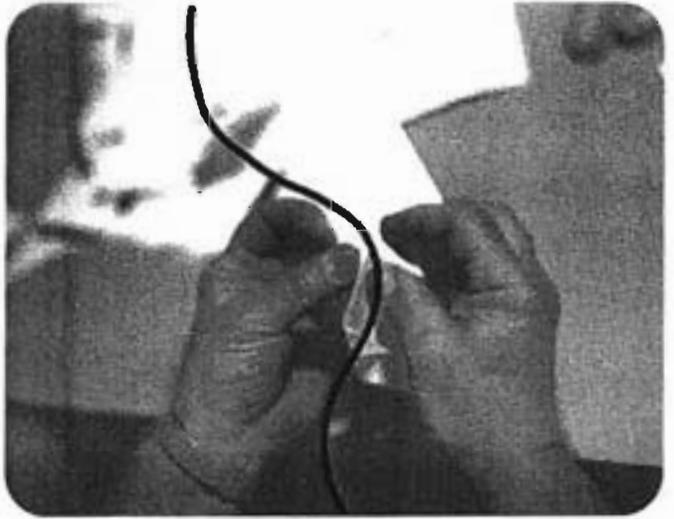
—Bahá’u’lláh, *Proclamation of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 22

“Cultivation by the farmer maketh of the grain the harvest.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Bahá’í World Faith*, p. 398

“Bestow food upon the hungry, clothe the needy, and glorify the humble.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 469



“Become acquainted with the geography of countries, and their wonders and arts.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 200

“Physical cleanliness doth also exert its effect upon the human soul.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 147

“Dress the wounds and cure the pain (of the people).”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Tablets of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 724-5

“Help the poor and needy and give to them their daily bread.”

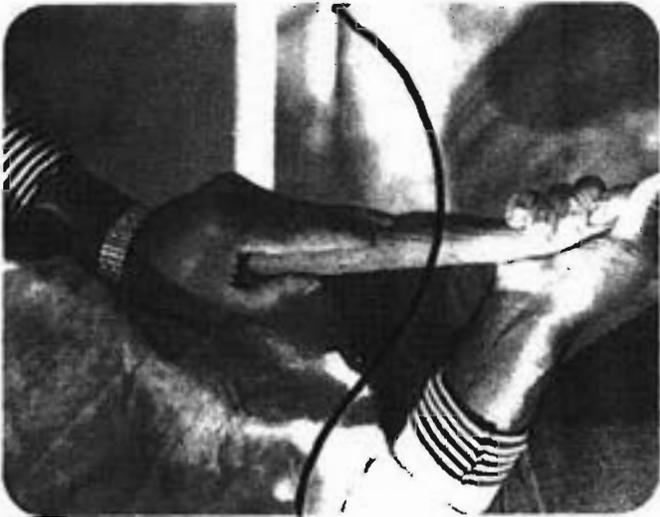
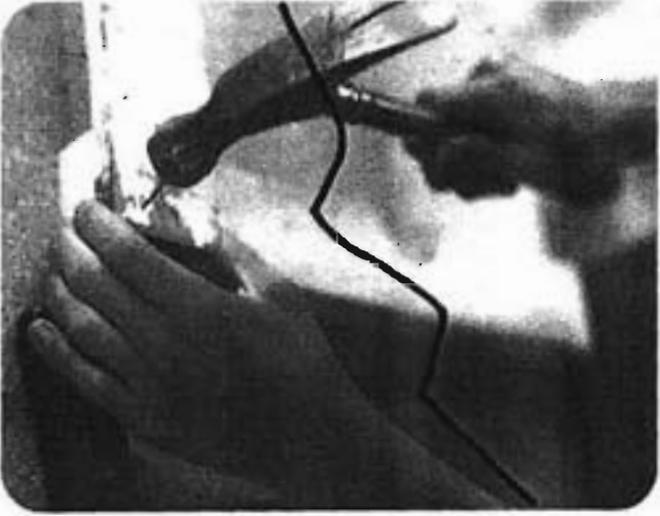
— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 73

“Strive as much as possible to become proficient in the science of agriculture.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 144

“The soil needs the cultivation of the farmer.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 7



“It behoveth thee to nurture them at the breast of the love of God.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 142

“Write replies to the letters which are sent to you, with all joy, happiness, fragrance and spirituality.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Tablets of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 12

It is enjoined upon every one of you to engage in some form of occupation.”

— Bahá’u’lláh, *Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 26

“It is incumbent upon every one to engage in crafts and professions.”

— Bahá’u’lláh, *The Hidden Words*, Persian #80

“It is incumbent upon all mankind to become fitted for some useful trade, craft or profession.”

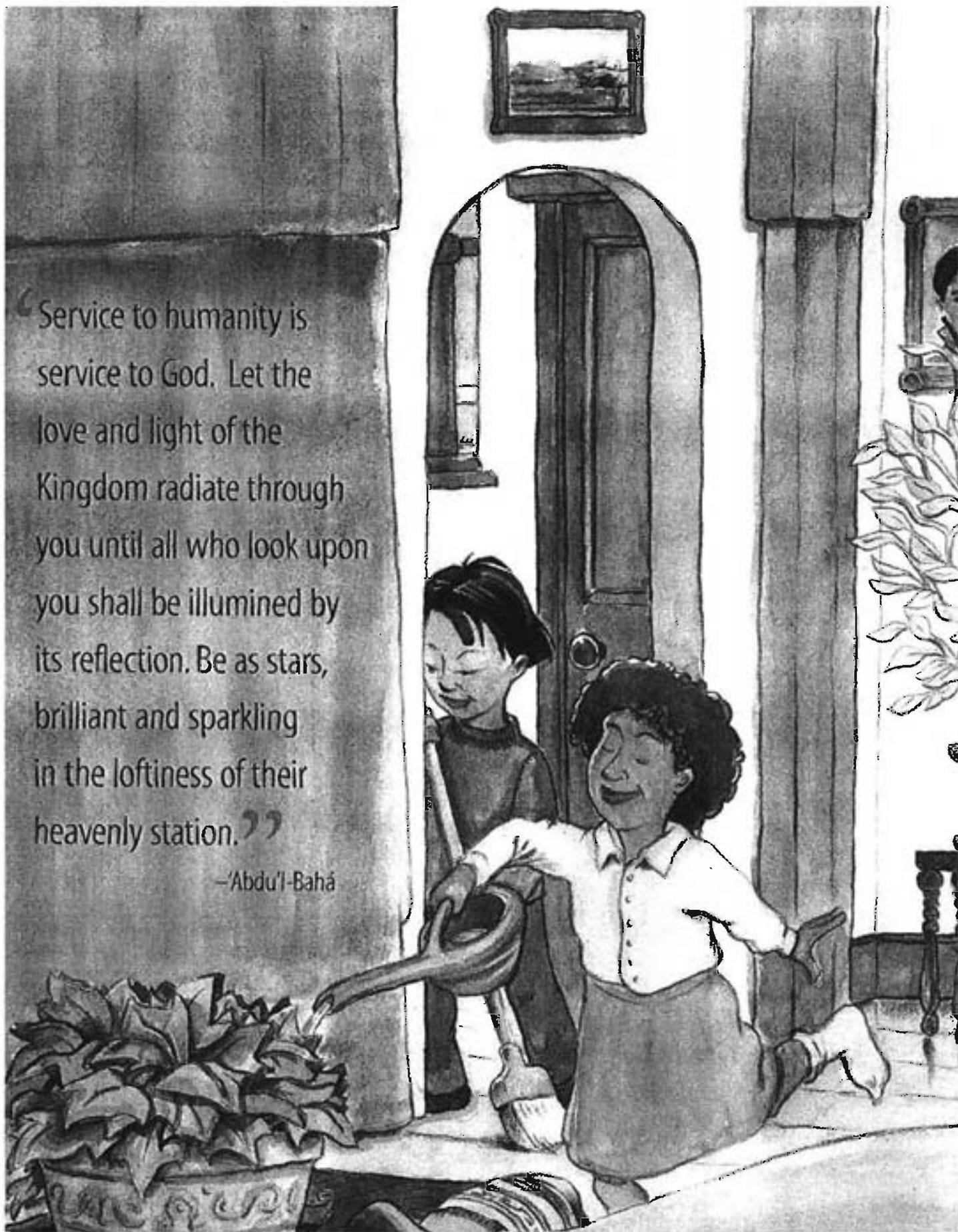
— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 435

“The effort of the gardener maketh of the seed a noble tree.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Bahá’í World Faith*, p. 398

“Service to humanity is service to God. Let the love and light of the Kingdom radiate through you until all who look upon you shall be illumined by its reflection. Be as stars, brilliant and sparkling in the loftiness of their heavenly station.”

—Abdu'l-Bahá



The Promise of Peace

The Universal House of Justice guides Bahá'ís all over the world. It is the international governing body of the Bahá'í Faith. It helps us share Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings and live by His laws. In 1985, the Universal House of Justice wrote *The Promise of World Peace*. It tells all the people of the world that it is time for world peace. It describes problems

that keep us from living in peace, like racism and poverty. People must work together and solve these problems.

Over the years, Bahá'ís have given *The Promise of World Peace* to more than 194 world leaders. Local Bahá'í communities have shared it with city leaders, neighbors, and friends. It has been translated into many languages.

Here are some quotations from *The Promise of World Peace*. Use the word list to fill in the blanks.

Words: **success** • **reach** • **world** • **peace** • **problem** • **possible** • **earth** • **oneness**

1. "The Great Peace . . . is now at long last within the r _____ of the nations."
2. "World peace is not only _____ s _____ but inevitable."
3. "no serious attempt to set human affairs aright, to achieve _____ d peace, can ignore religion."
4. "There are spiritual principles, or what some call human values, by which solutions can be found for every social _____ r _____."
5. "World order can be founded only on an unshakable consciousness of the _____ n _____ of mankind, a spiritual truth which all the human sciences confirm."
6. "Disunity is a danger that the nations and peoples of the _____ t _____ can no longer endure; . . ."
7. "no nation can achieve _____ s unless education is accorded all its citizens."
8. ". . . unity and p _____ are the attainable goal towards which humanity is striving." ✧

Laughter greeted Mr. Keith as he opened the classroom door. The members of the New Era Bahá'í Club were gathered again for lunch, but no one was eating. Instead, they all sat around a large game board on the floor.

"Am I missing all the fun?" Mr. Keith asked as he studied the pictures of faces and buildings on the game board.

Mas'úd took a breath. "Desiree and Jason made this cool game to help us learn

about servants."

"Oh really?" said Mr. Keith. "How do you play?"

"We move around the board and think of ways to serve at different places in the community," Desiree explained. "Like reading to the people at the Helping Hands Hospital."

"You see, we decided to study other servants to learn how to serve. It's fun," Jason added. "We could share this game at Feast and let everyone get excited about serving

others."

"I'm getting lots of ideas by seeing how others have served," Rosemary said.

"Yeah, we could do a clown act for the Tender Branch Children's Home." Michael jumped up and did a back flip, then made a goofy face.

Everyone laughed again.

"Come on. Let's finish the game," urged Mas'úd. "Hey, Mr. Keith, would you like to join us?"

Servant Game

**"Love everybody; serve everybody.
All are the servants of God."**

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 348

by Meg Anderson, Susan Engle and Cindy Savage

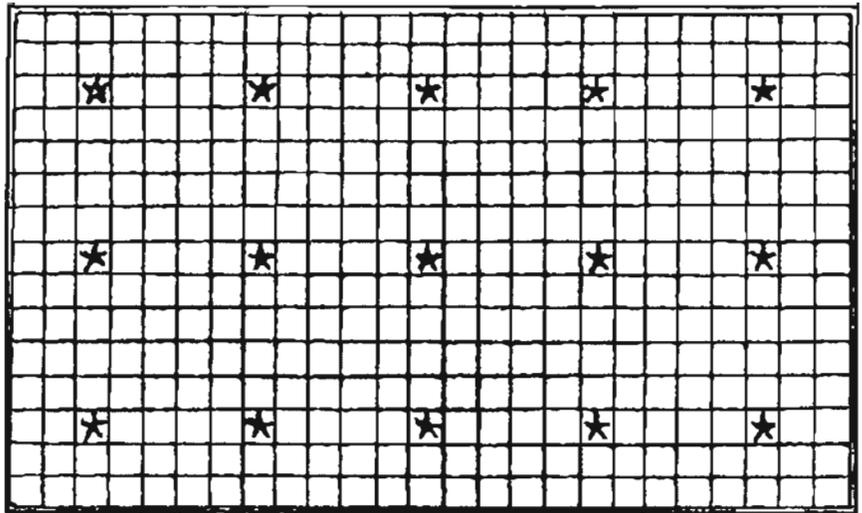
Play this game and think of the many ways you can serve.



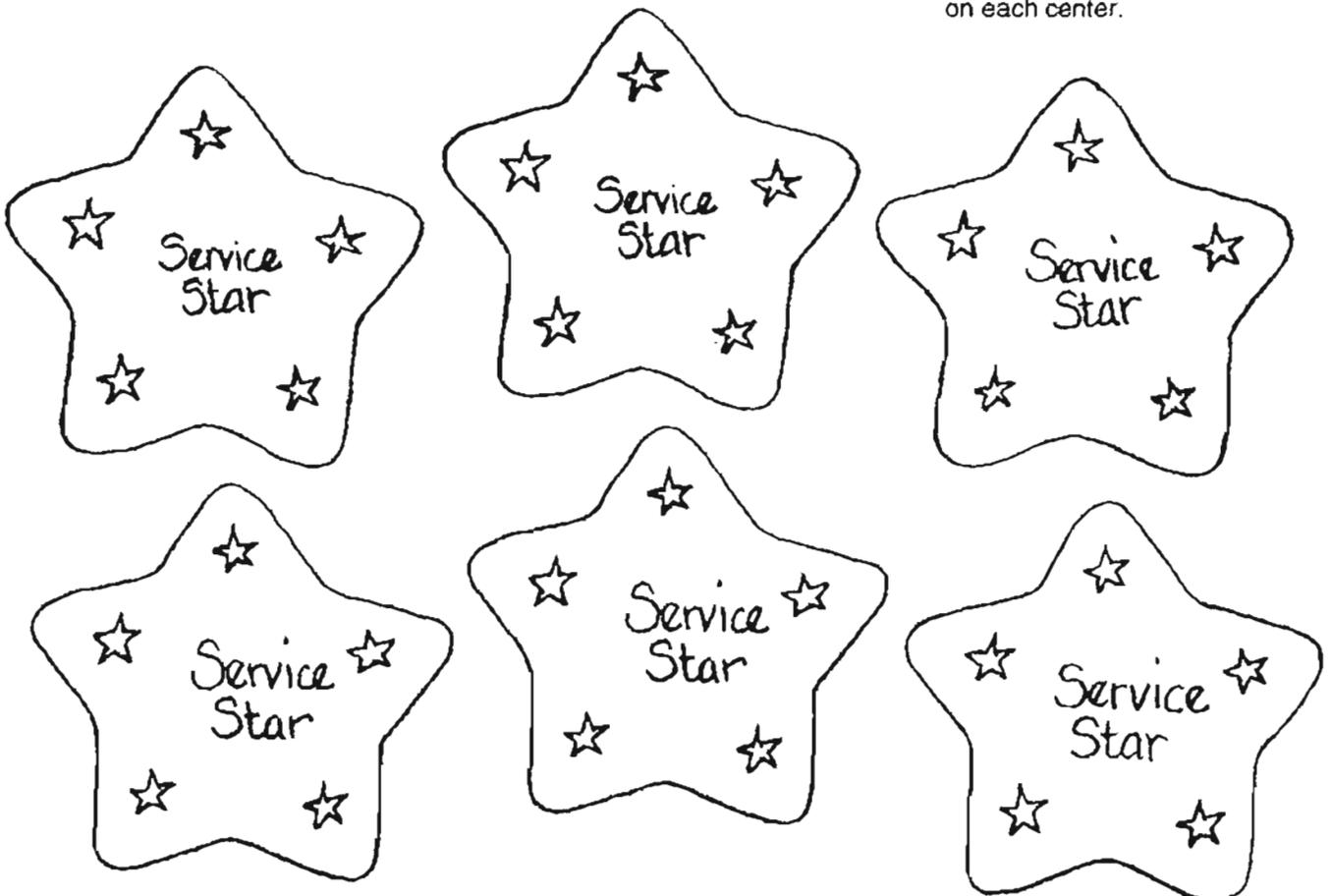
Game Set-up

Materials:

- poster board
- yard stick
- pencil and pens
- star stickers (optional)
- scissors
- raisins
- 14 service centers
- 6 service stars
- 24 servant cards
- cardboard (optional)



1. Draw lines on a 22" (56 cm.) x 30" (76 cm.) poster board to make a grid. Cover the board with lines as far apart as the width of a yard stick, as seen in the picture.
2. With a marker or stickers, place stars on every fifth square of the grid. Begin three spaces diagonally from the corner.
3. Copy the 14 service centers (places in the community where you can serve). Copy the 6 service stars and 24 servant cards, too.
4. Color and cut out the service centers and service stars. Glue game pieces to cardboard to last longer.
5. Cut out the servant cards and fold in half. Place the cards in a stack to the side of the gameboard. Place a service star in front of each player.
6. Arrange all the service centers in your community. Put the Baha'i Center in the middle of your town. Have at least 7 centers touching an edge of the town. Place 2-3 raisins on each center.



How to Play

1. With buttons for place markers, start each player on any star on the board.
2. Roll a single die and move that number of squares. You may move any direction but diagonally. You may also change direction in the middle of a turn.
3. When your turn ends on a starred square, draw a special servant card.
4. When you have a servant card, go to one of the three service centers numbered at the bottom of the card.
5. When you reach the service center, read the servant card aloud. Place the card on the center. Tell how you can serve in this place. Use the example of the servant on your card for ideas. Take a raisin and place it on one point of your service star.
6. When you have covered all five points of your star, you become a servant and may serve other players as they earn stars. (Share your cards, rolls of the die and ideas.)
7. When everyone is a servant and every center has been served, you all win. Clean up the game and go serve. Don't forget to eat the raisins.

Diverse City Service Centers

“The noblest of men is he who serves humankind, and he is nearest the threshold of God who is the least of His servants.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 107

