

Human Values - Love



We learned in the last lesson that there are five basic human values essential for everyone. Those are Truth, Love, Peace, Right Action, and Non-Violence.

Love is the basis for all the values. Love is a spontaneous reaction. It is the power of love which causes one person to wish happiness for another and take pleasure in their welfare. Love is unconditional and positive regard for the good of another. It is giving and un-selfish. Love is essential for children to grow up healthy in mind and body.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: *Love*

Sub Value: *Friendship*

Objective: *To show that true friendship remains unaffected by situations, long separation and shows in action*

Quotation: *Adverse situations reveal the true nature of friends*

Story – Krishna and Sudama

Krishna and Sudama were childhood friends. Who is Krishna? He is nothing but Lord Sri Krishna, who is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Both stayed and studied in the gurukul (school) of Sandeepani rishi (saint). Balram, Krishna's elder brother also studied there. Krishna was a prince and Sudama from an ordinary family. The guru-kul is like one big family and the students have to do many little chores apart from their studies.

One day, the guru-patni (teacher's wife) asked Krishna, Sudama and Balram to get firewood from the forest. As they were leaving, she called Sudama back and said, "Here, take this bundle, I have packed some groundnuts for all of you to eat if you get hungry."

Walking around in the forest, picking dry twigs and chopping firewood from fallen dead trees, the three boys were tired. They decided to rest a while. As Sudama was weaker than them, his friends, did not let him exert too much and so he was less tired than the other two. Balram and Krishna soon fell asleep, Krishna with his head on his friend Sudama's lap. After a while, Sudama became impatient to eat the groundnuts given by the guru-patni; he could not wait for the others to wake up. He started eating them. The sound of the munching penetrated Krishna's sleep and he asked, "What is the sound I hear?" Sudama replied, "It is only my teeth chattering due to the cold." He did not want Krishna to know that he had not shared the groundnuts. Of course, Lord Krishna knew the truth.

Krishna and Sudama went back to their respective places after the completion of education at guru-kul. Later in life, Sudama became very poor. It is said that his act of not sharing the groundnuts had brought this fate upon him, by the law of karma. (Does anyone know what “karma” is? It means every action has an equal and opposite reaction! If you do not share with others, others do not share with you!)

Sudama’s wife suggested to him, “Why don’t you seek help from your childhood friend Krishna, who is now the king of Dwaraka?” Sudama said to her, “How can I go to see him empty handed?” Whereupon, she packed some dahi-pohe, a frugal preparation of rice and curd, for Krishna and gave it to her husband. Sudama proceeded on his journey on foot.

On reaching the city of Dwaraka, he asked his way to the gate of the King’s palace. He requested the guards to send a message to the king that his friend, Sudama, from the guru-kul of Sandeepani rishi, had come to meet him. On hearing this, Krishna came all the way to the gate to welcome Sudama, whom he was so fond of. He took him to his royal chambers and enquired about how he had been and how his family was. Sudama was so dazzled by the opulence of the palace, that he felt shy to offer the dahi-pohe, which his wife had sent for Krishna.

Krishna noticed that Sudama was holding something in his hand and hiding it behind his back. He asked, “What have you got there in your hand?” Sudama said, “Oh, nothing, nothing.” Krishna said, “Your wife must have something for me.” He reached out and grabbed the bundle from Sudama’s hand and eagerly opened it. “Oh! Dahipohe! My favorite!” he exclaimed and ate the dish with relish. Krishna rejoiced at the taste of love in that simple meal which could not be matched by the delicacies made in the royal kitchen. Sudama was so overwhelmed by his love that he forgot to ask Krishna for help.

When Sudama returned to his village, he wondered how to tell his wife that he had not even asked Krishna for help. He could not locate his hut. Some children dressed in finery came running to him, calling out, “Father, Father!” They pulled him towards a mansion, where his hut had once been. He could not believe his eyes. At the gate, dressed in fine clothes, stood his wife, and the children who had pulled him were his own children. Seeing him wonder-stuck, she explained, “All this is because of your friend Krishna. While you were in Dwaraka, he transformed our destiny, from rags to riches.”

The basis of true friendship is love, which accepts the friend as he is and forgives all his misdeeds.

Questions:

- Who is Krishna?
- Who is Krishna's brother?
- What did guru-patni ask Krishna, Sudama, and Balram to gather in the forest?
- What did the guru's wife give Sudama to eat?
- Did Sudama share the food with Krishna and Balram? Why?
- Why did Krishna not find fault with Sudama in the forest?
- Do you think that only "a friend in need, is a friend indeed?" What if a friend is unable to help?
- What did Sudama's wife give Sudama to offer Krishna? Why did Krishna enjoy his poor friend Sudama wife's food when he had better food in the palace?
- Did Krishna abandon his friend when he didn't share food in the forest?
- Did Sudama ask help from Krishna? Why?
- What did you learn from this lesson?
- What are the five basic human values?

Today's second lesson is on -

Human Value: *Love*

Sub Value: *Sympathy*

Objective: *To develop the quality of compassion among the children*

Quotation: *"The Highest Order of Love Is Sympathy"*

Story

Love is selflessness. Love is a great force that can bind and conquer even a cruel and wild animal. Love does not demand anything in return. Love is God and God is love. Compassion or sympathy, humanity and service are the main aspects of love. Among these, sympathy shown to others is the foremost. This is the story of king Vikramaditya who had shown sympathy even towards animals and was ready to sacrifice even his life for it.

Vikramaditya was one of the popular kings in India. Once, king Vikramaditya went around his kingdom in disguise to enquire about the welfare of his subjects. He traveled from one town to another. While on his journey he reached a forest. It was a night and as the king made his way through the forest, he suddenly heard the call of a cow for help. Wanting to be of help, the king got down from his horse and went in the direction of the sound. In the darkness he could see that a cow was in distress, caught in a slough (muddy ground), and unable to come out of it. The king tried his best to pull the cow out of the pond with all his strength.

Meanwhile a lion, which had also heard the cry of the cow, reached the spot. Seeing the helpless cow, the lion raised its mane and roared. Fearing that the lion would attack the cow and kill it, Vikramaditya drew his sword and brandished it to scare away the lion. He soon realized that he would have to continue in this way for the whole night if he was to save the cow from the lion. Any help could be expected only at the daybreak.

Despite the hardship, the king resolved to help the poor animal. A parrot perched on a nearby tree, which was a witness to all, this, questioned the wisdom of the king thus: “Oh king! Your efforts may prove to be futile as death is certain for this cow. Even if you save it from the lion now, it is sure to sink deep in the swamp and die. Moreover other wild animals might also attack, as this is a dense forest. Your life is also in danger. Why can’t you leave the cow and run away? Why are you trying to waste your time?”

King Vikramaditya who knew the language of the birds replied, “Oh parrot! Many thanks for your advice. Please do not teach me my Dharma (duty). Saving oneself from danger is but natural for all the creatures. But showing sympathy to others, especially to an animal is all the time a meritorious act. If one cannot show his love and sympathy at such critical junctures, he will lose all the merits acquired through penance. It is not my duty to think or judge at this moment whether I am benefitted by this act or not. I must save this cow, which is crying for help, by putting forth my best efforts even if I had to sacrifice my life. As a king, this is my duty now.”

Having said this, the king kept the lion at bay for the whole night. As the day dawned, to the king’s surprise, the lion transformed into Lord Indra! Lord Indra is the King of Heaven! The cow transformed into Mother Earth! The parrot became Dharmamurthy (Lord of Justice)! The king could not comprehend what had happened. So the Gods came down and explained that they were testing him, to see how much love and compassion he really had. They all happily granted him various boons so he could get his wishes to come true, and then they vanished. He asked for a lot of good things, especially for the welfare of all those he ruled.

Sympathy is to be extended to all and love should pour forth from the core of one’s heart. Then we are sure to receive blessings of the Lord.

Questions:

- Is love a selfish action?
- Is it easy to be compassionate at all times?
- What were the tests given by the Devatas to King?
- What would be the reaction of any common person at this juncture?
- Would you like to show such sympathy to others?
- Who was the lion turned into?
- Is Vikramaditya a great king? Why?
- Do you think you ever have your love and compassion tested?

Daily Slokas:

Ganesh Sloka

*Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva; Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa*

Saraswati Stotra

*Saraswathi Namasthubyam; Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami; Siddhir Bhavatume Sada*

Guru Stotra

*Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu; Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma; Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah*

Vishun Stotra:

*Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye*

Rama Mantra:

*Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane*

Durga Stotra:

*Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute*

Hanuman Mantra:

*Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam; Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam; Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami*

Matru Devo Bhava Sloka:

*Maathru Devo Bhava; Pitru Devo Bhava
Acharya Devo Bhava; Athidhi Devo Bhava*

Morning Prayers:

*Karaagre Vasate Lakshmi; Kara Madhye Saraswathi
Kara Moole Tu Govinda; Prabahate Kara Darshanam*

*Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati,
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru*

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

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Coloring Exercise: Best Friends

