

Human Values - Lesson 2

We learned in the last lesson that there are five basic human values essential for every one. In today's lesson we learn on Love and Friendship. A true friendship remains unaffected by situations, long separation and shows in action.

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 guru-kul (school) of Sandeepani rishi (saint). Balram, Krishna's elder brother also studied there. Krishna was a prince and Sudama from an ordinary family. The gur-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 know the truth.

Krishna and Sudama went back to their respective placed after the completion of education at guru-kul. Later in life, Sudama had become very poor. It is said that his act of not sharing the groundnuts had brought this fate upon him, by the law of karma.

His 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! Dahi-pohe! My favorite!” he exclaimed and ate the dish with relish. The friend in him 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 his were indeed his own. 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 asked Krishna, Sudama, and Balram?
- What did guru-patni gave 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 gave Sudama to offer Krishna?
- Did Sudama ask help from Krishna? Why?
- What did you learn from this lesson?
- What are the five basic human values?

Group Song: Make New Friends

*Make new friends, but keep the old
One is Silver and the other is gold
One is Silver the other is gold
Make new friends, but keep the old.*

*Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other is gold
One is Silver the other is gold
The other is gold, And the other is gold*

Morning Prayer - This is to be recited in the morning as soon as we get up from the bed and has to be chanted looking at the palm of our hands:

**Karaagre Vasate Lakshmi
Kara Madhye Saraswathi
Kara Moole Sthita Gauri
Prabahate Kara Darshanam**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VC01DyMsVY>

Meaning: On the tip of my fingers resides Lakshmi, the Goddess of prosperity and wealth. In the middle of my hands is Saraswathi, the Goddess of knowledge and learning. In the palm of my hands sits Mother Gauri, the Goddess of protection. Visualizing in this manner, I take darshan of my hands every morning.

Coloring exercise

