# Bhaa i Story of faith

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| **Religious Content** | **Areas of Study** | **Relevant Disposition** |
| **Bahá’í World View**   * God as Creator * Dependence on God * The Oneness of God * The Unity of Religion * The Unity of Humanity * The Need for Unity that leads to peace | **Understanding the World**   * Seeing God in all creation * *Eleven Principles:*   + The independent investigation of truth   + Work towards universal peace   + Religion is progressively revealed   + Harmony between religion and science   + Peaceful consultation as a means of resolving conflict   + Universal education   + Development of an international auxiliary language   + Elimination of all forms of prejudice   + The equality of men and women   + The abolition of extremes of wealth and poverty | * + - Being thankful     - Appreciating Beauty     - Expressing joy     - Being imaginative and explorative     - Caring for others, animals and the environment     - Being Curious and valuing knowledge     - Being fair and just     - Sharing and being generous |
| **So What is the Problem?**   * Humanity afflicted by the disease of disunity * Failure to understand that solving major problems like inequality, injustice, environmental pollution, etc. need to be dealt with globally * Prejudice, greed, attachment to materialism, selfishness, drug & alcohol misuse * Lack of spiritual development of individuals within society * Lack of discipline and respect | **Moving Towards A Solution**   * Bahá’u’lláh as a Divine Physician * Understanding that harm to one means harm to all * Seeking spiritual guidance to find practical solutions * Global consciousness and realisation of the interdependence of all created things * Look for unity in diversity * Build a bank of spiritual virtues that are mirrored in our actions * Follow that laws of Holy Scriptures and respect the laws of the land | * Being hopeful and visionary * Being reflective and self-critical * Being regardful of suffering * Being accountable and living with integrity * Being merciful and forgiving * Creating unity and harmony * Caring for others, animals and the environment * Living by the rules * Being fair and just |
| **History of the Faith**   * The Forerunner (The Báb) * The Founder (Bahá’u’lláh) * The Exemplar (Abdu’l-Bahá) * The Guardian (Shoghi Effendi) * The Universal House of Justice | **Stories / Writings / Prayers to show the development of the faith through the lives of the Main Figures of the Faith**   * The Báb (His proclamation and life) * The Life of Bahá’u’lláh (The Founder) * The life of Abdu’l-Bahá (Son of Bahá’u’lláh) * Shoghi Effendi (The Guardian, grandson of Abdu’l-Bahá) * The World Administrative Centre of the Bahá’í Faith | * Remembering Roots * Being regardful of suffering * Cultivating inclusion, identity and belonging * Being loyal and steadfast * Being courageous and confident * Being hopeful and visionary * Creating unity and harmony |
| **Key Teachings and Practices**   * Family life | **Examples from Stories / Writings / Prayers**   * Physical and spiritual aspects of family life * Mothers as the first educators * Shared responsibility for children * The importance of love and harmony in the home * The importance of consultation and respect | * Cultivating inclusion, identity and belonging * Creating unity and harmony * Being open, honest and truthful * Being fair and just * Being temperate, exercising self-discipline and cultivating serene contentment * Being regardful of suffering * Being modest and listening to others * Being reflective and self-critical * Expressing Joy * Being thankful * Appreciating beauty * Being curious and valuing knowledge * Participating and being willing to lead * Being hopeful and visionary * Being loyal and steadfast * Living by rules * Being silent and attentive to and cultivating a sense for the Sacred and Transcendent |
| * The Individual | * Material wealth does not lead to happiness * The individual capacity to reflect all of God’s attributes (virtues) * Dealing with pain and suffering |
| * Society | * Physical and spiritual health * Work as worship if done in the spirit of service |
| * Bahá’í Community | * Celebrations – 19 Day feasts (plus Bahá’í Calendar) * 9 Holy Days * No clergy or professional learned class * An elected administrative order * The appointed institutions of the Faith * Houses of worship * The eternal Covenant of God |
| * Bahá’í Laws | * 3 obligatory prayers, plus many others for all needs * Meditation and reading of scriptures * Fasting * Marriage and Divorce * Death and burial * Kindness to animals * Pilgrimage where possible |
| **Spiritual Teachings**   * Knowledge of the nature of the Highest Reality (God) | **Examples from Stories / Writings / Prayers etc…**   * Absolute knowledge of God is not possible for humanity | * Being imaginative and explorative * Being curious and valuing knowledge * Being reflective and self-critical * Being open, honest and truthful * Being temperate, exercising self-discipline and cultivating serene contentment * Creating unity and harmony * Being silent and attentive to and cultivating a sense for the Sacred and the Transcendent * Being hopeful and visionary |
| * The Divine Educators | * To gain knowledge of God through the Founders of the world’s religions |
| * True Religion | * Purification of the heart through an inner spiritual journey guiding mankind to the unity of all people and advancement of society |
| * Journey of the Soul | * From conception to the death of the physical body * Understanding life’s challenges |
| * Life after death | * The ongoing journey of the soul throughout the spiritual worlds of God |
| **Bahá’í World Today**   * Perusing goals of international development and cooperation | **Examples to be taken from the following:**   * Ecology * Cooperation with United Nations and International Agencies * Service to others e.g. the Bahá’í youth Year of Service * Social and Economic Development Projects | * Creating Unity and Harmony * Being imaginative and explorative * Caring for others, animals and the environment * Sharing and being generous * Being accountable and living with integrity * Cultivating inclusion, identity and belonging * Participating and being willing to lead * Being hopeful and visionary |
| **The Goal**   * To recognise the Divine Educators for the era in which we live | **Achieving the Goal**   * The Twin Manifestations i.e. The Báb and Bahá’u’lláh as the latest in a long line of Revealers of God’s progressive guidance for mankind | * Being curious and valuing knowledge * Remembering Roots * Being modest and listening to others * Being thankful * Being steadfast and loyal * Being silent and attentive to and cultivating a sense for the Sacred and the transcendent * Caring for others, animals and the environment * Living by rules * Being fair and just * Being hopeful and visionary * Creating unity and harmony |
| * To follow their laws and teachings | * Achieve fulfilment of spiritual potential * Achieve wholeness and unity, respect for the Earth and the whole of Creation |
| * Establish a united humanity | * An ordered society * World Peace |