# 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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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
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| * 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
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| * Society
 | * Physical and spiritual health
* Work as worship if done in the spirit of service
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| * 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
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| * 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
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| **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
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| * The Divine Educators
 | * To gain knowledge of God through the Founders of the world’s religions
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| * True Religion
 | * Purification of the heart through an inner spiritual journey guiding mankind to the unity of all people and advancement of society
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| * Journey of the Soul
 | * From conception to the death of the physical body
* Understanding life’s challenges
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| * Life after death
 | * The ongoing journey of the soul throughout the spiritual worlds of God
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| **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
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| **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
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| * To follow their laws and teachings
 | * Achieve fulfilment of spiritual potential
* Achieve wholeness and unity, respect for the Earth and the whole of Creation
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| * Establish a united humanity
 | * An ordered society
* World Peace
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