

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

United Communities

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

In the mid-1800s, a small community began to grow in Baghdád (now in Iraq). Many of its members had little money, but they joyfully shared what they had—including their shoes and cloaks. Even in poverty, they were happy. These were some of the earliest followers of Bahá'u'lláh, and they were delighted to be near Him.

Because of His belief in the Báb, government officials unjustly exiled Bahá'u'lláh from Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád in 1853. He spent two years praying and meditating in the mountains, then returned to the city, bringing new energy to those around Him. He revealed many holy writings and encouraged everyone to strengthen their character.

Friends gathered in a small, candlelit room to joyfully chant Bahá'u'lláh's verses throughout the night. Their love for Him was like a magnet, pulling their hearts together in unity. Some shared an empty room with no furniture. Bahá'u'lláh visited them and raised their spirits. He was heard to say, "Its emptiness pleases Me . . . it is preferable to many a spacious palace, inasmuch as the beloved of God are occupied in it with the remembrance of the Incomparable Friend . . ."

Most early Bahá'ís came from a Muslim background, but the Faith soon inspired people from other religions. The first Jewish person to become a Bahá'í was a doctor named Hakím Masih. He learned about Bahá'u'lláh's teachings while helping Bahá'ís who were in prison. He shared the Faith with others, and many Jewish people became Bahá'ís.



Bahá'u'lláh said of His time in Baghdád, "We revealed, as a copious rain, Our verses, and sent them to various parts of the world." This engraving shows Baghdád in the 1800s.

Bahá'u'lláh said His teachings would one day unite the world. Early Bahá'ís believed this, but they couldn't imagine how it would happen. At that time, there were no cars or telephones. Bahá'ís sometimes walked for months to see Bahá'u'lláh. They copied His writings by hand and traveled long distances on foot to deliver them to others.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled from Baghdád to what is now Turkey, and then to what is now Israel. Still, the Bahá'í Faith continued to grow. He urged Bahá'ís to share His message of peace in different countries. Some traveled to Egypt, Eastern Europe, and India. There are now over five million Bahá'ís around the globe, located in nearly every country.

Today, Bahá'u'lláh's teachings encourage us to be friends with all people and eliminate prejudice. Inspired by His message of peace, communities work together to bring light and love to the world through service, prayer, and fellowship.

“Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Connect with Group Games

Have fun getting to know friends and neighbors with these cooperative games.

Have You Seen My Friend?

Each person draws a group member’s name from a box. Take turns standing in front of the group and asking, “Have you seen my friend?” Describe their positive qualities or talents, such as, “He’s creative, friendly, and a great artist.” The first person to guess correctly goes next.



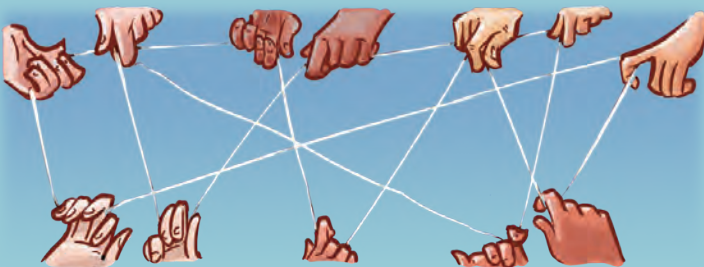
Creative Communication

Find new ways to “talk” in a silent game. First, everyone lines up by height (shortest to tallest) without speaking. Then make it more challenging and line up by favorite color, then by birthday. Afterward, talk about how it went.



Tied Together

Stand in a circle. One person holds a ball of yarn and names a favorite activity, hobby, or interest, until others who share the interest raise their hand. Holding onto the end of the yarn, the first person tosses the ball to someone who raised their hand. Take turns until you’ve made a full web of connection.



Growing Community

Draw a tree on a large sheet of paper and hang it on the wall. Each person cuts a leaf and a fruit from construction paper. With markers, write a word that helps grow a strong community on the leaf, and a related action on the fruit. Decorate them. Take turns hanging them on the tree and explaining what you wrote on them.



Circle of Unity

One person places an arm through a rope loop or hula hoop. Everyone forms a circle, holding hands. Pass the hoop around the circle without breaking hands. If you break hands, start over.

