

# FESTIVAL OF FAITH

**"This is the springtime of Bahá'u'lláh. The verdure and foliage of spiritual growth are appearing in great abundance in the gardens of human hearts." —'Abdu'l-Bahá**

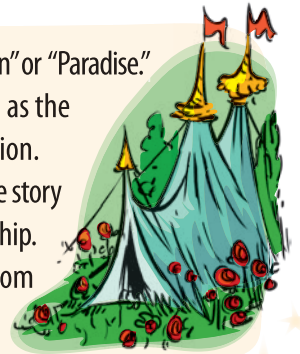
In April of 1863, word spread throughout Baghdad, Iraq, that Bahá'u'lláh was leaving. Government officials had exiled Him far away to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey), because they wanted to stop His growing influence. Many people hoped to see Him one last time.

Bahá'u'lláh went to a garden on the Tigris River. Among the fragrance of roses, He made the joyous announcement that He was a Messenger of God. He met with friends and followers in the garden

for 12 days. This garden became known as "Ridván" or "Paradise."

Today, April 21–May 2 is commemorated as the Festival of Ridván, the holiest Bahá'í celebration. Around the world, Bahá'ís gather to pray, tell the story of the first Ridván, and enjoy food and fellowship.

Honor this momentous announcement from Bahá'u'lláh with your family and friends.



## MAKE RIDVÁN ROSES



Trace around a cup to make a circle on paper. Cut circle out. From center, draw a spiral about ½" wide. Tear or cut along spiral line. Start at outer end and gently roll spiral until you reach the center.

Let paper unwind slightly. Glue bottom edges of flower to spiral's end. Add green paper leaves.

## FELLOWSHIP VOLLEYBALL



Set up two teams of four people. Each person holds one corner of a blanket. One team places a volleyball in the center of their blanket. They lower the blanket, then raise it quickly, so the ball flies up.

The other team catches the volleyball with *their* blanket and tosses it back. See how many exchanges you can have.

## FAMILY KINDNESS JOURNAL



Choose a journal for recording acts of kindness that your family would like to do, such as welcoming a new neighbor. Each day of Ridván, ask everyone to share one or two ideas. Look for chances to put them into action.

Then, on Bahá'í holy days throughout the year, flip through the journal, talk about your ideas, and add new ones.

## "GOING TO THE GARDEN" MEMORY GAME



One person starts, saying, "I'm going to the Garden of Ridván, and I'm taking art." The next person repeats it, and adds something that starts with the next letter in the alphabet: "I'm going to the Garden of Ridván, and I'm taking art and a book."

Keep going until one person can't remember the full series. That person is out, and the next person tries to say the items in order.

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

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