**Summer School BE180**

**Theme 2, session 1: Building Vibrant Communities**

**Activity 1: The power of collective capacity**

Puzzle activity

**Activity 2: Joyful Jeopardy**

Below are a list of questions and a list of answers. Each answer is a quotation from the Universal House of Justice.

Read each answer aloud in your group and then match it with one of the questions.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?
2. WHO CAN DO IT?
3. WHAT WILL HELP US DO IT?
4. HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS RECEPTIVE?
5. WHERE DO WE START?

ANSWERS

1. **“...Bahá’ís are engaged in cities and villages across the globe in establishing a pattern of life in which increasing numbers, irrespective of background, are invited to take part. This pattern, expressive of the dynamic coherence between the material and spiritual dimensions of life, includes classes for the spiritual education of children in which they also develop a deep appreciation for the fundamental unity of the various world religions; groups that assist young people to navigate a crucial stage of their lives and to withstand the corrosive forces that especially target them; circles of study wherein participants reflect on the spiritual nature of existence and build capacity for service to the community and society; gatherings for collective worship that strengthen the devotional character of the community; and, in time, a growing range of endeavours for social and economic development. This pattern of community life is giving rise to vibrant and purposeful new communities wherein relationships are founded on the oneness of mankind, universal participation, justice, and freedom from prejudice. All are welcome. The process which is unfolding seeks to foster collaboration and build capacity within every human group—with no regard to class or religious background, with no concern for ethnicity or race, and irrespective of gender or social status—to arise and contribute to the advancement of civilization.”**

QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **“Under a wide diversity of conditions, in virtually any cluster, it is possible for an expanding nucleus of individuals to generate a movement towards the goal of a new World Order.”**

QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **“The training institute has no parallel as an instrument for the systematic exposure of limitless numbers of souls to the life-giving waters of the Revelation and the inexhaustible meaning of the Word of God.”**

QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **“...receptivity manifests itself in a willingness to participate in the process of**

**community building set in motion by the core activities.”**

QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **“As the friends ponder what is before them, they will readily see that for every community there is a goal in reach, and for every goal a path to reach it.”**

QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 3: Accompaniment and learning as a mode of operation**

***Section 1:***

**“This evolution in collective consciousness is discernable in the growing frequency with which the word “accompany” appears in conversations among the friends, a word that is being endowed with new meaning as it is integrated into the common vocabulary of the Bahá’í community. It signals the significant strengthening of a culture in which learning is the mode of operation, a mode that fosters the informed participation of more and more people in a united effort to apply Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings to the construction of a divine civilization, which the Guardian states is the primary mission of the Faith. Such an approach offers a striking contrast to the spiritually bankrupt and moribund ways of an old social order that so often seeks to harness human energy through domination, through greed, through guilt or through manipulation.”**

Reflect on the following questions with your group:

1. Who is currently accompanying you? Who has accompanied you in the past? In what ways?

2. Who are you currently accompanying? Who have you accompanied in the past? In what ways?

*Examples:*

* Every night before bed, I accompany my children in saying their prayers.
* My friend accompanied me in starting my weekly devotional gathering by attending every week and reflecting with me afterwards.

***Section 2:***

**“...they are clear about what they have learned and what they still need to learn. ”**

Reflect on the following questions with your group:

3. What have you recently learned from one of your community-building activities?  
4. What do you want to learn next? What are you going to try in order to learn about it?

*Examples:*

* We recently learned that we have much more consistent attendance at our children’s class when it is held as an after school activity on a weekday instead of on a weekend where it can often conflict with family activities.
* We want to learn to improve the devotional character of our devotional gatherings that are largely attended by families with children. Next week, instead of many adults reading long prayers or quotes while the kids struggle to be still and quiet, we are going to try modelling our devotional gathering on the devotions from the children’s class. We will sing a few prayers together and then allow time for each child to share a prayer or a quote. A few adults will say prayers from the children’s class materials, such as “O God! Educate these children...”