

# THE FRAGILITY OF LIFE

Universal Children's Day-



**FAMILY  
NIGHT**

46



## OPENING

Cut a bloom from a flowering plant and give one to each person. Ask each person to take a quiet moment to study his or her bloom and become very familiar with its uniqueness.



## PRESENTATION OF THEME

Every person is created as a unique child of God. Every person should be nurtured and given the opportunity to grow and mature to his or her fullest potential.

### Reading:

Matthew 19:13-14 or

Psalms 128 or

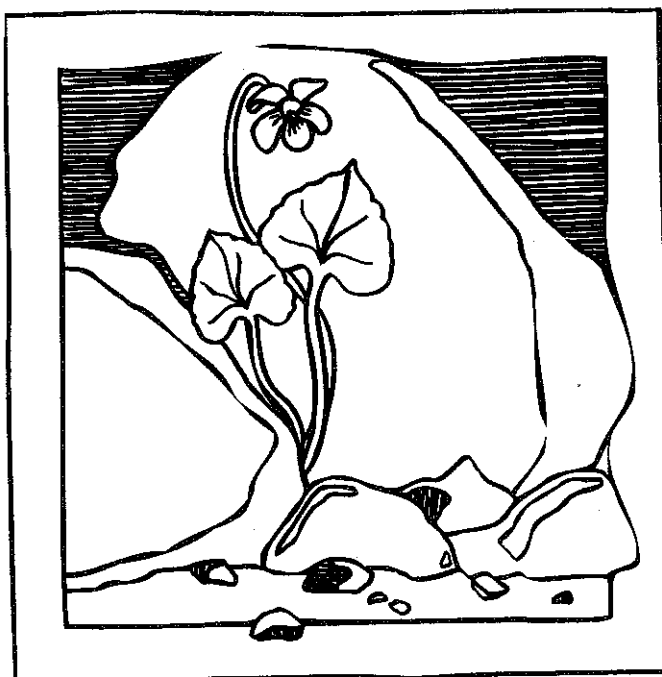
"On Children" from *The Prophet*



## FAMILY RESPONSE

As family members hold their cut flowers, ask them to think and talk about what it means to be severed from the branches and roots that are the source of nourishment and life. While the flower brings pleasure for a brief time, once cut, it is unable to continue to grow and mature, and it will die.

Transplant the house plants into the new pots or move yard plants to small pots.



## YOU WILL NEED ...

- ☐ a flowering plant
- ☐ a variety of small house plants that need transplanting or greenery from your yard
- ☐ empty pots and potting soil
- ☐ water
- ☐ *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran, Knopf, 1970 or Random House, 1985, optional



## READING

### Matthew 19:13-14

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

**Psalm 128**

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

- ◆ Examine and talk about the unique features of each type of plant.
- ◆ Describe the root system and how the plant is nourished.
- ◆ List ways the plant must be treated in order to grow and be its best. For example, plants need regular watering, sunshine, an undisturbed place, fertilizer, and pruning.
- ◆ Ask how people are like plants. For example, suggest that people need food and water, we start life from our parents' seed, our new life is very fragile and needs to be protected and cared for gently and responsibly.

**TREAT**

Make "dirt" pudding. Line a clean flower pot with clear plastic wrap. Prepare chocolate pudding and pour into pot. Layer crushed chocolate sandwich cookies on the top. Insert Gummi worms if you really want to be authentic.

**AGE ADAPTATION**

For younger children, read a picture book stressing the uniqueness and value of every child, such as *We Are All Alike, We Are All Different*, by the Cheltenham Elementary School kindergartners, Scholastic Inc., 1991.

With older children, discuss what respect for life means in our society where there is abortion, hunger, lack of education, lack of health care, child abuse, and war.

**RELATED  
READING**

*Live and Let Live* by P. K. Hallinan. Hazelden, 1990.

—Karen Zerhusen