

Madhava Class Curriculum Overview

Introduction

The Madhava Class is for children ages six, seven and eight. This is the equivalent of elementary Grades First, Second and Third. Intense academic work is not possible at this age; the younger children in the Madhava class will just be learning how to read and write. The emphasis of the Hare Krishna Sunday School curriculum for this age group is learning spiritual knowledge through stories.

This is the age when fairy tales and folk tales are often taught to instill moral values. In the same way, the curriculum uses Vedic stories as a basis for many of the Madhava sessions. Morality, knowledge of the soul, our relationship to Krishna and proper Vaishnava behavior are some of the topics studied in the Madhava class in fun, active and imaginative ways.

The curriculum provides you with reproducible student booklets and a corresponding teacher's guide for each session. You'll find a wealth of ideas, games, dramas and teaching tips to make your Sunday School teaching experience rewarding and satisfying for both the teacher and students.

There is sufficient Madhava curriculum to cover three years of Sunday School instruction. After the Madhava children have reached nine years of age, they graduate into the Damodar class. So a six-year old just joining the Madhava class will go through his three years of Madhava instruction and then graduate to the Damodar class. The curriculum can then be "recycled" beginning with the first year's courses.

Madhava Class Topics

(Each topic covers 8 to 10 weeks of Sunday School lessons.)

First Year

Devotional Practices –Part One

This basic course explains why we do the things we do. Chanting, wearing tilak, Vaisnava dress, Deity worship, offering arati and offering obeisances are taught in a way that young children can appreciate.

Who Am I?

A beginner's course in the Bhagavad Gita, teaching the children that we are spirit soul, the eternal servants of Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada

An overview of Prabhupada's life and mission is explored. Students focus on Prabhupada's early life, initiation and move to America.

Cow Protection and Vegetarian Living

The importance of the cow and bull in society, present mistreatment of cows, and the need for cow protection are taught. The presence of souls within all living beings, our physical indications for vegetarianism and offering food to Krishna are also presented.

The Appearance of Lord Jagannatha

Students complete a wall display depicting the events leading to the Lord's appearance in His Deity form. Includes many art projects to enhance understanding.

Second Year

Vaishnava Behavior

Students gain the tools for making good friends, seeing the good in others, viewing Krishna as our best friend, worshipping Krishna together, and respecting others. Temple etiquette is also taught.

Animals in the Vedas

This session teaches about great devotees of the Lord in animal bodies, including Garuda, Gajendra, Hanuman, and Jatayu. Instructions and patterns for many crafts are included.

Lord Chaitanya's Childhood Pastimes

The birth, purpose for appearance and several childhood pastimes of Lord Chaitanya are covered.

The Adventures of Lord Rama

The transcendental pastimes of Lord Ramachandra and His intimate associates are narrated.

Festivals of India – Part One

Students learn of the cultural and spiritual significance of 5 well-known festivals. They learn the way the holy days were traditionally celebrated and work together on various activities to celebrate their own “mini-festivals.”

Third Year

Devotional Practices – Part Two

Students enjoy a story about two boys discovering Krishna consciousness, and in the process, learn about (and experience) offering arati, gurupuja, tulasi puja, Ekadasi, fire yajnas and preaching

Das Avatar

The stories of the ten principal incarnations of Krishna are told, with students making an art project depicting the avatars.

Prayer

The reason for prayer, types of prayer and putting prayer into daily life are taught. Students make individual booklets of Gajendra, the elephant, and his well-known prayer.

Pilgrimage to Vraja Mandala

Students take a spiritual voyage throughout many of the holy places of Vrindavan. Many pastimes of Krishna are related as they travel to Nandagram, Javat, Bharshana, Mathura and other holy places.

Festivals of India – Part Two

Following the same format as Part One, students celebrate Balaram's Appearance Day, Janmastami, Radhastami, and Prabhupada's Disappearance Day.

Damodar Class Curriculum Overview

Introduction

The Damodar Class is for children ages nine, ten and eleven. That is the equivalent of Grades Fourth, Fifth and Sixth. At this age, most children should be reading well and are able to complete written assignments. Their critical thinking skills are more developed and they begin to apply what they have studied.

In addition to presenting devotional stories, which still serve as a basis for scriptural lessons, many great Vedic personalities are introduced as role models, teaching proper Vaishnava behavior. The Hare Krishna Sunday School curriculum also teaches the children practical ways to spiritualize their everyday lives. The topics in the Damodar classes are designed in such a way as to give children practical reasons *why* we believe certain things as well as to encourage them to act upon their beliefs.

The curriculum provides you with reproducible student booklets and a corresponding teacher's guide for each session. You'll find a wealth of ideas, games, dramas and teaching tips to make your Sunday School teaching experience rewarding and satisfying for both the teacher and students.

There is sufficient Damodar curriculum to cover three years of Sunday School instruction. After the Damodar children have reached twelve years of age, they graduate into the Madan Mohan class. So a nine-year old just joining the Damodar class will go through his three years of Damodar instruction and then graduate to the Madan Mohan class. The curriculum can then be "recycled" beginning with the first year's courses.

Damodar Class Topics

(Each topic covers eight to ten weeks of Sunday School lessons.)

First Year

The Material World and the Spiritual Sky

This course teaches about the manifestation of Brahma from Lord Vishnu, the creation of the material world, varieties of planetary systems within the material world, the Vaikuntha planets, and how to return home, back to Godhead.

Introduction to Bhagavad Gita

Selected stories from the Mahabharat are told which show the events leading up to the Battle of Kurukshetra.

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

A more detailed look at Prabhupada's life and accomplishments is given in this course. Students examine his life in India, move to America, preaching throughout the world, his disappearance and the meaning of vyasa-puja.

Vegetarianism and a Non-violent World

The material and spiritual significance of the cow and bull as well as the present mistreatment of cows and other livestock are examined. Man's abuse of animals for sport and fashion (hunting, fishing and fur) are also portrayed. Health aspects of vegetarianism are given along with scriptural references referring to vegetarianism and treatment of animals. The session concludes with students learning to purify their food by offering it to Krishna.

Krishna Kills the Demons and Our Material Desires

A moral behavior class examining lying, cheating, stealing, duplicity, cruelty, disrespect, hatred, bad association and pride. Children learn the stories of Krishna killing various demons and the material desires that each demon represents. Students analyze the unwanted behavior and discover ways Krishna can help overcome it.

Second Year

Vaishnava Behavior

Krishna conscious friendships, peer pressure, judging others and jealousy are explored.

The Mercy of Lord Chaitanya

Using many pastimes from Chaitanya-charitamrita, this session teaches morals and values, such as respecting the elderly, charity to the poor, and kindness to animals.

Cleanliness

The spiritual and material benefits of personal cleanliness are presented, as well as the importance of clean speech, clean thoughts and a clean environment.

Heroes from the Vedas

Mundane “power heroes” cannot compare to the transcendental strength of Balaram, Arjuna, and Bhima. Students learn how Prahlad Maharaja’s greatest weapon was the maha-mantra. Great Vaishnavi heroines, like Devahuti and Queen Kunti, are also studied.

Festivals of India – Part One

Students learn of the cultural and spiritual significance of 5 well--known festivals. They learn the way the holy days were traditionally celebrated and work together on various activities to celebrate their own “mini-festivals.”

Third Year

Coming Back – Reincarnation and the Cycle of Birth and Death

This science is explained in an easy-to understand format for this age group. Students make their own booklet about changing from one material body to another, entitled, “A Book About Me!”

The Nine Processes of Devotional Service

Students learn of the nine processes of devotional service and the story behind the personality who was perfect in each of the processes. They experience the nine processes by performing relevant activities each week at home.

Prayer

Students see prayer as communication with the Lord and learn what to pray for by examining the example of Druva Maharaja.

Vaishnava Saints: The Six Goswamis of Vrindavan

The lives and teachings of the six goswamis are described.

Festivals of India – Part Two

Following the same format as Part One, students celebrate Balaram’s Appearance Day, Janmastami, Radhastami, and Prabhupada’s Disappearance Day.

Madan Mohan Class Curriculum Overview

Introduction

The Madan Mohan Class is for students ages twelve, thirteen and fourteen. That is the equivalent of Grades Seventh, Eighth and Ninth. Children of this age are more analytical and discriminating. They strongly identify with their peers, yet are beginning to think and reason independently.

The Hare Krishna Sunday School curriculum guides the Madan Mohan students to make wise choices by giving them spiritual knowledge relevant to their lives. In addition to studying Krishna conscious philosophy, the students learn to take pride in and defend their beliefs. The Madan Mohan class examines current issues in society, presenting the Vedic view, thus allowing the children to “see through the eyes of scripture.”

The curriculum provides you with reproducible student booklets and a corresponding teacher’s guide for each session. There are dramas, word games, field trip suggestions and projects galore – all designed to engage and enliven young teenagers.

There is sufficient Madan Mohan curriculum to cover three years of Sunday School instruction. After the Madan Mohan children have reached fifteen years of age, their Sunday School instruction has been completed. There are temples who extend the age of Madan Mohan students to sixteen or older if there are students *who really want to continue*. The ideal follow-up to a Sunday School is a youth club for teens and young adults. The youth club can continue the study of scripture but also take a more active part in the temple community.

Madan Mohan Class Topics

(Each topic covers eight to ten weeks of Sunday School lessons.)

First Year

What Makes Someone Bhagavan?

Students study and analyze the six opulences of Krishna, making their own artistic booklets in the process.

Bhagavad Gita As It Is – Chapter Two, Contents of the Gita Summarized

Students have an opportunity to study this important chapter in detail. Independent study of the Gita is encouraged to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of Srila Prabhupada's great literary achievement.

Preaching is the Essence: Prabhupada's Mission

Students learn about Srila Prabhupada's unending determination to fulfill the orders of his spiritual master. They follow his struggles and successes while starting worldwide preaching movement.

Vegetarianism and a Non-Violent World

Health, environmental, economic, and moral reasons for vegetarianism are explored. Man's use of animals in research and testing is shown, as well as references to vegetarianism in other world religions. This session concludes with instruction on the importance of prasadam and how to offer your own food.

The Vedic View

Abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are thoroughly explained. Popular reasons supporting and opposing the topics are discussed, concluding with the Vedic view.

Second Year

Vaishnava Behavior

The six loving exchanges among devotees, qualities of devotees, handling conflict and insults, Vaishnava relationships (with guru, superiors, equals) and forgiveness are covered.

The Pastimes of Lord Krishna

The qualities of Lord Krishna are discussed while studying some of the Lord's pastimes from the Srimad Bhagavatam, Tenth Canto.

The Nine Islands of Navadwip

Students are taken on a tour of the various sites on the nine islands of Navadwip. They construct individual lotuses representing the nine islands that illustrate the holy places.

Media Madness

In this course, students are challenged to resist blind acceptance of the media. Intelligent use of television, the Internet, movies and literature is outlined, as well as the dangerous aspects of each.

Festivals of India – Part One

Students learn of the cultural and spiritual significance of 5 well-known festivals. They learn the way the holy days were traditionally celebrated and work together on various activities to celebrate their own “mini-festivals.”

Third Year

The Four Pillars of Religion

The four regulative principles are examined as students take a look at present day results of ignoring these ancient religious principles.

Stories from the Srimad Bhagavatam

The stories of King Bharat, Ajamila, and King Citraketu are related from Srimad Bhagavatam. After learning the stories, the children uncover and examine the underlying lessons found in each one.

Prayer

Students are encouraged to examine and improve their personal prayer lives. The mood of prayer, bhajans and chanting as prayer are discussed.

Is There Life on Other Planets?

Modern accounts of alien sightings and encounters are explained from a Vedic viewpoint. The possibility of life on other planets is discussed, UFO's compared to heavenly vimanas, mystic powers, and a description of life on other planets are explored in this session.

Vaishnava Saints

The fascinating lives of Narottama Das Thakur, Haridas Thakur, Madhavendra Puri, Visvanatha Chakravati Thakur, Bilvamangala Thakur, and several great Vaishnavis are narrated.