



School of the Nations Character Development Program

The HIDDEN GEMS program of character development is aimed at the gradual enhancement of moral capabilities in the children. Being capable of promoting harmony or of working cooperatively with others are complex skills. They require the combination of different attitudes, habits, skills and spiritual qualities. The lessons in these books initiate the growth of moral capabilities in the children by exposing them to a variety of activities as well as opportunities for reflection. Expectations for the children's behaviour at all times are an integral part of the overall program. The lessons in this book serve as an initial orientation and practice of attitudes and behaviours that need to be applied and reinforced at all times and in all situations.

Moral capabilities are not developed in a single lesson. The three levels of the program provide sufficient material for a consistent three-year effort. Each level contains a Teacher's Guide, a set of Resource Materials and Student Workbooks. Each level is designed for approximately one year of study. The material can be used in a school setting or for weekly children's classes. Each lesson provides material for five to eight hours of class. Many of the activities should be repeated more than once. In each lesson you will find a pattern of different activities all focused on the principal goal of motivating the development of attitudes, understandings, habits, skills and spiritual qualities in the children. For this reason, each lesson includes:

- An introductory prayer, to be recited by the teacher at the beginning of the class;
- A section on 'developing understanding' which contains ideas to be discussed with the children about the focus of the lesson;
- A quotation to memorize, which carries the message of the spiritual quality the lesson focuses on;
- Selected moral stories which provide insights and understandings of the proper behaviour that represents the application of the quality or attitude introduced in the lesson;
- Games, role-plays simple art projects and songs; centred around building skills and attitudes;
- Workbook activities designed to support the theme of the lesson or to reinforce the theme of the story.

For the greatest benefit the participation of each child's family is very important. Where possible the parents should be acquainted with the objectives and material of the program. Parent may then reinforce the learning by engaging in special activities at home and by adjusting their expectations for behaviour of their child as they progress through the program.