



SAI SPIRITUAL EDUCATION- USA

## SATHYA SAI SPEAKS

### A NATIONAL STUDY CIRCLE INITIATIVE FOR SSE TEACHERS

AUGUST 2020

*"Reading is not completion of the journey. It is only the first step. Read for the sake of practising; not for reading's sake."*

Sathya Sai Baba on May 18, 1968



Sai Ram, dear teachers and coordinators!

On this sacred day, we offer with love and gratitude the first national study circle publication to our dear Swami. He sowed the seed for this initiative in late January 2020 at the conclusion of the SSIO-USA National Council meeting. And it has been a joy to watch His plans unfold over the past few months. Here is an overview of 'Sathya Sai Speaks- A National Study Circle initiative for SSE teachers.'

**WHY:** To learn and deepen our understanding of Swami's vision for the SSE program- children, parents and teachers.

**WHAT:** Since this is an SSE initiative, we will be primarily studying Swami's discourses given during balvikas (SSE) conference and/or training.

**HOW:** a) One discourse will be selected and each month, 2-3 paragraphs will be published with discussion questions and life application suggestions. b) The Center SSE coordinator in consultation with SSE teachers shall choose a day and time outside of the Center meeting to conduct the study circle. c) Facilitators will be selected from within the Center and on a rotation basis.

**WHO:** a) all SSE teachers and SSE coordinators are invited to participate. b) the national study circle team is represented by most of the regions and will be an additional resource for local Center coordinators. It is important to mention that the national team conducts the study circle first, develop discussion questions and commit to a life application prior to the publication of the discourse excerpt. On an average, the national team spends 3-5 hours to prepare each monthly study circle content (about one page).

In a discourse on 3rd March, 1974, Swami revealed a simple three step process towards self-transformation. He said, "This is the proper plan of study - reading, reflection and regular application in life. Study is WORK. Inquiry into the value and applicability of what is studied is WORSHIP; the experience of the validity and value of the practice is WISDOM. "

With His loving grace, may we be inspired to read, to reflect and to practice every day of our lives!

Jai Sai Ram!





## ABOUT THE DISCOURSE

During Summer of 1978, the first All-India Bal Vikas Gurus training camp was conducted in Brindavan, Bangalore. Over 150 gurus attended this 6 day training camp which included lectures, discussions and Q &A with Bhagawan. Our first discourse for study, 'New version for Gurus,' is from this training camp. [Sanathana Sarathi 1978, Archives and Sathya Sai Speaks, vol 14, #3]



## FOR THIS MONTH

*"The Bala Vikas (organizational wing for children's development) is the primary basis of the great movement to restore dharma (righteousness) in the world. The elders are far gone in their ways, and it is difficult to expect change in their habits and attitudes. Children have to be led into good ways of living, into simplicity, humility and discipline. The parents have to be persuaded lovingly, through the example of bright, cheerful and co-operating children from the Bala Vikas classes, to send their children also to these classes. As you know, you cannot draw children to your side if you hold a stick in your hand; you will have to hold some sweets instead. So, the Gurus have to be embodiments of love and patience.*

*The ideal of the Bala Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience. The actual syllabus is not so important as the creation of an atmosphere where noble habits and ideals can grow and fructify. The Bala Vikas pupils follow Bala Vikas discipline and curriculum only for one day in the week and attend their usual schools on the other days. So, the impact of the Guru has got to be extra strong if it has to act as a catalyst in the process of modification of the behavior patterns of these pupils."*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Swami lays emphasis on raising children with a clean and clear conscience?
2. According to Swami, what are the ideal qualities to become an exemplar Guru?
3. How can we practically implement balancing love and discipline?

## LIFE APPLICATION

What is your practical take away/life application that you want to commit to Swami, based on today's discussion?





*Additional resources to assist with study circle coordination/facilitation*

<b>For your region</b>	<b>Resource</b>
Region 1	Vijayalakshmi Ramanan, Pushpa Gogineni Sukara
Region 2	Sumana Murali, Sailaja Kilambi , Siddharth Gopinath
Region 3	Chitra Venkat, Savitha Reddy
Region 4	Monica Kar
Region 5	Manjula Guru, Narasimham Nistala, Surya Immadisetty
Region 6	Latha Karanth
Region 7	Lata Ramesh
Region 8	Kandarp Patel, Madhu Mohanty
Region 9	Sakthi Rajasekaran
Region 10	Suja Josiam, Pavithra Krishnan



We would love to hear from about your study circle experiencs, any interesting questions/ insights that you would like to share, please send an email to [saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us](mailto:saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us)

