



SAI SPIRITUAL EDUCATION- USA

SATHYA SAI SPEAKS

A NATIONAL STUDY CIRCLE INITIATIVE FOR SSE TEACHERS

OCTOBER 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



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).

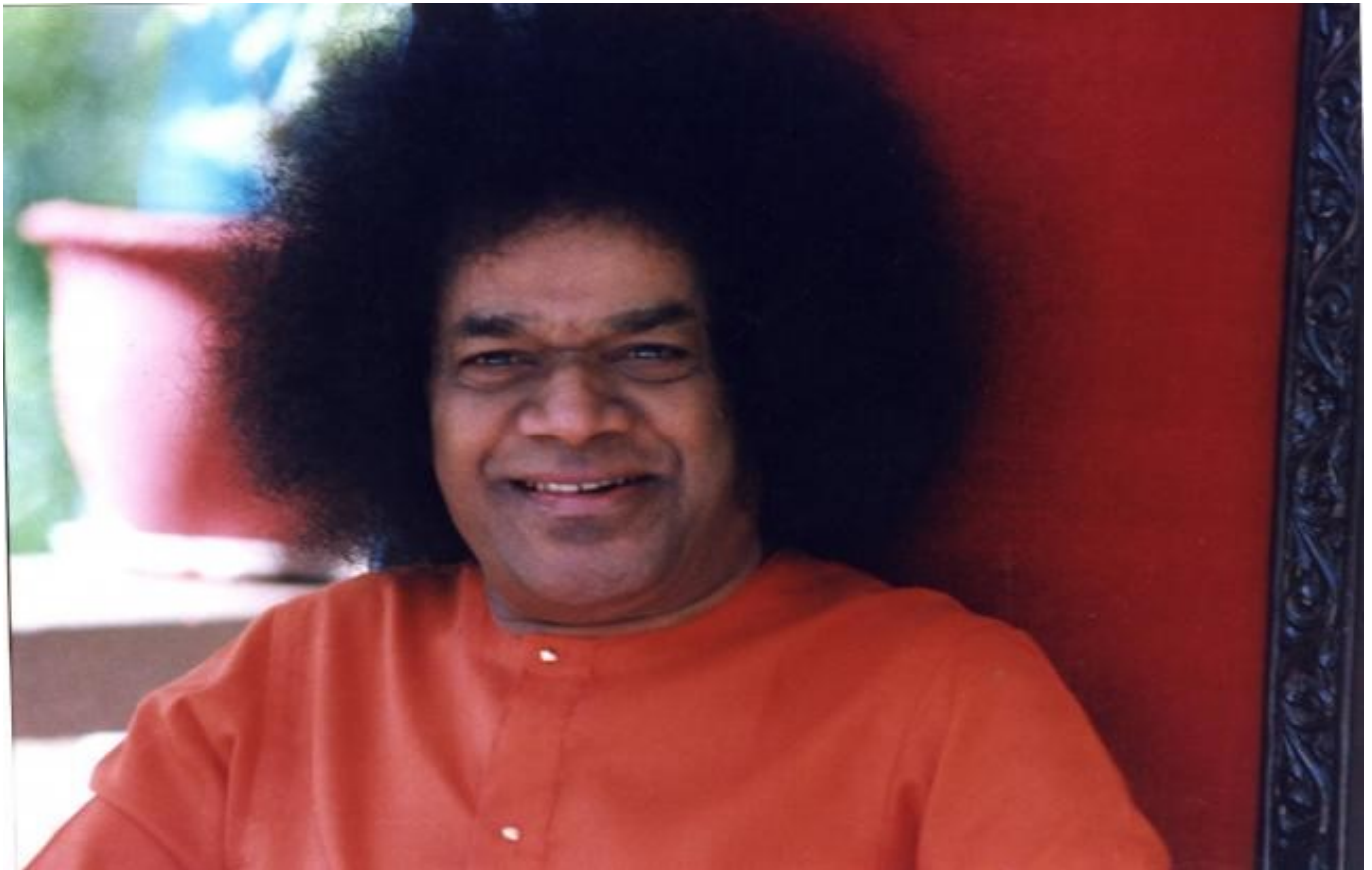
In a discourse on 3rd March, 1974, Swami revealed a simple three step process towards self-transformation. He said, "This is the proper plan of study - reading, reflection and regular application in life. Study is WORK. Inquiry into the value and applicability of what is studied is WORSHIP; the experience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

Solve The Problems With Discrimination And Love

Of course, the environmental conditions for the propagation of spiritual ideals such as simple living, spiritual search and loving service, are lacking. Gurus have to deal with the children of families that are often not already devotees of Sai or of any other form of Divinity. Sometimes the husbands of Gurus may discourage the dedicated fervor with which the work is undertaken. But even as it is, I know that great success has been achieved in spreading the Bala Vikas movement in the country. There is, however, still much more scope of expansion of this work, especially in the slum areas and in the villages. There are also other problems of all sorts. Solve them with discrimination and deep love. Meet these problems with a desire to serve the children better and they will be overcome easily. Gradually you will realize that the Bala Vikas is devised not merely for the education of the children but also of the Gurus. The Bala Vikas chores are bound to elevate and sublimate the thoughts and emotions of the Gurus far better than any other sadhana (spiritual discipline) can. Remember that as Gurus, you too have a Guru guiding you and overseeing your seva (service). So, you too are pupils, and you too learn the lessons of equality, equanimity and selfless love while acting as Gurus.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It's by Swami's Divine will we are chosen to be His instruments as Balavikas Gurus. Ponder and share your thoughts on Swami's message, "*The Bala Vikas chores are bound to elevate and sublimate the thoughts and emotions of the Gurus far better than any other sadhana (spiritual discipline)*".
2. What are the tips for dealing with the children of families that are not devoted to Swami by applying Swami's message of discrimination and deep love?
3. How can Gurus inspire their own family members to support their SSE sadhana or commitment?

LIFE APPLICATION

Suggestion: Swami says, "As Gurus, you too have a Guru guiding you and overseeing your seva". Practice connecting with your inner Guru, especially in your SSE seva, and share your experiences next time.

OR

What is your practical take away/life application that you want to commit to Swami based on today's discussion? Either individually or as a group.



We would love to hear from about your study circle experiences, any interesting questions/ insights that you would like to share, please send an email to saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us

