* What does the Celebration of the Bicentenary mean to you?
* Who would you like to extend an invite to, to be involved in this process?

**Roleplays –** Pick a person you’d like to invite, select a theme from below relevant to the conversation you would like to have with them and act out what that conversation could look like.

**What could help you further with having these conversations?**

**The Baha’i Faith**

The Baha’i Faith is a worldwide religion based on the teachings of Baha’u’llah (1817-1892).

[Baha’u’llah](https://bahai.org.au/index.php/the-bahai-faith/who-is-bahaullah/) is the most recent in the series of Divine Messengers who founded the world religions as part of the progressive revelation of God’s guidance to humanity.

A central theme of the Baha’i Faith is that humanity is one family bound together in a common destiny: a global society.

Recognition of the oneness of humanity is the key feature of this age, an age in which humankind is approaching its collective maturity.

People of goodwill need to [come together to collaborate](https://bahai.org.au/index.php/building-vibrant-communities/) in building a just and peaceful global society in which all individuals can fulfil their potential.

# Creating a devotional character

Gatherings for collective worship are central to a vibrant community life.

Baha’i devotional meetings provide a space for all, regardless of belief or background, to share prayers and contemplate the sacred scriptures.

Simple acts of regular worship generate a spirit which has an impact on the community’s collective endeavours. Worship awakens within individuals the desire to contribute to the spiritual and material progress of the community.

Across Australia there are thousands of devotional gatherings held in simple settings with an informal and respectful atmosphere. There is no set ritual. These gatherings reflect the diversity of Australian society.

# What Baha’is do

Baha’is are engaged in activities that contribute to the spiritual development of ourselves, our neighbourhoods, our nation and the world.

On a daily basis we strive through prayer, study, meditation and acts of service to ensure our thoughts and actions are conducive to personal spiritual development and to the unity of humanity.

Baha’is work with others to provide activities in our neighbourhoods that will uplift, assist and unite diverse groups of people and help build vibrant communities.

This includes the organisation of devotional meetings which address the needs of the spirit, children’s classes where the young learn virtues, and study circles where people examine the crucial questions of life and spirituality. Youth play a vital role in all aspects of community life.

# Who is the Bab

Born in 1819 in a time of oppression and search for truth, [the Bab](https://www.bahai.org/the-bab/) was a Divine Messenger whose revelation marked a revolutionary break from the prevailing order. His call for spiritual and moral renewal included improving the status of women and the situation of the poor. He quickly attracted thousands of followers, who were inspired to transform their lives and to undertake acts of great fearlessness and sacrifice.

The Bab, whose title means “The Gate”, was the Herald of the Baha’i Faith. He declared it was His mission to prepare the way for a new Divine Messenger who would fulfil the prophecies of the past and usher in an age of peace and justice: [Baha’u’llah](https://bahai.org.au/index.php/the-bahai-faith/who-is-bahaullah/).

The Bab’s teachings were denounced as heretical by many of Persia’s religious and political leaders, who were threatened by His growing influence. He was publicly executed by firing squad on 9 July 1850, and thousands of His followers were put to death with terrible cruelty.