

DETAILS & TAKE-IT-HOME ideas for JAN 8, 2017 Pre-K, K-3, 4-5, 6-7th groups:

New or didn't yet? Please Complete REGISTRATION so we have your permission for your children to be active in our program, and know about allergies, behavior policy and if it's okay if we take pictures of your children. Here's a [2016-2017 Registration Link](#) for PARENTS to give your Pre-K through 12th graders permission to participate.



PRE-K PARENT'S HANDOUT - JAN. 8, 2017 - THEME: I CAN HELP

Young children love to help because it is a good way of gaining the approval they seek. It also allows them to participate in the adult world. Affirming a child's help increases their sense of self-worth and their community identity

When you help others you feel good! People of all ages can help. Grown ups help here on Sundays and on other days of the week. We can look for ways to help at home every day.

And that is acting out our UU Principles 1: All people are important, Principle 2: Be kind in all you do

Activities:

- STORIES: [Tucking Mommy In](#) by Morag Loh, and [Helping Out](#) by George Ancona
- SONG: [We've Got the Whole World In our Hands](#)

ACTIVITIES:

- Act out ways people can help and see if your children can recognize it (chop veggies & stir a pot of soup, rock a baby to sleep, pour a drink of water and give it to someone, put napkins on the table...)
- Clean together – use child size brooms, put items to recycle into blue bins/bags, wipe down tables and chairs...
- At home consider cooking soup as a family for a friend who might need help.



K-3rd Graders UU Explorers- PARENT HANDOUT- JAN. 8, 2017 Session# 12 - Muhammad (Founder of Islam) UU Source: World Religions PRINCIPLES #3 Free to grow together in Spirit & #6: Build a Fair and Peaceful World

Story summary: Muhammad, Messenger of God (from [Sacred Stories: Wisdom from World Religions](#): by Marilyn McFarlane) Muhammad, was brought up by his extended family to be an honest person who believed in one god known to him as Allah. When he grew up, Muhammad worked as a camel trader and married a widow who was older than he was. The age difference didn't get in the way of caring for each other. When Muhammad - who never learned to read- came home one day after meditating in a cave, he had an amazing experience (hearing a voice say "Read," then "Repeat" and seeing the angel Gabriel) his wife rejoiced saying, "You are a messenger of God." Muhammad then shared the message of how to live a good life in community and honoring Allah. Fighting broke out between soldiers and believers who followed Muhammad when he wanted to go to Mecca. When the soldiers were defeated more people followed Muhammad and he was able to go to Mecca. Muslims face the direction of Mecca to pray.



Discussion questions:

- The angel Gabriel is the main messenger for God in Islam, Judaism and Christianity (*remember the Christmas pageant?*) Muhammad is the main prophet of Islam and a messenger. **What are ways, as UU's, we can act as messengers for good?**
- **How does your age matter in doing good?** (*You can do good even if you can't read, you can do good at any age and whether you believe in God, Gods & Goddesses or no God at all*)

- **What do you think about the idea of one God** (*a powerful being who created all that is*)? or maybe you think there are many gods and goddesses? or a spirit in many things like trees, animals, the earth? Be open to different ideas!
- **What are peaceful ways to live with neighbors with different ideas of God?** (*instead of fighting with soldiers? Don't put down other's ideas or insist you are right, find out the good they are doing to help people too, help, respect each other, remind each other to act as our best selves for the community at large*)

Activities:

- **A trust walk** -(close eyes/blindfold one person, the other leads them when walking),
- **Create a "cave"** with a table & blankets to meditate in,
- **Write your name in Arabic,**
- **Find Mecca on the globe.**



4-5 gr PARENT HANDOUT January 8, 2017 TOOLBOX of FAITH session: POWER for Good Principles 5 & 7 + Unitarian Universalist History

"The power to question is the basis of all human progress." ~ Indira Gandhi

IN THIS SESSION . . .The Hammer represents the power each of us has to work for good.

People have used their power to question authority and perform civil disobedience when a law is unjust. Power can be used for good or for ill, and there is a difference between strength and power, working by yourself and with others.

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that will help you identify the power you have and use it for good. We can use our own power to live out our UU Principles. In particular:

Principle 5: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large (All people should have a say in things that are important to them)

Principle 7: Unitarian Universalism affirms that we are part of an interdependent web (when one part of that web suffers injustice, the entire web suffers injustice).

- We listened to a [song: If I Had A Hammer](#) –It was written by Pete Seeger, a Unitarian, with Lee Hays, when they were musicians in a group called The Weavers, in the 1950s. Many other musicians and people who gather to demonstrate against injustice continue to sing this song.
- **The children heard a story about Unitarian Minister Theodore Parker and the Fugitive Slaves: Refusing to follow an unjust Law.**
<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/toolbox/session8/109685.shtml>



EXPLORE THE TOPIC TOGETHER. Talk about...The story describes the escape from the south of Ellen and William Craft, and their success in eluding capture by slave-catchers who came looking for them in Boston. Theodore Parker, a Unitarian minister, was a spokesperson for the fugitive slaves, along with free African Americans and white abolitionists who resisted enforcement of this federal law in the 1850s. The story also tells how President Millard Fillmore, also a Unitarian, upheld the Fugitive Slave Law in the hope of keeping the United States from a civil war.

Throughout the history of the United States, the readiness of citizens to question authority and at times undertake civil disobedience has played a significant role in achieving reforms that we take for granted today — the legal protection of our civil rights, including our voting rights, and the formation of labor unions, among others. **How do you think we should teach children when it is right to question authority and when it is important to follow the rules?**

As a family, you may want to explore these questions:

- Do you think there are times when it is right to use violence to fight against injustice? Why or why not?
- If you lived in Boston in October of 1850, and you knew where the slave-catchers from Georgia could find *Ellen and William Craft*, what would you do? Would you act differently if you were white than if you were black? Would you act differently if you were an adult than if you were a child?

AS A FAMILY... Singing is a traditional hallmark of civil disobedience actions. Singing together helps demonstrators feel the power of their numbers. At a family campfire or at a family meal, sing together the song, "If I Had a Hammer." Learn and sing together other folk, traditional, and political songs. You may want to consult the book, *Rise Up Singing*, conceived, developed, and edited by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson (Bethlehem, PA: Sing Out Publications, 2004).



6-7th Building Bridges Group - PARENT HANDOUT - Jan. 8, 2017

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." — John 3:16 (KJV)

DURING TODAY'S Session.. we started our exploration of **Christianity** by talking about Jesus: his life and words. We acted out parables.

REFLECTION QUESTION: The word "catholic" means universal. What, in your opinion, is universal about Catholicism or Christianity?

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS...

Christian UUs Did you know that you can be a Christian UU? You can learn more about how people are both at: <http://uuchristian.org/> Ask and find out from people during refreshment time to people in our congregation "Are you a Christian UU? If so, What is hard? What is easy? What do they love about it?"

Jesus and Parables

- Two famous musicals are based on the life and words of Jesus: *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Rent the movies or, if you can, attend a live performance.
- Search "parables of Jesus" on YouTube to find many clips of parables, including an animated series by Nest Learning. This one is based on the [House Upon the Rock](#).

Catholicism

- Check out [Life Teen](#), a website for Catholic youth, which has movie reviews and advice on topics (like what to do if you did not keep your promise during Lent) and answers to questions on church doctrine. It even has a video game: *Vatican Ninja vs. Pirates*.
 - On the website, [A Nun's Life](#), explore for personal statements, news, and information about nuns' daily lives. A 2009 National Public Radio story, [The Lives of Modern American Nuns](#), gives a glimpse into the role of nuns today.
 - Many UUs like to talk about famous UUs. Being such a large faith, there are many famous Catholics. Here is one list of [the famous](#).
 - Have you read the books or seen the movies in [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)? The author, C.S. Lewis was an influential Catholic. His official website includes a [biography](#). Can you identify the Catholic imagery in *The Chronicles*? Some is explained in the article, "[The Wardrobe as Christian Metaphor](#)," by Don W. King.
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