



4-5th graders JANUARY 14, 2018

- **FAMILY TAKE-IT-HOME** by Mary Collins Children’s Program Coordinator
- **Soul Matter Theme of the Month: INTENTION**
- **Session Topic: Fail Again, Fail Better,**
- **UU Principle # 3 We are Free to Learn Together**



Sunday Activities:

- **REFLECTION on Mistakes & Intention**
- **MOVEMENT ACTIVITY** – Horrible> Beautiful – can we transform with our intentions?
- **Create an INTENTION PATH** using this quote

"Ever tried? Ever failed? No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better."
~Samuel Beckett Worstward Ho

- **STORY: The Wise Fool** (From Tapestry of Faith, Spirit in Practice, Life Practices <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/practice/workshop8/60540.shtml>) This is a short story about finding



Once the great Sufi holy man and wise fool Nasreddin Hodja was walking down the street when a group of women came running up to him. Obviously distressed, they cried out to him, “Help us, Hodja! Help us.”

“What can be done I will try to do,” the Hodja replied. “What seems to be the trouble?” “Our husbands,” the women cried. “They’ve all decided that they must go out into the desert in order to dedicate themselves to finding Allah. Our children and we have been abandoned.”

“This should not be,” the Hodja declared, and he set out after the pilgrims as fast as his donkey could carry him. As he approached the band of men, he began to shout, “Help me! Help me, my brothers.”

“What seems to be the trouble, Hodja?” the men called back.

“My donkey,” he said. “I’ve lost my donkey & can’t find him anywhere. Oh, help me search. I must find him!”

“But he’s right there,” the men replied, laughing. “Can’t you see that you’re sitting right on top of him? You don’t have to go anywhere to look for him.”

“And why do you,” the Hodja said, pulling his donkey to a stop, “feel that you must go anywhere to look for Allah? Go back to your wives; go back to your lives.” And that’s just what they did.

MESSAGE – As people in this story - sometimes we go out searching for Allah, or Truth, or our Intentions when we are “sitting right on top of them.” Remember we all fail and can just return again and again to them, as part of our lives. Keep your eyes and spirit open! UU Principle # 3 We are free to learn together!

FAMILY TAKE-IT-HOME Additional Faith Formation idea

- **Mistakes Ritual** - What do you do when you make mistakes and want to make up? Many faiths have a ritual. UU’s don’t - YET. Create one because we all make mistakes and need a way to return to our intentions. What can your family create? Use these steps as a general guideline and come up with their own family ritual.
 - A mistake hurts and reminds us we are failing. How do we return to our intentions?
 - Opening words. Tell the story about the mistake.
 - Meditation. Imagine what it would be like if it got better..
 - Action Plan. Make a plan. Do something to help make it better.
 - Express Gratitude. Song, poem, art. Give thanks and gratitude for what you do have.
 - Music. Set aside anger to be free from its poison.
 - Celebrate a return to Intention. Permission to heal.