



JOURNEY IN... YEAR TWO COMMUNITY DRAMA

This lesson's Big Ideas:

- An important unit in human community is the family.
- Unitarian Universalism celebrates and affirms many different types of families.
- Love is what bonds a group of people together as a family.

Lesson Materials

- Tableau topic sheet cut into slips of paper
- Hat or basket to draw slips from
- 20 copies of the tableau topic sheet for reference
- Whatever props are available in your drama room
- Bell

TEACHER REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

🕒 Ahead of time

A child and parent were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. The child said to the parent, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?" The parent answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it." The child began to push the rock with every ounce of energy available. The child pushed and pushed, but the rock did not move. Discouraged, the little one said to the parent, "You were wrong. I can't do it." The parent placed an arm around the child's shoulder and said, "No, love. You didn't use all your strength – you didn't ask me to help."

- adapted from D. Wolpe's

Teaching Your Children About God

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.

-Erma Bombeck

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

-Desmond Tutu

Family life is full of major and minor crises ~ the ups and downs of health, success and failure in career, marriage, and divorce ~ and all kinds of characters. It is tied to places and events and histories. With all of these felt details, life etches itself into memory and personality. It's difficult to imagine anything more nourishing to the soul.

- Thomas Moore

**YOUR FIELD
EXPERIENCES:
FEEDBACK AND
NOTES**

GATHERING AND FOCUSING

🕒 5-10 minutes

An ‘impression’ is when you imitate someone by speaking, acting, or gesturing as they do. We’re going to each take a turn doing an impression of someone in our family. Doing an impression of someone does not mean making fun of someone in this case. We’re going to do things that are funny, but only impressions that we would even do right in front of this family member because we’re sure that it wouldn’t hurt their feelings.

Does anyone in your family have a unique laugh? A phrase that they say all the time? A certain way of waving or putting on their hat or answering the phone? Can you imitate that for us now so that we can imagine how they do it?

(Give the kids 1-2 minutes to think of something. Have an impression of your own to do to set the standard. Go around the class and take turns doing a very brief impression.)

**PRIMARY ACTIVITY
FAMILY TABLEAUX:
A CHARADE GAME**

🕒 35-45 minutes

We’ll play charades today by having groups of kids (teams, if you choose) do tableaux of families doing everyday family things. A ‘tableau’ is like a freeze-frame, like everyone acting as if they’re in a photograph or a painting. (*Tableau* is the French word for ‘painting’.)

The topics for the tableau are in two different formats: 1.) slips of paper with one tableau each that teams or groups will draw out of a hat and 2.) ‘cheat sheets’ listing all the different topics, to help the Workshop Leader give support and to help younger groups guess. Feel free to play the game without giving the ‘guessers’ a cheat sheet; they’re there for you to use at your discretion.

Depending on the attendance, you’ll have to figure out how to divide the class into ‘characters’ and ‘guessers’. These groups can stay the same throughout the workshop or they can change with each turn. Most of the tableaux need a minimum of 3 players.

To take a turn, have a child draw a topic from the hat. The character group has 30 seconds to go into the hallway or behind the curtain to prepare their poses. You can use the bell provided to signal that it's time to perform the tableau. Once the players are onstage, the guessing can begin as soon as the characters are all frozen in their positions.

Guidelines:

- Props are okay! Be creative!
- Moving or talking is not okay. Be like statues!
- Everyone in your group needs a role. Be inviting!

This activity can be done as a game. You can choose to do it in 'rounds' to avoid having to shuffle big groups of kids around at each turn. One 'round' can be four or five topics done by the same group. You can choose to keep score to see which team is good at guessing.

Wondering Together

These wondering questions can follow each tableau or round of tableaux or can be discussed at the end of the session. Be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to talk about the idea of family.

- I wonder which of these situations looked familiar to you?
- I wonder if it would make a difference how big or small a family is in these tableaux?
- How many people make a family, in your experience?
- What is it that makes a group of people a family?
- If you saw people doing these tableaux activities together in real life, would you guess that they were a family? Which ones seemed like real family activities?
- I wonder what kinds of things you like doing with your family?

CLOSING AND LEAVE-TAKING

🕒 2 minutes

Gather in a circle, assume a comfortable meditative position or take each other's hands. Speak these words, or words like them, the children repeating each line after you, the teacher.

May all families grow strong.
May our church be a place that welcomes all families.
May all families grow strong.

<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that has just got a new pet</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is throwing a birthday party for one of the family members</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is watching a scary movie together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is attending a parade together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is cheering on a family member at a sporting event</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is camping together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is with a family member in the hospital</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is at church together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is eating a big dinner together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that's playing a board game together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is playing outside together in the snow</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is getting ready in the morning</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is trying to move something heavy together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is playing a bunch of musical instruments together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is dancing the Locomotive (or Caterpillar) dance</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is taking part in a wedding</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is seeing a new baby brother or sister for the first time</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family on a roller coaster</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is working together in the yard or garden</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family opening gifts at Christmas or Channukah or Kwanzaa</p>

<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family teaching a family member to ride a bike</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that's taking a car trip together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is posing for a family portrait at the photo studio together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is cleaning the house together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that has gone out for ice cream together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is canoeing together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is rollerblading together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is attending a funeral or memorial service together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is praying or meditating together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is hiking together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that's making a sandcastle.</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is having a picnic together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is swimming together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is arguing about something</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is playing cards together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is reading together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is working on homework together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family doing laundry together</p>
<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is roasting marshmallows over a campfire together</p>	<p>FREEZE! Pose as a family that is fishing together</p>