



JOURNEY IN... YEAR TWO COMMUNITY MUSIC

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

Percussion instrument ingredients:

- Paper towel tubes
- Rice
- Beans
- Jar or (safe) can lids
- Walnuts
- Plastic eggs
- Jingle bells
- Dowels
- Baby food jars
- Paper plates
- Empty bottles, coffee cans
- Rubber bands
- Markers and colored tape for decor

Low-temp glue guns
Ribbon and gift tags
Paper lunch bags
Card game "Quartet"

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

GATHERING AND FOCUSING

⌚ 3-5 minutes

Go around the room and ask each child when his or her family sings together. What are some songs they sing? Attached is a list of family songs that you can poll the kids on. Does anyone's family ever play instruments together?

PRIMARY ACTIVITY ONE FAMILY RHYTHM BAND

⌚ 25-30 minutes

We'll make a set of hand-made instruments, one for each member of our immediate family. We'll pack them up and take them home and invite our families to make music together.

- In the workshop space, we'll have lots of items that can be combined in many different ways, just like people can be combined in many different, loving ways to create families. These materials are here for each child to create a set of rhythm instruments for each person in your family at home. You can give these instruments as a gift and encourage your family to spend some time making music together, maybe tonight or sometime this week.
- Instruments even have 'families'. Ask the kids if they can name some of the families, like woodwinds, brasses, strings.
- Brainstorm together. How can we put these different materials together to make some kind of wind instrument? Percussion? String? Some possibilities include:
 - shakers
 - finger cymbals
 - rainsticks
 - kazoos
 - rubber band guitars
- There are ribbons and name tags to tie around each rhythm gift and paper bags to carry them home in.
- Everyone is responsible for tidying up his or her workspace.
- While we make our instruments, we'll listen to some music made by a family that has played together for three generations in the Abbott Family Band. Ask the kids if they know what a 'generation' is...

Save 10 minutes at the end of the workshop to share: invite children to show their instruments, demonstrate their sound and say who each instrument is for.

TIME FILLER

QUARTET CARD GAME

🕒 As many minutes as you need to fill

In the classroom, you'll find the card game "Quartet", which is like "Old Maid" or "Go Fish", but the suits are groups of instruments. Review the whole deck of cards by suit, shuffle them and then deal them out, 3-4 cards to a player on average, with or without a 'drawing pond'. Have players ask each other, "Do you have a Folksie instrument?"

Wondering Together

- How can you tell that an instrument is part of a certain family?
- How can you tell that people are part of a certain family? Is it how they look? How they talk? Where they live? How can you tell?

CLOSING AND LEAVE-TAKING

🕒 2-5 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,
Like trees rooted deep in love,
Like trees that reach toward the light,
Like trees that bear fruits that nourish all people.
May all families grow strong.

Great Family Sing-along Songs

Does your family ever sing....? How does the first line go? Where do you sing it?

- ❑ Alice the Camel
- ❑ The Bear Song (The other day...I met a bear)
- ❑ The Chalice Song (It's a blessing we were born...)
- ❑ Boom-chicka-boom
- ❑ Found a Peanut
- ❑ Little Green Frog
- ❑ The Green Grass Grows All Around
- ❑ The Song that Never Ends
- ❑ Happy Birthday to You
- ❑ Go Now In Peace
- ❑ If You're Happy and You Know It
- ❑ Grandfather's Clock
- ❑ Make New Friends
- ❑ The Johnny Appleseed Song
- ❑ You Are My Sunshine
- ❑ The Ants Go Marching
- ❑ I Like to Eat Apples and Bananas
- ❑ I Wish I Were A Little Bar of Soap
- ❑ Jingle Bells
- ❑ For He's a Jolly Good Fellow
- ❑ I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee
- ❑ On Top of Spaghetti
- ❑ Home on the Range
- ❑ Spirit of Life

What other songs do you sing as a family?