



JOURNEY IN... YEAR TWO THE DIVINE WITHIN DRAMA

This lesson's Big Ideas:

- When we recognize that the Divine that is within us is also in every other human being, we feel compassion for ourselves and for others.
- Compassion, the deep understanding and sharing of another being's feelings, can be cultivated and nurtured.
- Acted upon, compassion contributes to our own well-being and the greater good of the entire world.

Lesson Materials

- Several copies of the script for "The Mime Samaritan"
- White face paint
- Long balloons
- Bandannas
- Costume pieces
- Circus poster
- Oversized circus tickets
- Baby wipes for clean up

TEACHER REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

🕒 Ahead of time

Jesus said to them, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Rabbi, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:35-40

When you begin to touch your heart or let your heart be touched, you begin to discover that it's bottomless, that it doesn't have any resolution, that this heart is huge, vast, and limitless. You begin to discover how much warmth and gentleness is there, as well as how much space. - Pema Chödrön

A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. - A. Einstein

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

- The Dalai Lama

GATHERING AND FOCUSING

🕒 5 minutes

To warm up, we'll play the mirror game. Position yourself in pairs, like a person and his or her reflection in a mirror. Take turns being the person and the reflection. How closely can you pay attention to the person and follow his or her movements and expressions.

This activity can be done in pairs in front of the remaining student 'audience' or done all at once, depending on the size of the group.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY

THE CLOWN SAMARITAN: A MIME SKIT

🕒 45 minutes

- We have a script for a short skit called "The Clown Samaritan". The funny thing about our script is that there aren't any lines. We're going to do the skit in a kind of theatrical clowning called mime. This skit is taken and adapted from www.clown-ministry.com.
- Allow most of the time for rehearsal, but be sure to give the children reminders as the time for performance approaches. Allow at least 8 minutes for performance and an additional 5-10 for clean-up.
- This skit can be performed for the preschool classes, the nursery children, or even in the Parish Hall. See Kerri to make plans.

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.

YOUR FIELD EXPERIENCES: FEEDBACK AND NOTES

The Holy is inside us
 And the Holy is inside everyone
 May we love and understand ourselves
 May we love and understand others
 May we love and understand the whole Universe
 May our hearts be tender
 May our minds shine friendliness into the world

and/or

We want others to be happy
 Let us practice compassion
 We want to be happy ourselves
 Let us practice compassion

THE MIME SAMARITAN

The Mime Samaritan - a silent skit for 2 or more clowns, retelling the parable of the Good Samaritan

Props needed: a circus poster, two oversized tickets to the circus, foam "bats" or inflated long balloons for the robbers, a balloon pump, bandaids. One child can act as **Properties Master**.

Mimes needed: **Whiteface the Clown, a hobo, two robbers, three other whitefaced players**

Other roles include: **Costume Artist(s), Director(s), Prompter(s), additional whitefaced players.**

Costume ideas:

- white face paint for the four clowns
- funny hat, oversized jacket and handkerchief-on-a-stick for the hobo
- bandanna masks for the two robbers

Scene begins with poster displayed prominently, on a podium, back wall, etc.

Whiteface enters, walks by circus poster, does a "take", looks at the audience, looks at the poster, mimes his desire to see the circus ~ possibly acts out his favorite parts, walking a tight rope, juggling, being an elephant, etc. Pulls his pockets inside out, looking for money (possibly looking through his vest pockets, hat, inside his shoe, etc.) ~ but finding none. He is now very sad and disappointed, and must show his emotions to the audience silently.

Hobo enters, whistling a happy tune ~ clearly all is well with his world. Nothing irritates a body more than someone who's happy when you're miserable, as the Whiteface now demonstrates. The Hobo is taken aback, but then he pulls out **two** tickets to the circus ~ and motions that they could go together!

The Whiteface is now taken aback ~ the very **idea** that **he** would go **anywhere** with a smelly Hobo! He makes his position clear, and now walks to the left of the stage, walking in place (so the audience knows he's walking away), as the Hobo reacts, head bent down, melancholy. Hobo leaves the stage, brokenhearted.

As the Whiteface walks away, he's accosted by 2 or more robbers, who proceed to beat him with foam bats, or inflated balloons, or any other "clownish" weapons ~ and steal his clown shoes! They exit with their booty.

One by one, three other whitefaced players - who look an awful lot like Whiteface the Clown and could even be his or her neighbors - pass by the hurt, unconscious Whiteface. They obviously see him there but their hearts are hard. They step away or over the body and hurry on their way, perhaps looking at their watches or waving to imaginary friends as they go.

Who should wander by the wounded Whiteface than the Hobo? He sees the Whiteface, and listens for breathing. Quickly, he gets out his balloon pump, and pumps breath into the wounded Whiteface - mouth-to-pump resuscitation! He covers Whiteface with bandaids (or any other "clownish" help you care to insert here, as the Hobo ministers to the wounded Whiteface). He helps the Whiteface up, and they exit, the Whiteface leaning on the Hobo as he hobbles off.

The End.