

UU Identity & History

Lesson 10: How do we live our faith? Part 2

Unity's own seekers of justice and care

12.15.2019

Objectives: Introduce youth to UUs living out their faith in the world today.

Materials: Flipchart, guest UU speaker.

Time allotments suggested for 50 minute class, followed by 25 minute closing service.

1. **Nametags and Graffiti Wall** (5 minutes before class begins)

- Make nametags using blank paper, markers, and holders. Youth can create their own unique but LEGIBLE nametag. Make it a regular practice to wear nametags.
- “Graffiti Wall” questions: Write the following on whiteboard. Invite youth as they arrive to grab a marker and weigh in with their responses:
 - ▶ What works of justice and peace do you know of that Unity is committed to?
 - ▶ What work of justice-peace-service have you participated in as a UU?
- Teachers complete attendance sheets.

2. **Silly Fun: “Go, Grab, Go!”** (5 minutes max)

Participants stand in a circle, arms out to the side. Left hand palm up, right index finger pointing down and touching neighbor's outstretched palm.

When teacher says “GO,” youth do two things: (1) try to grab the finger in their left hand, and (2) prevent their right finger from being grabbed. Repeat several times.

Then add a bit of challenge by having youth NOT go on “GO” but wait until they hear the word “Justice” before they try to grab fingers (i.e. “Go... Go... Go... Justice!”).

3. **Chalice Lighting:** Light the chalice, saying these words together: *“We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith; the light of truth and the warmth of love.”*

Teacher reads: (from saying in UU communities)

“What saves us in the end is not right knowledge but right relationships we have with one another.”

4. **Unity's prophets who live the faith** (45 minutes)

We have invited a Unity member to come and be our guest for today's class. They will share a bit about their work of justice, care, peace in their faith journey and then have opportunity to be "interviewed" by youths.

Teachers: (1) Please facilitate by welcoming and introducing guest to youth, (2) inviting guest to begin sharing their spiritual autobiography and how social justice and peace work connects to their faith, and (3) leading the interview time with some opening questions, including some the following and questions of your own:

- How does your faith connect with your commitment to social justice and peace?
- We've looked at some UU prophets who have pursued justice and peace in the world. What's your understanding of being prophetic?
- Does your being Unitarian Universalist shape your work in any specific way? Is it different from someone who is from another faith tradition?
- What are the sources that inspire and sustain your work? What do you rely upon, trust, or draw strength from?
- Have there been moments when your UU faith and your work of justice came into conflict with each other?
- We've looked at Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton and others who "spoke truth to those in power." What has it meant to you to speak truth to those in power?
- There are times when what is "just" to one side seems "unjust" to the other. How do you decide when there are competing interpretations of justice (like Israel and Palestine)?
- Might there be a unique contribution or role that young people can play in works of justice and peace? What would that be?

5. **Extinguish the chalice**, saying together: *"May the light of truth and the warmth of love go with us in our hearts."*

6. **Help clean up classroom** before leaving: Please keep regular practice of readying classroom for the next class.

- leave lesson plan and all materials organized
- wipe the whiteboard clean
- tables and chairs neatly returned
- nametags collected in Ziploc bag
- leave any comments for RE staff on attendance sheets