



# 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

- One teacher prepared to share their screen with this document open (instrument families image p. 5, family song list p. 4, and closing)
- One teacher prepared to share their screen with 2-4 of the YouTube videos about families cued up after ads.

## 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

## **CHECK-IN**

🕒 5-10 minutes

Allow one of the teachers to lead the group in a name game, an icebreaker, a get-to-know-you questions, or a simple ‘How are things?’ moment. Spend more time if the group seems eager to connect with each other. Light the chalice and say:

“We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth, and the warmth of love.”

## **COVENANT**

🕒 3 minutes

Review the discussion of how the group wants to be together. Update the notes, if necessary. Save the covenant for future classes.

- Share this document on your screen, if you can.

## **GATHERING AND FOCUSING**

🕒 5 minutes

- Musical instruments have ‘families!’ Ask the kids if they can name some of the families, like woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings.
- Ask the kids if they know some of the members of each of these families.
- After some brainstorming, one teacher should share their screen so everyone can see the image of instrument families at the end of the lesson.

### **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?

## **PRIMARY ACTIVITY ONE SONGS ABOUT FAMILIES**

🕒 15-20 minutes

Here are links to several songs on YouTube about families. Preview them and pick out the ones that you think are the best fit for your group. Before watching together, ask the kids to think about families and what they learn about families while watching. Feel free to let this activity go long and have less or no time for the next activity or vice versa.

- ["Family" by Laurie Berkner Band](#) Video runs 3:01, but you can cue it up ahead of time to skip the 11 seconds of intro. This is a fun, bouncy song about the many people that might be in a family and emphasizes that love is what makes a family. Good for all ages.
- ["This is my Family" – Small Potatoes](#) Video runs 3:00, but you can cue it up ahead of time to skip the 30 seconds of intro. This is a more quiet and thoughtful song about the many different people that can make up a family. Also emphasizes the importance of love. Good for all ages.
- ["We Are a Family" by Jack Hartmann](#) Video runs just over 4 minutes. This is a happy song with a slower tempo. Photos show a wide variety of groups and teams including nurses and elders. The singer also signs the lyrics in ASL (American Sign Language).
- ["We Are Family" by Sister Sledge](#) Video runs 3:06. All of the teachers will know this song and the kids will love it. Let them dance a little if they want to!

## **PRIMARY ACTIVITY TWO**

### **FAMILY SONGS**

🕒 10-15 minutes

Ask the kids to raise their hands if their family sings together. What are some songs they sing? Page 4 has a list of family songs that you can poll the kids on. Does anyone's family ever play instruments together? Take some time and sing either songs that most of the kids know or songs that few of the kids know that the teachers remember. You might have a child or a teacher volunteer to sing alone or you might have a few people sing together. It can be challenging to keep a large group together with small variations in internet timing, but small groups can often do pretty well singing together.

### **CLOSING AND LEAVE-TAKING**

🕒 3 minutes

Share this page on one teacher's screen. Join hands in a circle (by having everyone hold their hands up at the edge of the view of their camera) or ask everyone to assume a comfortable, meditative position. Speak these words, or words like them, the children repeating each line after you.

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.

Unlight the chalice, saying: though we extinguish the light of the chalice here, we know that the light of truth and the warmth of love go with us in our hearts.

## 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?

# THE INSTRUMENT FAMILIES

## Woodwind Family



## Brass Family



## String Family



## Percussion Family

