

Promises--General Lesson (NP)

Materials:

Tray with underlay (rainbow on one side, deep purple on other side; outline of gold circle and triangles can be marked on fabric, about 20" square) rolled up; basket with objects: small wrapped gift, heart, felt flame or wooden flame, flower, bell, dove, and earth picture or ball; basket with seven promises (equilateral triangles in rainbow colors, see Flaming Chalice lesson); large gold circle 7" in diameter.

Notes: Practice placing triangles so that they are distributed evenly around the gold circle or mark placement on fabric. For older children who can read, also prepare laminated cards (see control card file) to lay out in an extension lesson where they can match the words to the triangles and objects.

This lesson can be done in stages, depending on the age of the children. You can introduce the first three and then add another one each time, or do 3 then 4.

Presentation:

Now watch where I get the lesson.

*Take tray from shelf and place on floor next to you.
Point around circle of children on rug.*

This is the circle of our community.

Roll out underlay rainbow side up and smooth down.

This is the Rainbow Path of our Unitarian Universalism community, the way we try to live our lives.

Take out large gold circle and place in middle of underlay.

This is the Spirit of Love and Justice and Truth, the Spirit of Mystery that some people call God. We use the color gold for the Mystery. You know, sometimes, it's hard to be in community. One person might do something that another one doesn't like. They might think someone is being unfair.

Take basket with triangles and basket of objects and put in front of you.

In our Unitarian Universalist community we make promises to each other about how we will treat each other, so that we all get along and do what's right. Can you tell me what a promise is? (Respond to answers) These promises are also called our principles.

Place red triangle on underlay at bottom of gold circle, pointing in.

Our first promise is red for Each Person is Important. Each person is special just by being his or her self. Each person is a gift. You are special just by being yourself. You are a gift.

Take out red gift box and place on gold circle across from red triangle.

We don't know all the wonderful things about each other until we learn about each other, find out all of our gifts. We are all precious so we treat each other as a little part of the Mystery.

Place orange triangle on underlay to left of red circle, pointing into gold circle.

Our second promise is orange for Be kind in all you do. Since we believe that all people are gifts, we need to be kind and fair to them.

Take out orange heart and place on gold circle across from orange triangle.

This heart reminds us to be kind to all people.

Place yellow triangle to left of orange circle, pointing into gold circle.

Our third promise is yellow for We are free to learn together.

Take out yellow flame and place on gold circle across from yellow triangle.

By thinking about ourselves and other people and learning & celebrating our differences, we are reminded by this flame that we are all connected to the Mystery that some people call God.

Place green triangle to left of yellow circle, pointing into gold circle.

Our fourth promise is green for Search for what is true.

Take out flower and place on gold circle across from green triangle.

It's sometimes hard to decide what is true and right, so this flower reminds us that we grow as people by exploring answers to our questions. We may find different answers to the same questions, or questions that have no answers, but we keep on asking.

Place blue triangle on underlay to left of green circle, pointing into gold circle.

Our fifth promise is blue for All people need a voice.

Take out bell and place on gold circle across from blue triangle.

Once we figure out what is right and true for us, this bell reminds us that we have to try to do what's true and right, not just talk about it. The bell is that little voice inside us that lets us know when something we do is right or wrong.

Place indigo triangle to left of blue circle, pointing into gold circle.

Our sixth promise is indigo or dark blue for build a fair and peaceful world. We try to do what's right and we want all people to have freedom and justice in their lives. Justice means being fair to everyone. Peace means living together in harmony.

Take out dove and place on gold circle across from dark blue triangle.

The dove reminds of us peace for all.

Take out violet triangle. Place on underlay to left of dark blue circle, pointing into gold circle.

The seventh and last promise is violet, a kind of purple color, for We care for mother earth and all who call her home. We value each living being as a gift just like we do people.

Take out the Earth and place on gold circle across from violet triangle.

This Earth reminds us again that we are all connected in our lives. We need to be careful of what we do so that all living beings on Earth will have clean water, and clean air, and enough places to live. We need to remember that we are only one being on the Earth and that there are many others that we need to respect.

Count the triangles around the circle, touching each one.

There are seven promises we make to each other to help us be in community. They remind us that we are connected to each other and to the spirit of Love or Mystery which some people call God.

Wondering Questions:

I wonder what part of the story you liked the best?

I wonder what part is most important?

I wonder where you are in the story?

I wonder if there is any part of the story that we can leave out and still have all the story we need?