



JOURNEY IN... YEAR ONE



COMMUNITY ART

This lesson's Big Ideas:

- In a Beloved Community, every individual both brings to and takes from the community something unique and valuable.
- We are more together than we are separately.

Lesson Materials

- Photocopies of attached drawing sheet (1 per child)
- Art scraps for creating sculptures
 - Foam pieces
 - Toothpicks
 - Feathers
 - Sequins
 - Felt
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Etc.
- Quick-drying craft glue or low-temp glue guns
- Timer

TEACHER REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

🕒 Ahead of time

Unity is not something we are called to create; it's something we are called to recognize.

-William Sloan Coffin

The moving finger of God in human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community.

-Howard Thurman

Our lives extend beyond our skins, in radical interdependence with the rest of the world.

-Joanna Macy

...it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

-Marge Piercy

Questions:

- What do you bring to your church community? What parts of yourself do you offer up?
- What do you take away when you leave church? What are the blessings of this place and its people?

GATHERING AND FOCUSING

🕒 8 minutes

We'll warm up our creative selves with an activity that has us drawing new beings collaboratively. You can work within our theme, asking children to create pictures of Really Helpful Friends (and give license to make superhumans) or Unique New Church Members (and let their imaginations get a little wild), if you want.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LESSON

- Remind children that using too much glue can ruin their project. Great globs of glue mean that things won't dry fast enough and may slip out of place.

YOUR FIELD EXPERIENCES: FEEDBACK AND NOTES

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- Ahead of time, copy the attached drawing sheet and fold it into thirds at the marks long the sides of the paper. Have a stack ready to go.
- Sit around one large table, if possible. You'll be passing drawings around from person to person and the order in which you pass paper will need to be clear.
- The first artist will work with only the section labeled 'Head' exposed. They draw the head and extend the neck lines *just* onto the 'Body/Arms' section. Have the child refold so that their art is hidden and the second section is facing up. Pass the artwork on to the right or left.
- The second and third artists will repeat the same process to draw the body and the legs. When the work is finished, have the artists share it!

PRIMARY ACTIVITY ONE INDEPENDENT SCULPTURE

🕒 20 minutes

The two primary activities are linked, in that each child will independently create a bit of sculpture to contribute to the larger group's collaborative sculpture. Explain this process to the kids and help them to decide whether they'd like to create a particular form (person, church, chalice, animal) or something abstract. If they decide on a form, they will want to delegate the different responsibilities necessary to create it.

- Set the timer for a period of time that will give the group enough time to create, collaborate and clean up (around 15 minutes for this part).
- Give the kids access to the sculpting materials and whatever adhesive you're using. Younger kids will need help with low-temp glue guns. The best sculpting materials for a short period of time are foam pieces and toothpicks.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY TWO COLLABORATIVE SCULPTURE

🕒 10 minutes

- Before beginning the collaboration, remind the kids that what's most important here is not the final product, but the cooperation and involvement of every child. Encourage them to talk and use their problem-solving skills.
- Have each child bring their sculpture to the group and present it. Ask each child a question about their inspiration. The group will decide together how best to incorporate it.
- Provide all the necessary materials and encouragement.

GATHERING AND REFLECTING

🕒 10 minutes

- Ask what takes more time: cleaning up by yourself or cleaning up with a lot of other friends?
- Clean up the area and select somewhere to display the sculpture.

Wondering Together

- I wonder if anyone could have created this thing if they had been working alone? Would it have looked the same?
- I wonder if you were watching and thinking about other kids' parts of the sculpture while you made your own? Did you get any ideas or try to plan ahead?
- I wonder how making this sculpture together might be kind of like making a community at church?

CLOSING AND LEAVE-TAKING

🕒 2 minutes

Hold hands, forming a circle. Have the children repeat each line after you, chorally.

In this community, we give and we receive.

May we go forth, now,

to share the bounty of our love.

- Sydney Kay Wilde

LEGS

BODY & ARMS

HEAD