

JOURNEY IN...

YEAR ONE

COMMUNITY

DRAMA

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

- Shadow puppet screen (a white shower curtain taped in an opening or doorway works)
- Black posterboard or extra file folders to cut into puppets
- Scissors
- Brass-plated fasteners
- Straws
- Overhead projector or other bright light source (old Dukane projectors work)

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

- 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?

PRIMARY ACTIVITY ONE

WARM UP: HALL OF MIRRORS

⌚ 10-15 minutes

This activity will get the kids loosened up and help them to respond to the members of their group.

- Have the students form a circle. We're imagining that we've wandered into a hall of mirrors. Every person we see is a reflection of ourselves. Whatever we do, the mirrors reflect it right back at us.
- Each child will have a turn visiting the hall of mirrors. They step

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LESSON

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YOUR FIELD EXPERIENCES: FEEDBACK AND NOTES

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in toward the center of the circle. They have a minute or so (the teacher decides) to make faces and gestures, which every child in the circle of ‘mirrors’ will imitate.

- To conclude, have everyone mirror absolute stillness.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY TWO SHADOW PUPPETRY: STONE SOUP

⌚ 45-50 minutes

The students will create a shadow puppet show that tells the story of Stone Soup. Some of the students will already have been to the Story Workshop and will be familiar with the story. Other groups may need this prompt:

Three people visit a village where the people don’t seem to care much about their community. They are selfish and they keep to themselves. The three visitors decide to teach the villagers about community by making Stone Soup. They start with three stones and water, which makes the villagers curious. The visitors say that Stone Soup is good, but it’s even better with other ingredients. The villagers all suggest something to add and they bring many new ingredients to the soup pot. By the time they’re finished, the visitors and the people of the village have made a great pot of delicious soup. The village shares a wonderful feast and the people learn about the blessings of community.

- Each Sunday, the group of children can make a few puppets for the show. By the sixth week, you’ll have a rich cast. Cut the puppet parts from stiff posterboard or file folders. Hinge any moving parts, such as arms or legs, together with brass-plated fasteners. Connect each part to a straw; the straws will be the handles by which the children manipulate the puppets.
- Once everyone has completed a puppet, the show can begin. The cast and props will be basic for the first week. If this proves problematic with very small classes, you can prepare shadow puppets yourself for the children to use.
- Turn on the light. Give the children a moment to situate themselves. You can narrate the show yourself for younger children or invite an older child to be the play’s narrator. Children can speak for their puppets.
- If the class is large, they can take turns putting on a show and being the narrator.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LESSON

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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