

UU Identity & History

Lesson 11: How do we live our faith? Part 2: Unity's own seekers of justice and care

5.09.2021

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

Materials: UU guest! Teachers should download lesson plan onto their desktop.

Time allotments: Suggested for 60 minute online class.

1. Zoom Welcome (as youth arrive into the breakout classroom)

- Teachers and youth are expected to log on to zoom at 11:15am (15 min before class begins at 11:30am) so that everyone can be organized into correct breakout classrooms. We want to make sure there is an attentive adult in each breakout classroom with youth.
- Greet youth and ask everyone to correct their display name as needed. Ask everyone to select "gallery view" to see everyone else.
- Staff will take attendance.
- *Encourage youth to begin thinking about questions to ask our guest.*

2. Zoom Icebreaker: Fill-in-the-blank Stories (5 minutes, begin while waiting for everyone to arrive)

Invite a youth to make up the beginning of a story i.e. "Once upon a time there was an octopus that really liked to play water polo..." Then have them call on another person to continue the story. After each person adds a sentence to the story, have them call on the next person to continue the story until everyone has gone. Ask the last person to end the story.

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. **Brief Check-in** (5 minutes)

Continue weekly ritual/check-in (e.g. sharing a joy or sorrow so that everyone feels present in class).

5. **Unity's prophets who live the faith** (50 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:

- Why do you engage in justice work? Do you engage with justice work differently by being a person of faith, and particularly UU, from the way others may engage with it? If so, how?
- What difference does it make to be part of a *faith community* engaged in justice work?
- In what specific ways have you been challenged to grow in the way you pursue social justice, especially as a UU? 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?
- When what is "just" to one side seems "unjust" to the other, when there are competing interpretations of justice (like Israel and Palestine), how do you decide what justice looks like?
- We've looked at UU prophets, like Dorothea Dix, who "spoke truth to those in power." What does it mean to you to speak truth to those in power? We also talked about being visionary as a way to "see" into the future. What does it mean to you to be visionary?
- Is there a unique contribution or role that young people can play in works of justice and peace? What would that be?

6. **Announcement:** Next week is our closing celebration. Thanks for being with us this semester.

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

8. **Leave zoom breakout classroom:** wait until all youth have left, click “Leave” then “Leave Meeting.”