

Religions of Star Trek

Lesson 5: What Does It Mean to Be Human?—“Measure of Man”

Star Date 3.7.21

Objectives: Explore the NG episode “Measure of a Man” and compare the issues raised in the story to the Seven UU Principles.

Materials: Teachers should download lesson plan and attachments onto their desktop, login to Unity’s **Amazon Video** account.

Time allotment: Suggested for a 60 minute online class.

**** Note: Today we are watching a full episode, which is 45min long. In order to have time for discussion, please start class promptly, limit sharing and begin video as soon as possible. ****

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.

2. Chalice Lighting

Light a chalice at your home, invite youth to light their own chalices and say together: *“We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.”*

Teacher reads: (from the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln)

“I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal.”

3. Brief Check-in (5 minutes)

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

4. Introduction: “Measure of a Man” (45 minutes)

Teacher summarizes: Last week we learned about the NG character, Data, and explored ideas about what it is to be human. We looked at emotions, relationships, and the growth of character. And we touched a little on what it means to be “alive.”

Today we are going to watch an entire episode that deals with all of those things and takes it several steps further. Watch the episode closely and see which of the seven UU principles stand up front and center within the story line.

- **Ask youth to write the seven UU principles on a piece of paper, leaving space to note connections between the principles and episode.** Teachers can screen share lesson plan 5a as an example.
- **Screen share (with audio): “Measure of a Man” NG, Season 2, Episode 9**
https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00C1S945G/ref=atv_yv_hom_c_unkc_1_1
(Login to Unity’s Amazon account, episode is already purchased.)

5. Questions for Discussion (10 minutes)

- What UU principles did the story line reflect?
- What did you think about or feel as you watched? Did anything surprise you?
- Was there anything in the episode that made you think of events currently happening? Or perhaps events from the past?
- What do you think would happen if it had ended the other way? How would that have made you feel and why?
- How would you handle it if you were in Data’s place?

6. Extinguish the chalice, saying together: “May the light of truth and the warmth of love go with us in our hearts.”

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