



The Sorting Hat

Lesson Overview

Purpose:

The Sorting Hat describes itself as being very smart and able to see inside our heads.
It knows exactly where we need to be.
Our Christ presence is the same way.
It is within us, it is our source and it is always available to guide us.

Unity Principle

- ◇ #2 – The presence of God dwells within each person.

Important Points

- ◇ We can find the answers to all of our questions by seeking guidance from the Christ within. As we act upon the guidance of our Christ presence, we manifest our good.
- ◇ We receive guidance from within and it is up to us to make the most of it.
- ◇ As reflections of our inner guidance, outer signs and voices can be helpful in getting our attention, reminding us who we are and showing us the way.
- ◇ Your inner guidance will always steer us in the right direction.
- ◇ Jesus told us that our inner guidance can come at any time and in any way, so we need to watch and pay attention to the signs and messages in our lives.

Definitions

- ◇ **Sorting Hat:** Represents Divine Order and the All-knowing Spirit of God.

Story Synopsis

Harry and his friends had just arrived at Hogwart's. As they enter one of the professors brings out a stool and places a very dirty and frayed wizard's hat upon it. They all stare at it not sure what to expect. All of a sudden the hat begins to twitch and a rip near the brim opens wide like a mouth. The hat then begins to sing. It sings a song about who it is and what it is to do. It is a very smart hat and by putting it on your head it will tell you which class you belong to. Each of the students takes a turn trying the hat on and the hat sorts them into their classes. Harry was not feeling very brave or quick-witted. As Harry is waiting his turn he begins to feel ill. What if the hat doesn't have a message for him? What if it says he does not belong at Hogwarts? Harry's turn is called and the hat placed on his head. The hat spoke to him of a lot of different possibilities and in the end it let Harry choose his own destiny.

Supply List

Sample Only

Book

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling; Paperback edition

Opening Activity

The Sorting Hat

- ◇ Sorting Hat Sheets, (See end of lesson)
- ◇ Markers

Creative Experience

Names & Symbols

- ◇ Paper
- ◇ Markers
- ◇ Possible names sheet, (See end of lesson)

Names & Symbols - Part 1

- ◇ Neatly paper
- ◇ Picture
- ◇ Magazines
- ◇ Glue
- ◇ Scissors.

God/Sorting Hat

- ◇ God/Sorting Hat paper, (See end of lesson)

- ◇ Pencils

My Sorting Hat

- ◇ Materials to make small wizard hats
- ◇ Stars
- ◇ Glitter
- ◇ Sequins.

Lesson Details

Opening Activity

The Sorting Hat

Materials: *Sorting Hat Sheets, (See end of lesson) and markers.*

The “Sorting Hat” represents receiving messages of Divine Order from Spirit. Encourage the children to think about what message God would send to them and write it down. The messages can be posted on the message board if they do not want to take them home.

Sacred Circle

- ◇ **Welcome:** Invite the children into the Sacred Circle by ringing a chime or gong or singing a song. This helps them to know that it is time to move from pre-session into the beginning activity.
- ◇ **Group Building:** Help them to get to know one another by inviting each one to share their name and something about themselves. Keep it short but related to the lesson focus.
- ◇ **Inspirational Reading:** Once the children are seated in the circle invite one of them to read an Inspirational Reading. It can be a shortened Daily Word, poem, or Bible quote.
- ◇ **Announcements:** Share any special announcements.
- ◇ **Collect the Love Offering:** Collect the Love Offering. It is important to give the children an opportunity to give something at this time. The focus should be on giving something that they would like to multiply in the world. It does not have to be money but can be joy, love, fun...
- ◇ **Pray:** Create an opportunity for prayer. It can be learning a new prayer together; using a prayer box and inviting them to add their prayers or focus.
- ◇ **Affirmation:** “I listen to my inner voice.”

Story

***Harry Potter & the Sorcerer’s Stone*, J.K. Rowling**

Read pages 117-121

The first part of the discussion will be on how it feels to go into an unfamiliar situation and the second part of the discussion will be about receiving guidance from within and our free will.

As Harry and his friends begin their term at Hogwarts, they are to be sorted into the different houses. The Sorting Hat is the voice of wisdom and as it is placed on the students heads it determines which house they will be in. Harry is very apprehensive about the whole situation.

Discussion Questions, Part 1:

- ◇ Why do you think Harry wanted to try the hat on with no one watching?
- ◇ How do you think he felt about the hat?
- ◇ What was Harry afraid of?
- ◇ What was Harry thinking about while the hat was sorting some of the other students?
- ◇ When have you had similar thoughts? Have you ever been picked last for something? How did you feel about it?
- ◇ What do you do when you are unsure of which direction to go?

Discussion Questions, Part 2:

- ◇ What was the hat saying to Harry when it was first placed on his head?
- ◇ How did it know Harry did not want to be put into Slytherin?
- ◇ How do you make decisions about what to do in your life? Where do you get your guidance and answers?
- ◇ Why do you think the hat chose Gryffindor?
- ◇ What do you do with the advice you receive? What choices can you make?

Sample Only

Creative Experience **Names & Symbols**

Materials: Paper, markers, Possible Names sheet (See end of lesson), list of characteristics.

This week we will decide upon names for our individual classrooms, just like Harry Potter and friends had Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. Each “house” name represented certain characteristics that its members had and had its own colors and symbol.

Part I:

Refer to the Possible Names sheet at the end of the lesson. Invite your class to either choose a name from this list or create their own. Your class should work together in deciding on the name. Please do not use the names from the Harry Potter books as they are copywrited. When you are choosing a name please keep in mind that:

- ◇ The name represents who you are.
- ◇ Use positive images and words.
- ◇ Don’t just look at outer characteristics when you are choosing your name. Pay attention to your spiritual gifts and characteristics also.

Part 2:

Encourage your students to:

- ◇ Choose one color for their class.
- ◇ Choose an animal that will be their symbol
- ◇ Write a one or two line poem that sums up who they are. (See attached samples)

Part 3:

Materials: *Heavy paper, pictures, magazines, glue, scissors.*

Once the name, animal and colors have been chosen, encourage them to work together to create an emblem, or crest or picture of what their name represents, using the above supplies. As they are creating it keep in mind that it is to represent who they are both physically and spiritually. When they have finished the final creation scan them into the computer and make posters for the classroom bulletin boards.

God/Sorting Hat

Materials: *God/Sorting Hat sheet (See end of lesson), and pencils*

Use the attached sheets to help your students see the similarities and differences between God and the Sorting Hat. This is a creativity exercise, so divide the class into groups of 2 or 3 and have them work together to brainstorm for ideas. This can also lead to some interesting discussions.

My Sorting Hat

Materials: *Materials to make a small lizard hat, stars, glitter, and sequins*

Encourage the children to create their own Sorting Hat with the materials provided. Since the Sorting Hat represents our Christ presence, who is always giving us guidance, encourage them to write an affirmation or a short message that they believe they would receive from this source

Celebration Circle

All of the children come back together at the end of the day.

This is a time for sharing:

- ◇ What we experienced today.
- ◇ Some new ideas we gained.
- ◇ A closing prayer.

The Sorting Hat

The Sorting Hat has a message to share.
It can see deep with in
and can tell you how you will fare.
The message is seems is one of good cheer
so put the hat on and let it be clear.

**What message does the Sorting Hat
have for you?**



Sample Only