

The Journey to Oz

WEEK #1 –

“The Journey to a Far Country Begins”

Lesson Intention

The intention of this lesson is to understand that at various times in our lives we all make the decision to travel to a “far country” in order to discover something new about ourselves.

Spiritual Principle & Purpose

Basic Unity Principles that align with the lesson:

- ♥ #1 – “There is only one power and one presence in the universe, God, who is all good and active in everything, everywhere.”
- ♥ #3 - “I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.”

Ideas to teach and demonstrate:

- ♥ Our life experiences are designed to wake us up to the Truth that our power is within us.
- ♥ We need to travel “within ourselves” in order to discover new Truths about ourselves.
- ♥ We need to let go of our old thoughts and beliefs to make way for new ones.

Affirmation

God is with me no matter where I am.

Prayer Focus

He said: "A very important man went to a country far away to be made a king and then to return home.

Luke 19:12



Definitions

*The following descriptions were created by
Rev. Suzanne Cameron Stover for the piece, "The Metaphysics of Oz,"
and are reprinted with permission*

The True Wizard of Oz: Our own higher Self – the powerful you.

Oz Story Synopsis: Use this if the children are not familiar with the story or you can just describe the first black & white scenes to them. We will look at this in more depth next week. This week we will introduce the parable "THE PRODIGAL SON" and tie it to Dorothy's adventures in the coming weeks.

"Oz is within...I am the wizard...There's no place like home." This is the truth about you. This is the secret wisdom teachings of the ages. It must be learned and remembered in order to enter into the consciousness of the Most High.

As we enter this special land of Oz, we will discover that within us resides the characteristics of Dorothy, Everyman and Everywoman. Symbolically, our own spiritual journey we have left, as did the prodigal son, for the "far country" in order to find the secret of the abiding place of true happiness. Just like the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion, we feel that everything would be just right if only we had a magical power or formula, a magic wand to change things.

We set out on the yellow brick road full of promise only to find, as Adam and Eve did upon leaving the Garden of Eden, that we are severely tested along the way. The Wicked Witch – negative thinking and fear thoughts – keeps putting up obstacles of increasing difficulty. Often just like Dorothy, we are tempted to sit down in the field and lose heart.

Suddenly, however, just when the going seems to be the roughest, when odds seem the most insurmountable, and the difficulty too great, love finds a way! Our good Glinda thoughts – our own higher Self, who has been with us all along – comes shining through to show us the way and remove the obstacles. We have only to call on this higher Self, and in so doing we discover that our higher Self will lead us to our home of freedom and happiness within.

The Wizard of Oz, the someone or something out there, the magic elixir, the great fixer is just a fake. We are the Wizard! We are the great transformers of our own lives through our higher power, and we have been endowed from the beginning with our Creator's powers. These powers of love, wisdom and courage depicted here as our Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow become our best friends and greatest helpers.

And so, we rush into loving, forgiving "arms" of our loving God. We realize that "there's no place like home." There is no place like our inner meeting place with God, but we had to learn it for ourselves. Like Dorothy and the prodigal son in one of Jesus' parables, we have returned.

Pre-Session Activity

“Follow the Black & White Road”

Materials: Blank white paper cut in half to form “brick” shapes & black markers.

We are going to create the “Black & White Road” which comes before the very colorful “Yellow Brick Road.” This is the point where our journey begins. Give each child a paper “brick” and the black markers and ask them this question, “What fears do you have that you would like to change?” Ask them to write or draw the answer on one of the “bricks.” They may complete more than one brick or they may answer other similar questions. The point is we want to find out where each person wants to start their journey.

After the “bricks” are complete, tape them as the beginning of our “Black & White Road” (*Poster included on the CD*). Fill in the area with some bricks that have no writing on them. Then each week we will add something to the mural. At the end of the 12 weeks we will have a complete picture of where our journey took us.

Story

“The Prodigal Son” *Luke 15:11-15*

This week we will just look at the first part of this parable.

There was a man who had two sons. The younger son asked his father for all of his inheritance. So the father divided the property between his two sons. The younger son then packed up his belongings and moved to a far country where he squandered everything he had.

Story focus/Interpretation:

This week we will just examine the first part of this parable.

This parable is about a boy who was not happy with who he was or where he was. He thought that the grass might be greener elsewhere so all he wanted to do was leave. Only he took with him was his divine inheritance that he got from his Father and could use in any way that he choose. Our divine inheritance consists of all the divine ideas in the Mind of God that pertain to man. We are all born with all the gifts and talents we will ever need but, we do not always recognize the gifts we have. Sometimes we have to go to a “far country,” which represents another way of thinking, in order to be able to look at ourselves in a new and better way. Dorothy leaves home just like the prodigal son left home. I bet they both had exciting adventures.

Discussion Questions

- ♥ What did the younger son ask his father for?
- ♥ What did he do with it after he received it?
- ♥ Where did the younger son go?
- ♥ What was the inheritance the father gave him?
- ♥ Who do you think the father represents?
- ♥ Who does the son represent?

- ♥ Have you ever wanted to leave home?
- ♥ Why and what happened?
- ♥ What are some ways we can “leave home” without actually leaving?
- ♥ Why is it sometimes necessary for us to “leave home?”

Creative Expression Choices

Characters

Materials: Blank paper & markers

Ask each student to choose one of the major characters in the movie and create a picture of themselves as that character. List some reasons why they identify with this character. They can keep track of what happens to their character throughout the story. If they choose the drawings can be placed in the mural.

“Follow the Black & White Road” (Continued from beginning)

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