

"Respect All Things"

LESSON INTENTION

The intention of this lesson is to understand that God is in all things.
When we look for God everywhere, we find God everywhere.

Common Ground

Belief: Respect all life.

Part of the Eight Fold Path is Right Morality.

One of the laws in Right Morality is to understand that we must respect all people, nature and animals – for Divinity is within everything.

Unity Belief: **Respect all life.**

Our second Unity Principle tells us that the spark of Divinity is found within each soul.

We must do our best to honor and respect this in all people, nature and animals.

Affirmation

I see God in everything.

Prayer Focus

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,
that they may be one just as We are one:

John 17:22

Pre-session Activity

WELCOME AT THE DOOR

- Ⓢ This is the time we create a safe & sacred space for the children.
- Ⓢ Invite a teacher and students to greet the children at the door to the Youth Room. The teacher needs to be at eye-level with the children.
- Ⓢ Possible greeting: ***"It's so good to see you. We've been waiting for you."***
- Ⓢ If the children have toys with them invite them to place them on the shelf where they can pick them up on the way out.
- Ⓢ ***Invite them to sign in.***
- Ⓢ If they have not done so, invite them to choose a Job Card/Service Opportunity. ***Every child needs one.***

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Ⓢ Create name tags
- Ⓢ Create Prayer Sticks

GATHERING CIRCLE

- Ⓢ At 11:15 am, after the children have completed the Opening Activities, ***invite the "Gong Sounder"*** to sound the gong to call everyone to the Gathering Circle. The children then choose a carpet square and take their seat in the circle.
- Ⓢ The teacher now "sets the circle" and reinforces the ideas that we are all one and we are in a safe place. ***Now is the time to review the Heart Agreement that should be posted in the area.***
- Ⓢ Invite the ***Daily Inspiration Reader*** to read the Daily Word.
- Ⓢ **Prayer team comes forward.** Either lead the children in a prayer for others or use this time to pray with the prayer stick requests. ***Place the "Prayer Bowl" in the center of the room and one by one the children read their prayer word or words and place their stick in the bowl.***
- Ⓢ Collect a love offering.
- Ⓢ Movement/Song – ***"I AM THAT I AM"***

Divide Into Individual Classrooms

Story

Share a story about the birth of Siddhartha.

Unity Principle: #2 - "I am naturally good because God's divinity is in me and in everyone."

"Hanamatsun" Celebration

Siddhartha, the founder of Buddhism, was born in India in 563 B.C. He is thought to have lived and taught there for 80 years, until his death in 483 B.C. He came to be called the Buddha, which, in Sanskrit means, "the enlightened one." **Hanamatsun**, the celebration of the birth of the Buddha, is the most important of all Buddhist holidays. Tradition has it that it rained flowers at the time of Siddhartha's birth. For that reason contemporary celebrations center around the image of the baby Buddha, which is housed in a special shrine the roof of which is covered with flowers. The stature of the baby Buddha is often placed in a tub of licorice tea. Members of the congregation use ladles to pour tea over the figure of the Buddha, symbolic of bathing him. They then drink licorice tea to signify the cleansing of their souls and their wish to become as the Buddha.

Discussion

How is this celebration similar to Christmas?

What did Buddha want us to know/learn?

What did Jesus want us to know/learn?

What does it mean to see God in everything?

Briefly discuss each of the principles with the children: Handout

Simplified for the children:

- ◆ Being kind
- ◆ Living wisely
- ◆ Awareness of others
- ◆ Telling the truth
- ◆ Relaxing and meditating
- ◆ Understanding suffering
- ◆ Thinking unselfishly
- ◆ Not causing harm

Creative Expression

Paper Lanterns

Materials: Colored paper, scissors, gold paper, tape, glue sticks, string and paper clips.

Let's celebrate Buddha's birthday by creating paper lanterns that we can string around the room that help us to remember that each one of us is the light of Spirit.

First fold a 4 ¼ x 5 ½ piece of colored paper in half lengthwise and use scissors to make cuts about ½" apart along the crease, stopping about ¼" from the paper's unfolded edges.

Next, roll a 3 ¾ x 5 ½ piece of gold paper widthwise into a tube and tape the ends together, overlapping them by about ½ inch. Unfold the colored paper and glue it around the tube so that its creases jut out slightly securing in place with paper clips while the glue dries.

Finally, tape or glue a strip of matching colored paper across the top of the tube for a hanger. For a garland, slip a number of lanterns onto a length of string or thin rope, taping them in place to keep them from sliding.

Tibetan prayer flags

Materials: Pencil, scrap paper, ruler, fabric pieces, scissors, masking tape, cardboard, fabric markers.

One way Tibetan people improve themselves and do good for others is to make prayer flags. Tibetans dye pieces of cloth in colors that represent the natural elements: blue for sky, white for clouds, red for fire, green for water, and yellow for earth. When the cloth flags are dry, someone writes prayers or special messages on each. The flags are linked following a color pattern of blue, white, red, green and yellow. Since the flags represent the voice of God, they must be attached to a high place, such as the roof of a house or a bridge. Each time the wind blows and the flags flap in the breeze, the prayers or messages are sent out into the world.

We are going to make a goodwill message flag that will send your special message out into the world.

1. Think about the message you want to send that may help others. Write your message on a scrap of paper. State it in the present tense. Start with "I affirm..." Here are some suggestions: I affirm that there is peace on earth. I affirm everyone in the world experiences love...
2. Choose a fabric color.
3. Tape the cloth to the cardboard. Write your message in the center of the cloth with the markers.
4. Then decorate the borders of your flag.
5. Hang them up for all to see.