

K/1st Grade Group  
Session Plans for Sept 15

**The theme for September is Expectation**

NOTES FOR GROUP LEADERS: The adults in the service will learn about the Strike for the Climate to be held in Albany Fri, Sept 20. The story I'll tell is [The Magic Vase](#). I'll have an attractive box for you to use as the *Wonder Box*. Each week it will have a simple item in it that expresses the theme of the session.

UNDERLYING MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN (just for you to keep in mind): As Unitarian Universalists, each of us has a part in working for our 7 Principles. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle says that we are all part of the web of life. What we do makes a difference. Even small things can make a change for the good. We can start by making new friends and making others feel welcome by greeting each other and playing together.

THE "WIN" FOR THIS SESSION: the children will express their ideas for how they can work for change, and begin to feel welcome in their RE classrooms and comfortable with their guides. The first sessions are usually a little unsettled, and unsettling for the children, and perhaps the adults too. Just try to have fun and show kindness to the children, parent/caretakers and each other. And be kind to yourselves.

SESSION AT A GLANCE

ACTIVITY	MINUTES LONG
1. CIRCLE TIME: CHALICE LIGHTING; GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACTIVITIES – <b>Invite the children to experiment with changing their own pipe cleaners.</b></li><li>• <a href="#">Coloring page</a> from the story</li><li>• <b>Free play with blocks, housekeeping corner</b></li></ul>	25
2. CLEAN UP	5
3. SNACK	10
4. GOODBYES	

**1. CIRCLE TIME**

**Wonder Box**

*Credit: The Idea for the Wonder Box comes from Tapestry of Faith's Wonderful Welcome by Aisha Hauser, and Christina Leone Tracy, who presented it at General Assembly.*

**Expecting Change**

Script for the guide: (say in your own words)

## Wonder Box - pipe cleaner

- What is in the Wonder Box?
- It's a pipe cleaner.
- First, it is nearly straight.
- Now I change it by bending it.
- Now I change it by bending it some more.
- I know that pipe cleaners are meant to change.
- We are meant to change, too.
- We need to expect change.
- What changes have you experienced? (a move, growing up, changing a favorite food)
- Our congregation is changing.
- We continue to look for things that are true and help us understand life.
- Right now, we are trying to understand how everyone can come together to keep the earth as nice as we can.
- We never know for sure what truth we will find.
- It is like growing a plant instead of finding a jewel. It keeps on growing and giving.

## Meditation

### Flower Meditation

Now we close our eyes and sit relaxed and still for our meditation. Take a deep breath. We breathe in and out slowly and deeply. Imagine you are a growing plant. You can move just like a growing plant with me.

First, we are a seed. We curl up like a little seed, small and growing in the ground.

The sun shines down on our spot in the soil. The rain falls down and keeps us moist. A little root grows out of us and pushes down into the soil. Now a little stem grows up out of us and pushes to reach the sunlight. A small leaf uncurls, then more and more leaves. [Invite the children to uncurl and finally stand up]. A bud appears. It turns into a flower with petals. Each petal is beautiful. As we grow, we change. We are happy to be changing. We receive the rainfall and warm in the sunshine. We nod our head and say thank you for letting me change and grow. I love changing and growing. We make a special smile, called a flower smile.

Now we become children again, and smile at your friends around you who are also growing and changing.

### Response to Meditation

Invite the children to share what reflections they felt in the meditation. Consider offering again and invite them to share if they were a different flower.

### Review of the Story

Ask the children to retell the story from the service. How did it start? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Or you could have the children re-enact the story by

taking the roles of the eldest child, shopkeeper, Dad, second child, third child, fourth child, baby and Mom, cuing each child for their action.

Discussion – these questions are just to get the children wondering; don't worry if they don't respond

- *Is the vase really magic?*
- *Why is the story called "The Magic Vase?"*
- *Who made something happen? How?*

## **2. Activity time**

- **Invite the children to experiment with changing their own pipe cleaners.**
- **[Coloring page](#) from the story**
- **Free play with blocks, housekeeping corner, other materials on the shelves**

## **3. Clean up**

**4. Snack time** – you might use this time to just chat with the children to get to know them and for them to get to know each other.

- 3 When parents/caretakers arrive:** Ask children if they want to show their parents/caretakers their pipe cleaner creation. Distribute *Guide to the Monthly Theme*. This is a new monthly resource for families and others in the congregation to connect with the monthly theme at home.