

Session # 18 The Everything Seed

Overview

The facts of science and the wonder of myth combine in this unusual creation story written by a U.U. minister that finds the universe in an acorn. The story moves from a plant's origins in a seed to how the universe began. The words offer a unique, cosmic view that celebrates the divine without rejecting science.

Goal: To understand that everything is “radically related. We are caught up in an exquisite dynamic of interdependence. To know this at a heart level, to live into it with deep reverence, is my hope for us all.” – author’s note by Rev. Carole Martignacco

Supplies:

Book

Copies of Take Home Page

Supplies for the activities you chose

Décor for the room or chalice lighting altar – a seed.

Camera for taking pictures for your own picture book

Set Up: Request fabrics and sarongs from the congregation in advance, if you are choosing the pantomime activity.

Entering Activity:

Offer a variety of seeds and beans as free play, perhaps in a water table or using trays and bowls for pouring and running their hands in.

Sharing Circle:

After the children have arrived, invite them to gather in a circle around the chalice for the story.

Chalice Lighting:

Bring out the chalice and candle, matchbook, matchholder, and snuffer. Set out the chalice and the water bowl with rocks to drop in for sharing “Joys and Concerns.”

Invite the children to recite with you the following chalice lighting words:

“To this quiet place of beauty we come from busy things, pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings.”

Light the match and hold it to the candle wick.

“We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action.”

Invite the children to share important things that have happened in their lives, passing a talking stick, shell or rock to indicate whose turn it is to share. This would be a good session to pass around a seed or a small group of seeds as a Talking Stick. Have each child share a joy or a concern by dropping a small polished rock into the water bowl.

Say something like: “We will now share our joys and concerns in our sharing circle. Each of us will have a turn to speak while the rest listen. You don’t have to share, you can always say, “pass.”

After everyone has shared who wishes to, add one more rock and say, “For all the joys and concerns which remain unspoken, we add this rock.”

You may prefer to extinguish the chalice flame with the snuffer at this point. “Though we extinguish this flame, we kindle the flame to carry in our hearts together.”

Read “**The Everything Seed.**”

UU Identity teachable moment: Ask the children for their reflections on the story. Say something like, “Our seventh principle states that “The web of life’s the way.” Show them the poster of the Do-Re-Mi Principles with the Principles in children’s language. Sing it if you wish. “In this book, we took a journey to the beginning of the universe, a beginning that is still with us, still unfolding. One scientist said, ‘You come out of the energy that gave birth to the universe. Its story is your story, its beginnings are your beginnings.’” We Unitarian Universalists seek to be a part of the web of life. We like to understand how we are related to the stars and to the earth. Today, each of us will be able to explore the unfolding of the web of life.” Describe the activities that you have prepared and invite the children to engage in them.

Activities: Choose from the following options.

1) **Take pictures for “Our Own Picture Book.”**

2) **Pantomime the book.**

Collect a variety of fabrics and sarongs, with bright colors to echo the batik pictures in the book. Invite the children to choose one, or share one with another child, and pantomime the growing everything seed as you re-read the book.

3) **Invite a pregnant woman to this session.**

Invite a woman who is expecting a baby, and who is comfortable having the children place their ears and hands on her womb. If you can round up a stethoscope, use it to see if you can hear the baby’s heartbeat. Who will this baby be? This baby holds the part of “that first light waiting to shine in ways that are yet to be known.”

4) **Scratch art.**

Purchase commercially available scratch art paper and wood sticks, or make your own, to mimic the brilliant colors and black on the batik in the book.

Amazon.com sells papers and wood sticks. Or make your own:

White 4 x 6 index cards (use a smaller paper for completing in time)

Black crayons, one for each child

Markers

Toothpicks for drawing, one for each child.

Draw a squiggly line that crosses over itself several times. Fill in the spaces with different colors of markers. Cover the entire card with black crayon. Scratch your design with a toothpick in the black wax crayon, revealing the colors underneath.

5) Seed art.

A variety of dried seeds and beans

Glue or glue sticks

Index cards or other stiff paper

Provide a variety of dried seeds and beans and invite the children to create a design. Brush glue or use the glue sticks to adhere them onto an index card or stiff piece of paper.

6) Plant a seed.

Bean seeds

Styrofoam cup or other planting vessel, one for each child.

Potting soil and spoons

Marker for names

Newspapers or oilcloth for covering tables.

Water can or pitcher

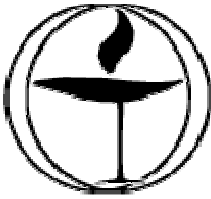
Cover the table(s) with newspaper or oilcloth. Invite children to put their name on their cup. Set out the potting soil and invite the children to spoon or use their hands to place soil into their cup. Wet the soil. Have them place two bean seeds in their cup, and cover with soil. Take them home and watch the seed grow!

Closing: Make a circle by linking hands. Say something like, “We as Unitarian Universalists (or repeat the name of your congregation) celebrate the web of life of which we are a part.” Sing the Do-Re-Mi Principles song. “Go in Peace.”

Background for Teachers:

Here’s the complete quote from the author’s note:

“Every child should be told: you come out of the energy that gave birth to the universe. Its story is your story, its beginnings are your beginnings.” – mathematical cosmologist Dr. Brian Swimme in “Canticle to the Cosmos.”

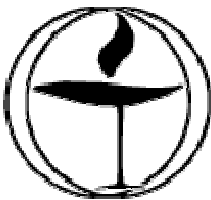


Picture Book U.U. Identity: The Everything Seed

Take Home Page

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