



Soul Matters

Awakening Curiosity



Elementary RE
Lower Level
May 2026

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Notes About Packet Design & Usage

To get the most out of our RE packets, we encourage users/leaders to periodically review the key components of our design and approach to our elementary age RE packets:

- **2025-26 Enhancements:** Read about all of the enhancements to this year's packets by clicking [here](#).
- **Three Packets to Meet You Where You Are:** This year, 3 different packets come with your elementary RE subscription: One to support lower elementary programming, one to support upper elementary programming, and a third to support one-room schoolhouse RE models.
- **Theme Connection Support:** We are committed to experiential learning, so we don't just suggest stories, games, and hands-on activities; we also provide "Set It Up," "Sum It Up," and "Discuss It" components that help group leaders clearly explain how the story, game, or activity illustrates or explores the session topic/focus.
- **Bullet Points for Longer Introductions:** Sometimes components of the packet require longer setup wording, such as the wonderbox wording. When this is the case, we provide bulleted talking points. We do this because subscribers told us this was more user-friendly than a fully written-out suggested script. As the year proceeds, please let us know if this change is serving you well.
- **UU Values and Inspiring UUs in Every Packet:** To support UU identity formation, we weave our UU values and stories about inspiring UUs into each month's packet. We've created two important tools to guide us, which also could be used by you if you want to create your own material: a chart that pairs [our monthly themes with the UU values](#) and a chart that pairs [our monthly themes with inspiring UUs](#).
- **User-Friendly, Ready-to-Use Wisdom Tale "Story Sheets":** To save you time and support you as storytellers, our packets list the recommended wisdom tales and a bit about them, but then provide a hyperlink that takes you to a ready-to-tell and ready-to-print Google doc version of the story.
- **Leader Notes:** Throughout the packet, we offer tips and reminders to support and guide leaders. We identify these leader notes using *purple font and italics*.

Notes About Our Unique Session Sections

Each of our session sections has been designed with care and intentionality. Below, we explain our approach to each session section with some suggestions about how to engage them.

- **Light It! - Chalice Lighting**

The chalice lightings we include in the packet are centered in our [UU core value of love](#), lift up the monthly themes, and tap into the power and fun of body movements. If you'd like an alternative chalice lighting, [HERE](#) is a document with other options.

- **Wonder Box - Objects to Cultivate Our Curiosity**

This section names and introduces the session theme using an "[object lesson](#)" approach that centers our UU values of curiosity and questioning.

- **Read It and Talk About It! - Stories to Inspire Us**

Stories help us build our identities and bond with each other. So, in addition to offering a theme-based story, this section offers questions that help the children personally connect with the story and share their own personal stories with each other.

- **Engage It! - Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning**

Our Engage It section offers a variety of experiential options for exploring each weekly session's theme angle. All of them are offered as "building blocks," meaning we don't intend for you to use them all, but instead we offer them to you as *optional* components to choose from to create your own unique experience/session. We suggest you choose **one or two** of these options that best fit the interests of your group and the time you have available.

- **Extinguish It!**

In each session, we offer chalice extinguishing words for you to bring your time to an end. We design these chalice extinguishings to echo the chalice lighting's call to love, as well as reiterate that session's takeaway and invitation to action. Like our suggested chalice lightings, these tap into the power and fun of body movements. If you'd like alternative chalice extinguishing words, [HERE](#) is a document with other options.

Welcome to Embracing Possibility

Hello Friends!

Welcome to the May Soul Matters RE Packet for **Lower Elementary** kids. This month's theme is awakening curiosity. We are diving into this theme by exploring how curiosity can be a bridge to other worlds, to what isn't yet but could be and how it can be the spark that nudges us to ask questions, imagine new possibilities, and connect with the world in ways we might not have considered before. Curiosity, after all, can be a bridge: a bridge to new ideas, new experiences, and even new ways of seeing ourselves and others. Here's a peek at what's ahead in our five sessions this month:

Session One: A Bridge to a More Just World

Session Two: A Bridge to a More Diverse World

Session Three: A Bridge to a More Exciting World

Session Four: A Bridge to a World With Wiser People

Session Five: A Bridge to the World of Your Future-self

Our first session gives us the opportunity to explore [Star Wars Day](#) and our [UU Value of Justice](#). It's a chance to think about how our curiosity can help us notice unfairness and imagine ways to make the world better.

In our second session, we lift up the [UU Value Pluralism](#) ("We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect.") and make space to think about how we honor motherhood in all its forms. In our congregations, Mother's Day can sometimes feel complicated. While traditional ideas of "mothering" have often focused narrowly on women or passive nurturing, we'll explore the broader, life-affirming ways that mothering can happen by honoring Mother Earth, which shows us daily how diversity and care coexist beautifully in nature.

We also know that some of you celebrate Flower Communion on Mother's Day. To support you, we have added a link to session two for a Flower Communion module built around the theme of diversity that you can do instead of this session.

Session three invites us to reach back in time to the childhood of many of our adult members and introduce our RE kids to the world of The Jetsons. From there, we'll imagine exciting new possibilities for the future and let our curiosity guide us to worlds that do not exist yet!

In our fourth session, we'll reflect on the idea that curiosity is not just a fun pastime, but a lifelong practice. We'll lift up our UU Values Purpose Statement that calls us "to foster a life of curiosity" and lean into the UU belief that no one has the whole truth. It's a wonderful reminder that we grow wiser when we stay curious and humbly learn from others, especially others who don't think like us.

And finally, in session five, we explore how curiosity is a bridge to the world of our future-self. We root this session in the idea that what we are curious about as a child almost always shapes who we are as we grow up, and especially what we are passionate about as we get older.

As you awaken curiosity in your RE kids this month by exploring these bridges to justice, diversity, excitement, and wisdom, I hope your own curiosity is awakened. Blessings as you dive into all the worlds curiosity takes us to!

April Rosario,
on behalf of the entire [Soul Matters Team](#)

Calendar Connections

May 2026

Click on the hyperlinked names of each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith

- [Beltane](#) (Pagan/Wiccan) - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Vesak](#) - Celebration of Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist) - May 1, 2026 (more [here](#), [here](#), & [here](#))
- [Pentecost](#) (Christian) - May 24, 2026 (more [here](#))
- [Shavuot](#) (Jewish) - May 21 - May 23, 2026 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Eid ul-Adha](#) (Muslim) - begins May 26-27, 2026 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist

- Anniversary of [William Ellery Channing's Baltimore Sermon](#), "Unitarian Christianity" - May 5th (1819)
- [UUA Founding Day](#) (1961) - May 12 (more [here](#))
- [Emerson's birthday](#) - May 25 (1803)
- American Unitarian Association founded May 25 (1825)

National & Cultural

- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- [May Day](#)/International Workers Day - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Cinco de Mayo](#) - May 5 (more [here](#))
- [Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls/ People/ Relatives](#) - May 5
- [Mother's Day](#) (US & Canada) - May 10, 2026, second Sunday of May
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17
- [Brown v. Board of Education](#) - May 17, 1954 (more [here](#))
- [Plessy v. Ferguson](#) - May 18, 1896 (more [here](#))
- [Agender Pride Day](#) - May 19
- Birthday of [Malcolm X](#) - May 19, 1925 (more [here](#))
- [Victoria Day](#) (Canada) May 18, 2026
- [Harvey Milk](#), gay rights activist, born - May 22, 1930
- [Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#) - May 24
- Memorial Day (US) - May 25, 2026

For Fun and On the Fringe

- [World Press Freedom Day](#) - May 3
- [Star Wars Day](#) - May 4
- [World Laughter Day](#) - First Sunday in May
- Debut of Norman Rockwell's "[Rosie the Riveter](#)" - May 29, 1943

Session One:

A Bridge to a More Just World

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. And all month long, we will explore how awakening our curiosity is a bridge to “other worlds.” This week, we begin by exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a more just world. As we do that, we will have a little fun with Star Wars Day (May 4) as well as learn more about our [UU Value of Justice](#).

Leader Background: [Moment of Reflection: The Brilliance of ‘Star Wars’](#)

“It is an act of faith to imagine a world where oppression is either gone, or where—as is the case of Star Wars—oppression is challenged and ultimately defeated.”

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives. (hands on heart)

As we light this chalice today, (cup your hands like a chalice)

May the flames (wiggle your fingers like flickering flames)

Help us remember (tap the side of your head)

That curiosity and justice go hand in hand (hold the hand of someone next to you),

and that asking curious questions helps us build a more just world (pair up with the person next to you)

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

A picture of or a toy lightsaber and the word “Justice”



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month: **Awakening Curiosity.**
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside.
- Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** If anyone knows what the object is
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Hold up the lightsaber and ask, “Who knows what makes a lightsaber powerful?” Let the kids guess.
 - Explain that In the Star Wars movies, a lightsaber isn’t powerful by itself. It becomes powerful because of the person holding it and how they use it.
 - Point out that today, you’re going to explore how curiosity can be like a lightsaber. How it can help us make the world a fairer, kinder place.
 - Lift up that sometimes we think making things fair means big actions like speeches, protests, or hero moves. But often it starts with a simple question: ‘Why?’ or ‘How come?’
 - Explain that those questions are examples of how we awaken our curiosity.
 - Turn on the lightsaber if it glows, or explain that in the movies they glow.
 - Point out that curiosity is also like light. Light helps us see what’s really happening. Without it, we might not notice when someone is left out, or when something isn’t fair.
 - Remind kids that one of our UU values is justice.
 - That means we try to make communities where everyone feels welcome and can grow. Justice doesn’t start with fighting—it starts with noticing and asking brave questions.”
 - Lift up that Just like a lightsaber needs light to work, justice needs curiosity to guide it.
- **Call to Exploration:** Let kids know that today, as you celebrate [May the Fourth](#) (that is Monday), and that you’ll practice using our power wisely and letting curiosity be the light that guides us toward a more just world.
- **Build Excitement:** “Are you ready? Let’s begin!”

Read It and Talk About It!

Stories to Inspire Us

Picture Book: Star Wars: I Am a Jedi – Golden Books

Set It Up

“Today we’re celebrating Star Wars Day, when people around the world say, ‘May the Fourth be with you!’ In the Star Wars stories, characters called Jedi try to use their powers to help others and make the galaxy more fair and peaceful. One thing that helps Jedi become wise is curiosity, they keep learning, asking questions, and listening carefully to others and to the Force. In our UU community, we believe curiosity can help us build a more just world, because when we are curious about others, we learn how to treat people with fairness and kindness.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZD-nMDTJVw>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Jedi try to bring peace and fairness to the galaxy. What does fairness mean to you?
- What does it look like when people are treated fairly?
- When have you helped make something more fair?
- If you were a Jedi, what kind of world would you want to help create?

Picture Book: Say Something! by Peter H. Reynolds

Set It Up

“Today we’re going to read a book called Say Something! Sometimes when we see something unfair, confusing, or unkind, we might feel unsure about what to do. But curiosity can help us notice what’s happening around us and wonder, ‘Is that fair?’ or ‘Could things be better?’ In our UU community, we believe that when we notice injustice and use our voices to help others, we help build a more loving and just world.”

Video Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_-rP-0aRpY

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- The book says you can say something when you see unfairness. What does “unfair” mean?
- Can you think of a time when something wasn’t fair?
- Why do you think it can sometimes feel hard to say something?
- Have you ever felt nervous about speaking up?
- What kind of world do we help create when people speak up for kindness and fairness?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Spiritual Practice: Star Wars - A Cosmic Kids Yoga Adventure!

This activity should take 30 minutes and can be done with any number of kids

Activity Prep

Gather & set out a device to play the [YouTube Video](#)

Set It Up

"Today we are going on a cosmic adventure! In Star Wars, Jedi train their bodies and minds. They learn to be strong, but also calm. Brave, but also curious. In our UU faith, we believe justice begins when we notice what's happening around us. That noticing? It's like the Force."

Directions

Play the YouTube Star Wars (The Force Awakens) Cosmic Kids Yoga Adventure and have kids follow along.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this activity and its message that the force is in us and can always be awakened, just like our curiosity."

Hands-On Activity: Jedi Justice Shields

This activity should take 15-30 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set paper plates (1 per child), markers, crayons, or paint, stickers, gems, or other decorations, popsicle sticks or straws (for handles), tape or glue

Set It Up

"Today, we're making Jedi Justice Shields! Just like Jedi use their lightsabers to protect what's right, we can use curiosity and kindness to protect fairness. Every time you notice something isn't fair, or someone needs help, you can imagine holding your shield to protect them. Let's make our shields bright and powerful!"

Directions

- Give each child a paper plate shield.
- Invite them to draw, color, and decorate it with symbols that represent fairness, helping others, or things they are curious about. (Stars, hearts, light beams, etc.)
- Attach a popsicle stick or straw to the back with tape or glue so they can hold the shield like a Jedi.
- When shields are finished, let the kids hold them up and say one way they could use curiosity to notice fairness or help someone.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that curiosity helps you see when something isn't fair, and kindness helps you protect and care for others."

Hands-On Activity: Light of Justice Lightsabers

This activity should take 20-30 minutes and can be done with any number of people

Activity Prep

Gather & set out paper towel tubes or pool noodles, colored cellophane or paper, aluminum foil, stickers, markers, tape

Optional: battery tea lights to place inside the tube for a glow effect

Set It Up

"Tomorrow is [May the 4th](#), also known as Star Wars Day! In the galaxy of the Star Wars film series, Jedi carry lightsaber swords that represent how a Jedi chooses to use their power. Our UU faith tradition reminds us that justice matters. And doesn't start with fighting, but with asking questions like: Why is that unfair? Who is being left out? What don't I understand yet? Today, you're going to design your own Light of Justice, a lightsaber that reminds you how you will use your power to make the world more fair."

Directions

- Begin by explaining that in Star Wars, lightsaber colors sometimes represent qualities. Invite kids to choose a color for their light saber that represents the kind of justice-builder they want to be.
 - Blue – Fairness
 - Green – Growth & Learning
 - Purple – Courage to Question
 - Yellow – Hope
 - White – Truth
- Next, have kids attach their color to the tube and decorate it if they wish
- Give each child a small strip of paper and invite them to write a question they are curious about in the world OR something they think might not be fair
- Here are some examples you can offer:
 - Why don't all kids have enough food?
 - Why are some people treated differently?
 - How can everyone feel safe at school?
 - Who gets to make the rules?
- Have them tape this question onto the handle.
- Remind them that justice doesn't start with knowing all the answers. It starts with asking brave questions.
- On a second strip, invite them to complete the sentence "I will use my power to ____."
- Examples: listen, stand up for someone, learn more, include others, tell the truth, share
- Then have kids tape this below the question.
- Invite kids to share what color they chose and why, and what they wrote down.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this activity and its message that curiosity helps us understand one another and justice helps us protect one another. And when we use both together, we become a force for good in this world."

Game: Lightsaber Light Search

This activity should take 10-15 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

- Gather and set out flashlights or glow sticks to act as “lightsabers”
- Hide paper stars or stickers around the room, with some easy to see, some harder to spot.

Set It Up

“Lightsabers light up dark places, and curiosity lights up our world so we can see what’s happening. When we notice when someone is left out or when something isn’t fair, we can take action to help. Today, your lightsaber of curiosity will help you find hidden stars, just like noticing things in real life.”

Directions

- Give each child a “lightsaber” (stick, glow stick, or pretend).
- Invite kids to use their lightsaber is your curiosity to help them move around carefully and ‘spot’ the hidden stars.”
- As kids find stars, ask them: “What did you notice that helped you find it?”
- After all stars are found, ask: “How did noticing the stars help you?” & “How is noticing things like asking questions about fairness?”

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this game and its message that even small things we notice can make a big difference. Curiosity helps us see when someone might need help or when something could be fairer—just like your lightsaber shows hidden stars.”

Game: Jedi Question Quest

This activity should take about 10 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set small “Jedi badges” (stickers, paper stars, or printouts)

Arrange 3–5 “scenes” in the room. These could be tables with toys, chairs, or objects in groups. Some scenes could be uneven (like more toys on one side) to spark questions.

Set It Up

“Jedi are curious, they notice things others might miss. Today, your mission is to be a Jedi of curiosity! You’ll explore the room and ask questions about what you see. Because asking questions helps us notice when things are fair or when someone might need help, which is the first step toward justice.”

Directions

- Invite kids to walk around and ask a brave question about each scene. Remind them that a brave question is one that helps us notice fairness, kindness, or what is happening around us.”
 - Give an example: “‘Why does this table have more toys?’ or ‘Who gets to play here?’”
- Each time a child asks a thoughtful question, give them a Jedi badge.
- Allow kids to take turns exploring 2–3 scenes.
- Gather the group and ask: “What did you notice? How did your questions help you see fairness?”

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this game and its message that just like Jedi use their lightsabers to see in the dark, we use curiosity to see what’s happening around us. Noticing is the first step toward justice.”

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember (tap the side of your head)

That curiosity and justice go hand in hand (hold the hand of someone next to you)

and that asking curious questions helps us build a bridge to a more just world
(pair up with the person next to you, face each other and join both of your hands,
creating a bridge of your links arms)

Session Two:

A Bridge to a More Diverse World

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. And all month long, we are exploring how awakening our curiosity is a bridge to “other worlds”. This week, we are exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a more diverse world. As we do this, we will have a chance to lift up our [UU Value Pluralism](#) (“We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect.”) and Mother's Day.

***Leader Note:** We know some of you celebrate Flower Communion on Mother's Day. To support you, we have designed a Flower Communion module built around the theme of diversity that you can do instead of this session. Please click [here](#) to find it.*

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists ([open wide toward each other](#))

Who put love at the center of our lives. ([hands on heart](#))

As we light this chalice today, ([cup your hands like a chalice](#))

May the flames ([wiggle your fingers like flickering flames](#))

Ignite our curiosity ([put your finger on your chin](#) as if you are thinking)

And help us use it to build a more diverse world ([Sign the word diversity](#))

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

Two very similar leaves (or pictures of identical leaves), Several different leaves, flowers, grasses, or natural objects, and a small rock and a plant with roots (or a picture of roots breaking rock)



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month.
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside.
- Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Start by holding up the leaves and pointing out that today is Mother's Day,
 - Immediately lift up that sometimes the world talks about mothers in a very narrow way, like there is only one way to be a mom or a caregiver. But when we look at nature—what some people call Mother Nature—we learn that caring can look like many different things.
 - Hold up the rock and the roots (or picture).
 - Explain that in nature, caring for life sometimes means being gentle, like rain watering flowers. But sometimes it means being strong and brave too. Roots can even break through hard rock so plants can grow. Storms can change the land and help new things grow later.
 - Point out that nature shows us that caring can mean protecting, leading, helping things grow, and sometimes making big changes.
 - Hold up the two identical leaves. And point out that If every tree had leaves that were exactly the same, one sickness could hurt them all."
 - Now hold up the many different leaves or plants.
 - Remind kids that nature makes lots of different shapes and kinds. When living things are different, forests and fields become stronger. Some plants share food underground with tiny fungi friends. Coral reefs have many different sea creatures working together. Prairies grow stronger when lots of grasses grow side by side.
 - Mother Nature teaches us something important: being different is not a problem to fix. It's a strength that helps life grow. And just like nature, our communities are strongest when many different kinds of people care for each other in many different ways. Some people mother with hugs, some with courage, some with protection, and some with leadership.
- **Call to Exploration:** Say that you all will now explore this idea some more through today's activities.
- **Build Excitement:** "Are you ready? Let's begin!"

Read It and Talk About It!

Picture Book: The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

Leader Note: This story lifts up our [UU Value Pluralism](#) (“We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect.”) by focusing on different perspectives.

Set It Up

“Today I want to share a story with you called The Great Kapok Tree. This book is about a man who falls asleep in a rainforest and dreams of all the creatures that live there. Each animal and plant shares why the forest is important, showing us that every living thing has its own story and role. As we read, let’s think about how Mother Nature cares for many kinds of life—and how our curiosity about different perspectives can help us appreciate a more diverse world.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KShOMn3bb8>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- How does the forest take care of all the animals and plants?
- How is that like the way some people take care of others, like mothers or caregivers?
- If you could help protect one part of nature or one kind of animal, what would it be and why?
- How can learning about different living things help us embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect?

Picture Book: Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev

Leader Note: This story lifts up our [UU Value Pluralism](#) (“We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect.”) by highlighting inclusion and shining a light on embracing differences with love and respect.

Set It Up

“This story is about a boy and his pet elephant who want to join a club, but the club has a rule that says no elephants. The story shows how sometimes rules or groups can accidentally leave people out. As we read, let’s pay attention to how curiosity asking questions and noticing others can help us understand differences and make our world more welcoming and inclusive, which is what our UU value of pluralism is all about.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yJOKdvRrg>

Sum It Up: In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- How did the boy feel when he couldn’t join the club? How did you feel when someone left you out?
- How did the characters in the story learn about each other’s differences?
- How can being curious about others’ lives help us include people who are different from us?
- Why is it important to celebrate people’s differences instead of leaving them out?
- Our UU value of pluralism says, ‘We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, & respect.’ How do you see that happening in this story? How can we practice this in our daily lives, like the boy did with his elephant and friends?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Diversity Mandalas from Natural Materials

This activity should take 20-30 minutes and can be done with any number of kids

Activity Prep

Gather & set out lots of nature items like pinecones, stones, different shaped leaves, twigs, shells, etc. If possible, include materials that visibly contrast: smooth and rough, dark and light, symmetrical and irregular, soft and hard, fragrant and neutral.

Leader Note: If gathering outdoors, remind participants to only collect fallen items and to respect living plants.

Set It Up

“Today we’re going to celebrate Mother’s Day by thinking about Mother Nature! Nature takes care of the world in so many different ways: storms move sand, seeds grow into plants, and roots break rocks. Everything comes in many shapes, sizes, and colors, and that makes our world strong and beautiful. Just like nature, people are different too, and being curious about those differences helps us learn and care for each other.

We’re going to make Natural Diversity Mandalas, art made from leaves, flowers, sticks, and other natural materials, to celebrate all the ways life is different, but also connected. Let’s notice shapes, colors, and textures as we create!”

Directions

- Give each child a paper plate or piece of cardstock. This will be the circle for the mandala.
- Encourage kids to explore the different leaves, flowers, sticks, or other materials. Ask them to notice colors, shapes, and sizes.
- Place one object in the center of the plate. Explain that this will be the start of their mandala
- Add pieces in a circle around the center.
- They can make patterns or just place pieces in ways that they think look good.
- Encourage them to mix different shapes, sizes, and colors just like nature does!
- Once the mandala is finished, pause and ask:
 - What do you see that’s different?
 - What do you see that’s the same?
- Talk about how all these different pieces together make something beautiful, just like nature and people do.
- Use crayons or markers to color in spaces or add details around the natural pieces.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that Mother Earth does not create one kind of flower, one kind of tree, one kind of person. Nature mothers through an abundance of diversity.”

Hands-On Activity: Mother Nature Collage of Differences

This activity should take 15-30 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set paper, nature magazines, glue sticks, scissors

Set It Up

"Mother Nature is just like people in the fact that she is full of differences and those differences make the world interesting and strong! Today we're going to make a collage using all kinds of colors, shapes, and textures to celebrate how different things can come together to make something beautiful."

Directions

- Give each child a piece of construction paper as the base.
- Invite kids to flip through and explore the nature magazines and cut out things that catch their eye.
- Encourage them to also look for examples of how Mother Nature takes care, protects, nurtures, etc.
- Glue the pieces onto the paper to make a colorful collage
- Ask kids to share one thing they included and why it stood out to them.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message of how Mother Nature is an amazing reminder of how different things can come together to make something beautiful."

Game: Diversity Scavenger Hunt

This activity should take 10-15 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Set It Up

"Just like nature has many kinds of leaves, flowers, and trees, our world has many kinds of people, ideas, and things! Let's go on a scavenger hunt to find all the different kinds of things around us."

Directions

- Invite kids to spread children around a safe indoor or outdoor space.
- Give them a scavenger hunt list or call out items one at a time. (Ex. Something red," "Something round," "Something soft," "Something tall," "Something that smells nice")
- Kids collect or point to items that match each category.
- After each round, ask kids to notice how many different kinds of things were found.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that when we stay curious about what makes us divers we can build more interesting and stronger world"

Game: Curiosity Circle

This activity should take 5-10 minutes and is best done with 4+ people

Set It Up

“Curiosity means wondering about other people and learning new things about them. In this game, we’re going to move around the room and discover things about our friends. Sometimes we’ll find people who are the same as us, and sometimes we’ll find people who are different and both are great! That’s part of our UU value of pluralism: celebrating our differences and our similarities.”

Directions

- Have kids spread out around the room so they have space to move.
- Call out a curiosity question or category, such as:
 - “Find someone who likes the same color as you!”
 - “Find someone who likes a different animal than you!”
 - “Find someone who likes pizza!”
 - “Find someone who likes a different favorite food!”
- Kids quickly move around the room asking each other the question until they find someone who fits. To keep it extra active, add a movement before each round:
 - Hop like a bunny to find someone.
 - Tiptoe like a mouse.
 - March like a parade.
 - Spin once before asking a question.
- When they find a match, they do a quick celebration together (high five, jump, spin, etc.).
- Have everyone spread out again and quickly start the next round with a new prompt.
- Play 5–6 fast rounds so the energy stays high.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this game and its message that curiosity helps us discover both the ways we are alike and the ways we are different. When we stay curious and open, we learn more about each other and build friendships. That’s how we practice our UU value of pluralism embracing our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.”

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember (tap the side of your head)

To use our curiosity to build a more diverse world ([Sign the word diversity](#))

Session Three:

A Bridge to a More Exciting World

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. And all month long, we are exploring how awakening our curiosity helps us build a bridge to “other worlds”. This week, we are exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a more exciting world. And as we do this, we will be digging back into our collective past and introducing our kids to the Jetsons world.

***Leader Note:** We obviously know that this show reinforces some stereotypes we have moved away from, so we are not suggesting you show the show, just the opening theme song.*

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives. (hands on heart)

As we light this chalice today, (cup your hands like a chalice)

May the flames (wiggle your fingers like flickering flames)

Help us awaken (stretch and yawn) our curiosity to a more exciting world.

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

A picture of The Jetsons and a device to play [The Jetsons Opening Theme Song](#) and [7 Technologies From "The Jetsons" That Actually Exist Today](#)



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside.
- Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
 - Explain that it is a picture a family from a show called The Jetsons from more than 64 years ago!
 - Ask what they think it has to do with the monthly theme of Awakening Curiosity.
 - Encourage the group to brainstorm. Ask follow-up questions if needed, then share the answer:
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Explain that when this show came out, it was filled with ideas that seemed impossible. But that is because someone was curious. Someone asked, 'What if?' Curiosity helped build bridges from imagination to reality and a more exciting world.
 - **Show the clip of the theme song to the show**
 - Lift up that curiosity is like a bridge. It helps us cross from what we know... to what we don't know yet. From what isn't yet but could be. (mention the things below or show the [7 Technologies From "The Jetsons" That Actually Exist Today clip](#))
 - When this show was created the idea of video calls was crazy and exciting. Now we have FaceTime and Zoom
 - Robot vacuums were unheard of; now we have Roombas
 - They completely made up the idea of smart watches, now most of us know someone with an Apple Watch
 - And moving sidewalks were literally out of this world. Today, we know them as common airport walkways
 - When we are curious about new ideas and new possibilities, we build whole new worlds.
- **Call to Exploration:** So with that in mind, today is all about exploring how we can awaken our own curiosity to build bridges to exciting new worlds and things that aren't yet but might be someday.
- **Build Excitement:** "Are you ready? Let's begin!"

Read It and Talk About It!

Stories to Inspire Us

Picture Book: Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Set It Up

“Today we are exploring how curiosity can be a bridge to a more exciting world. When we ask questions, imagine possibilities, and explore new ideas, the world becomes bigger and more interesting. So with that in mind I want to share a story with you about a boy named Harold, who has a very special tool: a purple crayon. With it, he can draw anything he can imagine.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI94zwz8cKU>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- How did Harold’s curiosity help him have an adventure?
- What might have happened if Harold had been too afraid to try drawing something new?
- If you had Harold’s purple crayon, what is the first thing you would draw?
- What exciting place would your curiosity lead you to create?

Picture Book: The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

Set It Up

“This story is about a girl who wants to build something amazing. She has a big idea in her mind and she is very curious about how to make it happen. But when she starts building, things don’t work the way she expects. Sometimes the parts don’t fit. Sometimes the invention looks wrong. And sometimes she feels frustrated. But curiosity helps her keep going. Instead of giving up, she keeps wondering, experimenting, and trying again. That’s what curiosity helps us explore: new ideas and exciting possibilities we might never find if we stopped too soon.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gy3JCNBgb94>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Why do you think curiosity helped her keep trying?
- Have you ever tried to build or make something that didn’t work right away?
- What magnificent thing would you invent if you could build anything?
- What is something you are curious about learning, building, or trying someday?
- How can curiosity help make our world more exciting?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Hands-On Activity: Purple Crayon Curiosity

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the book [Harold and the Purple Crayon](#)

This activity should take 15-20 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set out yellow and orange cardstock, glue, scissors, pencils, a bowl to make a perfect circle

Set It Up

"In the story, Harold used his purple crayon to draw an adventure wherever his curiosity led him. When he wondered where to go, he simply drew something new! For this activity, our bodies will become Harold's purple crayon. We're going to use our arms, legs, and movements to "draw" exciting things in the air and then travel through the adventure we create together. Let's see where our curiosity takes us!"

Directions

- Have the children spread out so they have room to move without bumping into each other.
- Tell kids to point one finger in the air. And explain that this finger is their purple crayon!
- Invite them to practice drawing big shapes in the air: a wiggly line, a circle, a zig-zag. Encourage them to use big arm movements.
- Once they have practiced calling out things Harold might draw, and the kids draw them with their finger and then act them out with their bodies.
 - Examples:
 - a path - kids draw a long line, then pretend to walk along the path.
 - a mountain - kids draw a triangle, then climb the mountain.
 - the ocean - kids draw wavy lines, then pretend to swim or surf.
 - a dragon - kids draw a big shape and fly like dragons.
- Next invite kids to finish the sentence:
- "Harold should draw a _____!"
- The group then draws it in the air and moves like it together

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that our curiosity can do that too! When we wonder, imagine, and try new things, we help make the world more exciting and full of possibilities."

Hands-On Activity: Build Your Own Jetsons Invention

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the WonderBox or the book The Most Magnificent Thing

This activity should take 20+ minutes and can be done with any number of people

Activity Prep

Gather & set out recyclables, aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, buttons, cups, yarn, paper clips tape/glue, markers, etc.

Set It Up

"Today's activity is all about taking inspiration from _____ (the story The Most Magnificent Thing or the makers of The Jetsons.) Using our curiosity, we're going to design something that solves a problem. Maybe you make a homework robot, or a kindness detector, or a translation helmet, or maybe even a climate-cleaning machine. The sky is the limit!"

Directions

Invite kids to use the materials to invent a machine. Once everyone is done, invite them to share what they made and to answer the question "What question did you ask that helped you design this?"

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this activity and its message that the world becomes more exciting when we use our curiosity to solve problems."

Game: Curiosity Doorways

This activity should take 5-10 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Set It Up

"Sometimes curiosity feels like opening a door into something exciting and new. When we ask questions or try something different, it's like stepping through a doorway into an adventure we didn't know was waiting for us. In this game, we are going to imagine that doors to exciting worlds keep appearing around the room—and our curiosity will help us explore them!"

Directions

- Invite kids to walk/skip/march around the room.
- After a few seconds, the leader calls "curiosity door.", Everyone freezes.
- The leader describes what kind of mystery door they found.
- Examples: This door leads to a dinosaur world....This door leads to an underwater city....a robot invention lab....a jungle full of animals, etc.
- Kids pretend to open the door and step through.
- Everyone then moves around, acting like they are exploring that world
- Examples: dinosaur stomping, swimming underwater, building robots, swinging through jungle vines
- After 20–30 seconds, call out travel and kids walk/skip/march around the room.
- After a few seconds, the leader calls another curiosity door!
- Repeat with new imaginative places.

Game: What If Circle Game

This activity should take 8-10 minutes and is best done with 4+ people.

Activity Prep

Gather & set out a soft ball

Set It Up

“Curiosity often begins with two tiny words: ‘What if?’ Those words are powerful. They are how inventions are made, how bridges are built, and how we imagine a more loving world. Today, we’re going to build a future together using only our curiosity.”

Directions

- Sit in a circle.
- The leader begins with a prompt, like “What if houses could float?” or “”
- Then tosses the ball to someone else, who adds to it using another “What if houses could float? And what if animals could talk?” statement.
- They then toss it to the next person, who adds on a third what-if statement: “What if houses could float, animals could talk, and what if ” statement.
- Continue around the circle, building one shared imaginary future.
- For a second round, go around the circle, but this time focusing on real-world problems
- Examples:
 - “What if we invented clean energy for everyone?”
 - “What if we made technology accessible to all people?”

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that curiosity grows when we build on each other’s ideas.”

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember (tap the side of your head)

That curiosity (tap chin like you are thinking) is a bridge to a more exciting world.

Session Four:

A Bridge to A World with Wiser People

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. This month has been all about exploring how awakening our curiosity is a bridge to “other worlds”. This week, we are exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a world with wiser people. And as we do this, we will have a chance to lift the language in our UU Value Purpose Statement that calls us to “to foster a life of curiosity” as well as our traditional UU belief that “no one has the whole truth.”

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives. (hands on heart)

As we light this chalice today, (cup your hands like a chalice)

May the flames (wiggle your fingers like flickering flames)

Help to foster a life of curiosity and build a bridge (pair up with the person next to you, face each other and join both of your hands, creating a bridge of your links arms)

To a world with wiser people (tap your finger to the side of your head, pointing to your brain)

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

A bag filled with puzzle pieces



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside.
- Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Ask the kids what they think would happen if you try to put the puzzle together by yourself without looking at the picture. Do they think you could do it perfectly? The likely answer is no.
 - Invite each child to pull a piece out and describe it — color, shape, patterns — without seeing the others.
 - Point out that each piece by itself is like an idea or perspective. Alone, it can be confusing or incomplete. But when we ask questions and notice what other people see, when we are curious, we can fit the pieces together better. That's how wisdom grows.
 - Highlight that even if one person has some pieces, and another person has others, together we can see the full picture.
 - Remind the group that our UU faith calls us to foster a life of curiosity, to explore and ask questions, because that's how we grow wiser together.
 - Wisdom doesn't belong to one person. Curiosity is the bridge that lets us share ideas, ask questions, and see the bigger picture together.
- **Call to Exploration:** Say that you all will now explore this idea some more through today's activities.
- **Build Excitement:** "Are you ready? Let's begin!"

Read It and Talk About It!

Stories to Inspire Us

Picture Book: Anansi & The Pot of Wisdom by Jerry John Nonome

Set It Up

“The story comes from the Akan people of present-day Ghana and features the trickster Anansi. In this tale, Anansi gathers all the wisdom in the world into a pot and tries to keep it for himself. But trouble ensues, reminding us that our curiosity is meant to be a gift we share with the world.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jkk8iWbA0A>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Was Anansi truly curious?
- Is collecting knowledge the same as being wise?
- What happens when we believe we already know everything?

Picture Book: Ten Birds by Cybèle Young

Set It Up

“This story follows ten birds trying to cross a river. One by one they build complicated inventions to get across. It reminds us that when we are curious, we try lots of ideas before we find the wisest one. And sometimes the wisest idea comes from the person everyone underestimated.”

Book: <https://kidscanpress.com/product/ten-birds/>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Which bird seemed the wisest at the end?
- Did the birds stay curious about each other's ideas?
- Can wise ideas come from anyone?
- What happens when we listen to everyone?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Puzzle Play

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the wonder box

This activity should take 20-30 minutes and is best done with 4+ people.

Activity Prep

Gather & set out a large puzzle

Set It Up

“Today we’re going to explore curiosity and wisdom with a puzzle. Each of you holds a piece of the bigger picture, but no one has all the pieces or knows exactly where they go. In Unitarian Universalism, we believe no one has the whole truth and curiosity helps us work together to discover it. Let’s see what happens when we bring our pieces together and ask questions instead of trying to ‘be right’ alone.”

Directions

- Spread the pieces randomly across the floor.
- Keep the picture hidden at first (under a cloth or box).
- Invite kids can move pieces around but cannot peek at the picture.
- They must ask each other questions and describe what they see to figure out where pieces might go.
 - No one can just tell others where their piece goes — you have to ask or suggest ideas.
- Encourage kids to pick up pieces, share observations, and experiment.
- Each time a section is completed, pause and notice: “Look how curiosity helped us fit these pieces together!”

Curiosity Challenge: Mix in a few “extra” pieces from another puzzle kids have to figure out which ones don’t belong.

Discussion Questions

- How did it feel when you didn’t know where your piece went?
- What happened when you asked questions or listened to others?
- Could one person have completed the puzzle alone? Why or why not?
- How is this like real life and learning from each other?
- How did curiosity help you see the bigger picture?

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that just like this puzzle, the world is bigger than any one person’s piece. Curiosity helps us connect all of our ideas together, which in turn helps us all see the bigger picture together. That’s how we grow wiser as a community.”

Hands-On Activity: Pot of Wisdom

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom story

This activity should take 20-30 minutes and can be done with any number of kids

Activity Prep

Gather and set out small terra cotta or ceramic pots (one per child), acrylic paints and brushes, paint palettes or plates for mixing, paper strips for “wisdom slips”, paint markers or pens, Optional: stickers, gems, or yarn for decorating

Set It Up

“Today we heard a story about Anansi the spider. In the story, Anansi tried to keep all the wisdom in one pot just for himself. But wisdom and curiosity aren’t meant to stay in one pot. They are meant to be shared with everyone. So with that in mind we are going to make our own Wisdom Pots! You can decorate your pot with colors, shapes, and even spiders and webs like Anansi. Then we’ll put special little papers inside to remind us to share our ideas, questions, and kindness with others.”

Directions

- Give each child a pot and paints and encourage them to decorate it with patterns, symbols, or designs inspired by Anansi (spiders, webs, or simple geometric designs). They can also tie yarn around the rim, glue on a small spider sticker, or add gems for extra fun.
- While the paint dries, give each child small strips of paper. And invite them to draw or write one or more of these:
 - Something I learned (draw a picture)
 - A question I wonder about
 - Something kind I can do
- Once the paint is dry, place the slips in the pot.
- Invite them to take their pots home and pull a slip out at a family meal, and answer the questions together to share their wisdom.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this game and its message that wisdom and curiosity are meant to be shared. When we ask questions, learn new things, and help others, we are sharing our wisdom with the world.”

Hands-On Activity: Curious Paper Plate Birds

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the Ten Birds story

This activity should take 15-30 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set small paper plates, construction paper (for wings, beaks, and tails), craft feathers, googly eyes, glue sticks, crayons, markers, and scissors

Set It Up

"In the story Ten Birds, the birds were very curious. They tried lots of different ideas to cross the river. Today we're going to make our own curious birds. Your bird can be colorful, silly, or fancy, just like the birds in the story!"

Directions

- Give each kid a paper plate and invite them to color or paint the plate to make their bird's body.
- Next have kids glue on a triangle beak (construction paper) two oval or teardrop shape wings (construction paper), a fan shaped tail (construction paper) and eyes
- Encourage kids to glue on craft feathers to make their bird fluffy and fun.

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that Just like the birds in the story, your birds are curious explorers. When we stay curious and try new ideas, we learn new things and help each other grow wiser."

Game: Curiosity Go Fish

This activity should take 10-20 minutes and needs at least 2 kids

Activity Prep

Gather and set out a standard deck of playing cards or a themed matching go fish card set

Set It Up

"Today we are exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a world with wiser people. Curiosity means asking questions and learning from others. When we ask questions, we discover new things and gather wisdom. In the game we're about to play, the only way to get the cards you need is by asking questions. That's a lot like curiosity in real life. Curious people ask questions, listen carefully, and learn from one another."

Directions

Divide kids into small groups of 2-4 and play go fish

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that curiosity works by asking questions and learning from others. When we ask questions and listen to each other, we gather wisdom and help build a world with wiser people."

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember (tap the side of your head)

To foster a life of curiosity and build a bridge (pair up with the person next to you, face each other and join both of your hands, creating a bridge of your linked arms)

to a world with wiser people (tap your finger to the side of your head, pointing to your brain).

Session Three:

A Bridge to a More Exciting World

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. And all month long, we are exploring how awakening our curiosity helps us build a bridge to “other worlds”. This week, we are exploring how curiosity is a bridge to a more exciting world. And as we do this, we will be digging back into our collective past and introducing our kids to the Jetsons world.

***Leader Note:** We obviously know that this show reinforces some stereotypes we have moved away from, so we are not suggesting you show the show, just the opening theme song.*

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives. (hands on heart)

As we light this chalice today, (cup your hands like a chalice)

May the flames (wiggle your fingers like flickering flames)

Help us awaken (stretch and yawn) our curiosity to a more exciting world

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

A picture of The Jetsons and a device to play [The Jetsons Opening Theme Song](#) and [7 Technologies From "The Jetsons" That Actually Exist Today](#)



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside.
- Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
 - Explain that it is a picture a family from a show called The Jetsons from more than 64 years ago!
 - Ask what they think it has to do with the monthly theme of Awakening Curiosity.
 - Encourage the group to brainstorm. Ask follow-up questions if needed, then share the answer:
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Explain that when this show came out, it was filled with ideas that seemed impossible. But that is because someone was curious. Someone asked, 'What if?' Curiosity helped build bridges from imagination to reality and a more exciting world.
 - Show the clip of the theme song to the show
 - Lift up that curiosity is like a bridge. It helps us cross from what we know... to what we don't know yet. From what isn't yet but could be. (mention the things below or show the [7 Technologies From "The Jetsons" That Actually Exist Today clip](#))
 - When this show was created the idea of video calls was crazy and exciting. Now we have FaceTime and Zoom
 - Robot vacuums were unheard of; now we have Roombas
 - They completely made up the idea of smart watches, now most of us know someone with an Apple Watch
 - And moving sidewalks were literally out of this world. Today, we know them as common airport walkways
 - When we are curious about new ideas and new possibilities, we build whole new worlds.
- **Call to Exploration:** So with that in mind, today is all about exploring how we can awaken our own curiosity to build bridges to exciting new worlds and things that aren't yet but might be someday.
- **Build Excitement:** "Are you ready? Let's begin!"

Read It and Talk About It!

Stories to Inspire Us

Picture Book: Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Set It Up

“Today we are exploring how curiosity can be a bridge to a more exciting world. When we ask questions, imagine possibilities, and explore new ideas, the world becomes bigger and more interesting. So with that in mind I want to share a story with you about a boy named Harold, who has a very special tool: a purple crayon. With it, he can draw anything he can imagine.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI94zwz8cKU>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- How did Harold’s curiosity help him have an adventure?
- What might have happened if Harold had been too afraid to try drawing something new?
- If you had Harold’s purple crayon, what is the first thing you would draw?
- What exciting place would your curiosity lead you to create?

Picture Book: The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

Set It Up

“This story is about a girl who wants to build something amazing. She has a big idea in her mind and she is very curious about how to make it happen. But when she starts building, things don’t work the way she expects. Sometimes the parts don’t fit. Sometimes the invention looks wrong. And sometimes she feels frustrated. But curiosity helps her keep going. Instead of giving up, she keeps wondering, experimenting, and trying again. That’s what curiosity helps us explore: new ideas and exciting possibilities we might never find if we stopped too soon.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gy3JCNBgb94>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Why do you think curiosity helped her keep trying?
- Have you ever tried to build or make something that didn’t work right away?
- What magnificent thing would you invent if you could build anything?
- What is something you are curious about learning, building, or trying someday?
- How can curiosity help make our world more exciting?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Hands-On Activity: Purple Crayon Curiosity

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the book [Harold and the Purple Crayon](#)

This activity should take 15-20 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set out yellow and orange cardstock, glue, scissors, pencils, a bowl to make a perfect circle

Set It Up

"In the story, Harold used his purple crayon to draw an adventure wherever his curiosity led him. When he wondered where to go, he simply drew something new! For this activity, our bodies will become Harold's purple crayon. We're going to use our arms, legs, and movements to "draw" exciting things in the air and then travel through the adventure we create together. Let's see where our curiosity takes us!"

Directions

- Have the children spread out so they have room to move without bumping into each other.
- Tell kids to point one finger in the air. And explain that this finger is their purple crayon!
- Invite them to practice drawing big shapes in the air: a wiggly line, a circle, a zig-zag. Encourage them to use big arm movements.
- Once they have practiced calling out things Harold might draw, and the kids draw them with their finger and then act them out with their bodies.
 - Examples:
 - a path - kids draw a long line, then pretend to walk along the path.
 - a mountain - kids draw a triangle, then climb the mountain.
 - the ocean - kids draw wavy lines, then pretend to swim or surf.
 - a dragon - kids draw a big shape and fly like dragons.
- Next invite kids to finish the sentence:
- "Harold should draw a _____!"
- The group then draws it in the air and moves like it together

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this game and its message that our curiosity can do that too! When we wonder, imagine, and try new things, we help make the world more exciting and full of possibilities."

Hands-On Activity: Build Your Own Jetsons Invention

Leader Note: This activity is best paired with the WonderBox or the book The Most Magnificent Thing

This activity should take 20+ minutes and can be done with any number of people

Activity Prep

Gather & set out recyclables, aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, buttons, cups, yarn, paper clips tape/glue, markers, etc.

Set It Up

"Today's activity is all about taking inspiration from _____ (the story The Most Magnificent Thing or the makers of The Jetsons.) Using our curiosity, we're going to design something that solves a problem. Maybe you make a homework robot, or a kindness detector, or a translation helmet, or maybe even a climate-cleaning machine. The sky is the limit!"

Directions

Invite kids to use the materials to invent a machine. Once everyone is done, invite them to share what they made and to answer the question "What question did you ask that helped you design this?"

Sum It Up

"Let's remember this activity and its message that the world becomes more exciting when we use our curiosity to solve problems."

Game: Curiosity Doorways

This activity should take 5-10 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Set It Up

"Sometimes curiosity feels like opening a door into something exciting and new. When we ask questions or try something different, it's like stepping through a doorway into an adventure we didn't know was waiting for us. In this game, we are going to imagine that doors to exciting worlds keep appearing around the room—and our curiosity will help us explore them!"

Directions

- Invite kids to walk/skip/march around the room.
- After a few seconds, the leader calls "curiosity door.", Everyone freezes.
- The leader describes what kind of mystery door they found.
- Examples: This door leads to a dinosaur world....This door leads to an underwater city....a robot invention lab....a jungle full of animals, etc.
- Kids pretend to open the door and step through.
- Everyone then moves around, acting like they are exploring that world
- Examples: dinosaur stomping, swimming underwater, building robots, swinging through jungle vines
- After 20–30 seconds, call out travel and kids walk/skip/march around the room.
- After a few seconds, the leader calls another curiosity door!
- Repeat with new imaginative places.

Game: What If Circle Game

This activity should take 8-10 minutes and is best done with 4+ people.

Activity Prep

Gather & set out a soft ball

Set It Up

“Curiosity often begins with two tiny words: ‘What if?’ Those words are powerful. They are how inventions are made, how bridges are built, and how we imagine a more loving world. Today, we’re going to build a future together using only our curiosity.”

Directions

- Sit in a circle.
- The leader begins with a prompt, like “What if houses could float?” or “”
- Then tosses the ball to someone else, who adds to it using another “What if houses could float? And what if animals could talk?” statement.
- They then toss it to the next person, who adds on a third what-if statement: “What if houses could float, animals could talk, and what if ” statement.
- Continue around the circle, building one shared imaginary future.
- For a second round, go around the circle, but this time focusing on real-world problems
- Examples:
 - “What if we invented clean energy for everyone?”
 - “What if we made technology accessible to all people?”

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that curiosity grows when we build on each other’s ideas.”

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember (tap the side of your head)

That curiosity (tap chin like you are thinking) is a bridge to a more exciting world.

Session Five:

A Bridge to the World of Your Future-self

Theme Angle

This month's theme is Awakening Curiosity. All month long, we have explored how awakening our curiosity is a bridge to “other worlds.” This week, we’re exploring how curiosity is a bridge to the world of our future-self. As we do this, we will dive into the idea that what we are curious about as a child almost always shapes who we are as we grow up, and especially what we are passionate about as we get older.

Light It!

Chalice Lighting

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)
Who put love at the center of our lives. (hands on heart)
As we light this chalice today, (cup your hands like a chalice)
May the flames (wiggle your fingers like flickering flames)
ignite our curiosity (tap chin like your thinking)
about who our future selves will be (hand above eyes like your searching)

Introduce It!

The Wonder Box

Reflection Object to Gather Ahead of Time:

3–5 clear cups or jars of water, food coloring (different colors), droppers or spoons, one empty clear cup (for mixing)



Introduction & Reveal

- Welcome the group and acknowledge or remind everyone of the theme of the month.
- Remind kids that our mystery object gives us a clue about how we are exploring our monthly theme today.
- Shake the box and invite kids to guess what is inside. Open the box and reveal the object.

Wondering & Takeaway

- **Ask:** "I wonder what this (hold up the object) might have to do with our theme of the month?"
 - Pause for kids to share thoughts.
- **Share Object Lesson:**
 - Explain that each of the colors represents something they might be curious about or want to explore.
 - Point to each color and invite examples:
 - This could be curiosity about animals...
 - This could be curiosity about helping people...
 - This could be curiosity about how things work...
 - Pour or drop colors into the empty cup one by one.
 - Can you still see the original colors?
 - Do you think they're still part of the new color?
 - How is this like who you are becoming?
 - As you mix them, explain that every time we follow our curiosity, every time we ask a question, try something new, or learn, we are adding something to who we are becoming. Something that will help build a bridge to our future selves.
 - Let the color fully change.
 - Hold up the final color and point out that just like the colors didn't stay the same, we don't stay the same either. We become something new, something made from all the things we've been curious about.
- **Call to Exploration:** So with that in mind, today is all about exploring how we can awaken our own curiosity to build bridges to who we might be some day
- **Build Excitement:** "Are you ready? Let's begin!"

Read It and Talk About It!

Stories to Inspire Us

Picture Book: The Wonderful Things You Will Be, by Emily Winfield Martin

Set It Up

“Today we are exploring how curiosity can be a bridge to the world of our future selves. So with that in mind, I want to share a book with you about all the wonderful things you might be.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6M9ORW73r4>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- How does curiosity help the child in the story become all the wonderful things they might be?
- Can you think of something new you’ve tried recently that taught you something about yourself? How might that help shape your future?
- The book talks about being kind, brave, creative, and thoughtful. How do these qualities help shape the person you are growing into?
- How do your actions today, your choices, the way you treat others, help you become the “wonderful person” you want to be?

Picture Book: Who Will I Be? by Abby Huntsman

Set It Up

“In this story, a young girl named Isabel is asked what she wants to be when she grows up but she doesn’t have an answer at first. Instead of jumping to a career title, she notices something important: what makes her happy is helping others. With the help of her parent, she observes many people in her community from firefighters to teachers and begins to see all the different ways someone can grow up to help other people and make a difference.”

Video Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaNQwu4qNY>

Sum It Up

In your own words, remind the children of how the story is connected to the session's theme angle.

Discuss it: Reflection Questions to “[Build and Bond](#).”

- Isabel wasn’t sure right away what she wanted to be, why do you think that is?
- How can being curious help you discover your future-self?
- Do you think “who you want to be” has to be just one thing? Why or why not?

Engage It!

Hands-On Activities, Crafts & Games for Experiential Learning

Hands-On Activity: Future-self-Portrait

This activity should take 15-20 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather and set blank paper or cardstock (portrait size), crayons, markers, colored pencils

Set It Up

“In the story, Harold used his purple crayon to draw an adventure wherever his curiosity led him. When he wondered where to go, he simply drew something new! For this activity, our bodies will become Harold’s purple crayon. We’re going to use our arms, legs, and movements to “draw” exciting things in the air and then travel through the adventure we create together. Let’s see where our curiosity takes us!”

Directions

- Invite children to sit at a table or on the floor with a space for their materials.
- Then invite them to draw a picture of the future grow up self
- Remind them that there’s no right or wrong way to do this.
- When everyone is done, invite them to share their art.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that curiosity today shapes the person we become tomorrow. Every question we ask, every new thing we try, helps our future-self grow.”

Hands-On Activity: Curiosity Jar

This activity should take 20+ minutes and can be done with any number of people

Activity Prep

Gather & set out empty jars or cups, small slips of paper, crayons or markers, stickers to decorate the jar/cup

Set It Up

“Today we’re exploring how curiosity is what helps us explore, learn, and grow into the person we hope to become. So with that in mind, we are going to make a Curiosity Jar! This jar is going to be a special place to keep all the questions, ideas, and dreams you have about yourself and the world. Every time you wonder about something new, whether it’s a skill you want to try, a place you want to explore, or a way you want to help others, you can write it down and put it in your jar.”

Directions

- Invite kids to decorate their jar.
- Then on slips of paper, children write or draw questions they are curious about and want to learn or try as they get older
- Fold slips and place them in the jar.
- Encourage them to pull out a slip regularly to explore a curiosity.
- Invite kids to take the jars home and share them with their families.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that curiosity is a powerful bridge to your future-self, helping you grow, learn, and leave your mark on the world!”

Game: Curiosity Adventure Hunt

Leader Note: This game works best when paired with the story Who Will I Be?

This activity should take 5-10 minutes and can be done with any number of children

Activity Prep

Gather & set out cards or small papers with pictures or descriptions of different helpers, roles, or activities (e.g., firefighter, teacher, artist, gardener, doctor, musician) “Curiosity Notebook” or sheet for each child (can be a simple piece of paper divided into 2 columns: I wonder... | I might try...) Crayons, pencils, or markers

Set It Up

“Today we’re going on a Curiosity Adventure! In the book Who Will I Be? Isabel explores her community to discover all the different ways people help each other. Just like Isabel, we are going to explore, ask questions, and see what sparks our curiosity. Every time we find something new, we’ll think about how it could help us grow and shape our future selves. Remember: curiosity is the bridge to discovering who you might become!”

Directions

- Before the activity, hide the cards around the room or outdoor space. Make sure they’re visible but require a little searching
- Explain that each card represents a person in our community or an activity they could try. When they find a card, they should write or draw in their notebook: Something they wonder about the role or activity. Something they might want to try in the future to explore this curiosity.
- Set a timer (5–10 minutes, depending on the space). Let children spread out and search for the cards.
- Encourage them to quietly think about questions as they go: “I wonder what this person does every day?” or “I wonder how I could try this someday?”
- Optional Twist: Some cards can have small prompts on them, e.g.,
 - What tools would this helper need?
 - If you tried this for a day, what would you learn?

Discuss It

- Which role made you most curious, and why?
- How can curiosity about different things help shape your future-self?
- Did any of the roles surprise you or make you think about trying something new?

Game: Path to Your Future-self Obstacle Game

This activity should take 8-10 minutes and is best done with 4+ people.

Activity Prep

Gather & set out tape to mark a path, small obstacles (cones, cushions, chairs)

Question cards or challenges at each station

Set It Up

“Curiosity often begins with two tiny words: ‘What if?’ Those words are powerful. They are how inventions are made, how bridges are built, and how we imagine a more loving world. Today, we’re going to build a future together using only our curiosity.”

Directions

- Set up a path with obstacles. At each obstacle, place a card with a question or mini challenge, e.g.:
 - Name one thing you’re curious about today.
 - What do you want to be when you grow up.
 - Name one thing you want to do when you're older.
- Kids move along the path, completing the challenges and answering the question at each station.

Sum It Up

“Let’s remember this activity and its message that being curious about life's challenges, questions, and exploration help us grow into our future selves.”

Extinguish It!

We are Unitarian Universalists (open wide toward each other)

Who put love at the center of our lives (hands on heart)

As we extinguish our chalice (cup your hands like a chalice)

And as we go out into the world, (use finger to make a walking motion)

Let us remember to be curious (tap chin like your thinking)

about who our future selves will be (hand above eyes like your searching)

May Stories At-a-Glance

To support leaders as they assemble a session that best fits their children's developmental needs, this section provides an overview of all the wisdom tales and storybooks in our RE packets each month.

Wisdom Tales (from the upper elementary packet)

- [The Dog and the Heartless King](#)
- [Mullah Nasruddin Feeds His Coat](#)
- [The Animal School](#)
- [The Four Seasons of a Tree/The Pear Tree Story](#)
- [Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom](#)
- [A Cup of Tea](#)
- [The Two Wolves](#)
- [The Pencil and The Path](#)

Story Books (from the lower elementary & one room schoolhouse packet)

- Star Wars: I Am a Jedi - Golden Books
- Say Something! by Peter H. Reynolds
- The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
- Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev
- Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
- The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
- Ten Birds by Cybèle Young
- Anansi & The Pot of Wisdom by Jerry John Nonome
- The Wonderful Things You Will Be by Emily Winfield Martin
- Who Will I Be? by Abby Huntsman

Soul Work Table Activities

Many congregations have a multi-sensory table in the sanctuary to support children, youth, and adults who find it easier to focus when their hands are busy. Some of our Christian cousins call it a “Prayground.” Read about how they approach it [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). In UU circles, the tables are often for all ages, meaning adults are invited to use it too. We love calling it “Soul Work Table,” but of course, feel free to give it whatever creative name you want.

- [Awakening Curiosity Coloring Sheet](#)
- We also suggest using some of the creative activities from this packet and any other manipulatives you choose on your soul works table.

RE Companion Resources

2025 - 2026 Chalice Chapel Songbook

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qgnKOouVChrXydvCBz9laRCizCOkTHLc/view?usp=sharing>

This song book offers kid-friendly hymns that align with each of this year's spiritual theme for each month. This resource was created and generously shared with permission by DRE Dana Lundquist and RE volunteer Chris Wise from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh

- Sept Building Belonging - 1021 Lean on Me
- Oct Cultivating Compassion - #1031 May we be filled with loving kindness
- Nov Nurturing Gratitude - #402 From You I Receive
- Dec Choosing Hope - #1022 Open the Window
- Jan Practicing Resistance - # 1017 Building a New Way
- Feb Embodying Resilience - # 389 Gathered Here
- Mar Paying Attention - #1007 There's a River Flowing My Soul
- Apr Embracing Possibility - #1024 When the Spirit Says Do
- May Awakening Curiosity - #1003 Where Do We Come From?

Feeding Our Spirit: Exploring Our UU Values through Fun in the Kitchen

Unitarian Universalism calls us to live our values with creativity, experimentation, and joy. And what better way to explore those values than through cooking, conversation, and community? This additional companion resource explores and highlights our UU values in a fresh and delicious way: through the joys and creativity of cooking! Each session centers on one of our new UU values and is paired with an introduction, story options, thoughtful discussion prompts, and three hands-on recipes.

To Learn more:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HB0PmKUS7cMLKJi6Zmq8SopiCNLviMAWHxfDi9alavo/edit?usp=sharing>

To purchase:

https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/store/p945/RE_Summer_Feeding_Our_Spirit.html

Other Resources and Sources of Support

RE Leader Facebook Page

Don't forget about our RE Leader Support Facebook page. Here is where our colleagues post bulletin board pictures, share books, and ideas. It's a great ongoing source of support. Your colleagues are available to support you at the click of a button and with the ease of a post: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/545202255591601/>

Inspiration Facebook Page

Offer your teachers and parents spiritual nourishment and inspiration by encouraging them to join the Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page. Use the memes for your congregational FB page, as well: <https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Soul Matters Music Playlists

We create two different playlists on the monthly theme each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. Music connects us to the themes in a way like nothing else. Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month. Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).

Soulful Home Family Guides

Invite your parents to explore the themes at home with their family by subscribing to our monthly parent guides, **Soulful Home**. Here's the link to the Soulful Home page on our website: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html>.

Soul Matters RE Packet Author & Contributors

- **Huge thanks to this packet's author: April Rosario, Soul Matters Director of RE Resources**
- Thanks as well to all the Soul Matters Religious Educators who send in suggestions for our monthly packets! Whenever you have stories, games, or activities you'd like to suggest, just email April at soulmattersre@gmail.com



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