

3rd-6th Grade - World Religions / Unitarian Universalism / Jewish & Christian Heritage

SEPTEMBER THEME: Covenant

September 18: Introductions

September 25: Safety Day

OCTOBER THEME: Feeling

October 2: Afraid of the Dark: How Fear Can Color

Mankind's Understanding of the Divine

Question: What are you afraid of?

Highlight(s): Fear of Nature, Fear of Chaos, Fear of Death

October 9: Let There Be Light: Divine Order and Primordial Chaos

Question: If you were to design Chaos, how would you do it?

Highlight(s): Ocean, Water, Darkness/Mesopotamia, Navajo, Greece

October 16: Stairway to Heaven: Maya and Aztec

Question: If you were a god, what would you want?

Highlight(s): Science and Sacrifice

October 23: The World Around Us: North American Religious Traditions

Question: What is nature?

Highlight(s): Balance, land, and tradition

October 30: Ecstasy's the Only Pay - Apollo, Dionysus, and How We Apprehend the Divine

Question: Have you ever been outside yourself?

Highlight(s): Speaking in Tongues, Revivals, Meditations

November THEME: Story

November 6: Tales Within Tales: The Arabian Nights and the Stories We Tell

Question: What are stories for?

Highlight(s): The power of narrative in our life, the different things stories teach

November 13: Rooting for the Underdog: Loki, Anansi, and Other Tricksters

Question: Why do we want the underdog to win?

Highlight(s): Brains over Brawn, the tricksters also get tricked

November 20: Cat's in the Cradle: Children Overthrowing Parents in Greco-Roman mythology

Question: Do you want to be like your parents?

Highlight(s): Fear of growing old, fear of loss, fear of chaos

November 27 (Thanksgiving Service): No Man is An Island: Taking things for Granted

Question: Can you think of something that no one else played a part in?

Highlight(s): The common good, society, and family

DECEMBER THEME: Presence

December 4: Everything Tells a Story: Animism and Understanding

Question: Can something that can't talk tell a story?

Highlight(s): Shinto, Listening, Observing

December 11: Made Up Mythologies: What do fictional religions in Fantasy and Science Fiction tell us about our own culture?

Question: If you were designing a religion, what would you want to add?

Highlight(s): The Force, World of Warcraft, Absent religions

December 18: What Child is This?: The Ability to Change the World

Question: Do you think you can make a difference?

Highlight(s): Chosen Ones, Aggregate, Choices

December 25: - NO CLASS

JANUARY THEME: Prophecy

January 1: New Year's Resolution: Can a Promise Predict?

Question: Do you have a new year's resolution?

Highlight(s): People deciding to change, statistical probabilities, confronting demons

January 8: Ragnarok and Revelation - Predictions on how the world will end

Question: What would you do if the world was about to end?

Highlight(s): Ragnarok, Revelation, Millerite and Camping Events

January 15: Choice and Consequence: A discussion of Karma

Question: What is Justice?

Highlight(s): Dharma and Karma

January 22: A Life Worth Living - Artha, Kama, and Moksha

Question: What makes life worth living

Highlight(s): Artha, Kama, and Moksha

January 29: TBA

FEBRUARY THEME: Identity

February 5: Who Will You Have Been? - Choice and Legacy

Question: What story about yourself do you want to be a movie in 2117?

Highlight(s): Decisions, History, Chaos Theory

February 12: Attachment Anxiety - The Four Noble Truths of Buddhism

Question: Can things hold you back?

Highlight(s): Dukkha, the Four Noble Truths, Samsara

February 19: Climbing the Mountain - Theravada Buddhism and the Eightfold Path

Question: How would you stop wanting things?

Highlight(s): Eightfold Path, Arhat, Dharma

February 26: Would You Take Me By the Hand - Mahayana Buddhism and Universal Liberation

Question: If you could escape from the worst place in the world by yourself, would you?

Highlight(s): Bodhisattvas, Zen, Sutras

MARCH THEME: Risk

March 5: You Bet Your Life: Pascal's Wager and Certainty

Question: Would you stake your soul?

Highlight(s): Pascal's Wager, Common refutations, Importance of Faith

March 12: People of the Book: Judaism

Question: Would you make a deal with God?

Highlight(s): Brief biblical review, brief historical account of diaspora and persecution, modern times

March 19: People of the Book: Islam

Question: What does it mean to surrender?

Highlight(s): Brief historical account of development of Islam, basis of religion

March 26: People of the Book: Islam

Question: What have you heard about Islam?

Highlight(s): Shia and Sunni, dangers of hearsay

APRIL THEME: Transformation

April 2: Here I Am Alone With You - A Brief Review of Mysticism in Islam and other Faiths

Question: Are you separate from the divine?

Highlight(s): Sufism, Taoism, Shamanism

April 9: People of the Book: Christianity

Question: What does it mean to atone?

Highlight(s): Brief biblical review, brief historical account of spread of Christianity

April 16: One in Three or Three in One - Early Christian Theological Debates and the Roots of Unitarianism

Question: How important is it to be right?

Highlight(s): Early Christian differences of theological opinion, trinity, Logos

April 23: What a Piece of Work is Man - Perfectibility vs. Total Depravity

Question: Can you be good all the time?

Highlight(s): Original Sin, Free Will, Perfectibility

April 30: Broken Mirror: The Protestant Reformation

Question: Can you hold the keys to the kingdom?

Highlight(s): Papal abuses, Luther, Calvin

MAY THEME: Embodiment

May 7: The Last Unrepentant Sinner, Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven - Universalism's Rejection of Damnation

Question: How can a God of infinite love condemn someone to eternal punishment for a finite crime?

Highlight(s): Rejection of Predestination, Rejection of Fear of God, the idea of Love as overpowering

May 14: By Our Powers Combined: The Unitarian and Universalist Churches in the US and Their Integration

Question: Have you ever wondered why two names?

Highlight(s): History of churches in the US, 1961 integration, subsequent activities

May 21: Seven Principles - Part 1

Question: Which principle/s speak to you personally?

Highlight(s): Principles

May 28: Seven Principles - Part 2

Question: Have you ever dropped the ball on the principles?

Highlight(s): Where I've fallen down, The rest of the principles

JUNE THEME: Zest

June 4: What Does It All Mean?

Question: After a year's worth of discussions, what do you think?

Highlight(s): Kids lead discussion