



## March Family Guide to Theme Based Discussion & Practices

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
2010 WHENONA DRIVE ■ MADISON, WI ■ UUPRAIRIE.ORG ■ 608.271.8218

### The Little Boy And The Old Man

By Shel Silverstein

Said the little boy,  
"Sometimes I drop my  
spoon."

Said the old man, "I do that  
too."

The little boy whispered, "I  
wet my pants."

"I do that too," laughed the  
little old man.

Said the little boy, "I often  
cry."

The old man nodded, "So do  
I."

"But worst of all," said the  
boy, "it seems  
Grown-ups don't pay  
attention to me."

And he felt the warmth of a  
wrinkled old hand.  
"I know what you mean," said  
the little old man..

## Service...

By Holly Tellander, DRE

**M**arch is the month where we begin to look around us again. We've spent January and February nestled snugly into our warm and cozy homes (if we're lucky enough to have homes), resting and recuperating from the busyness of the holiday season.

Now, spring is once again on the horizon. The days are getting longer and warmer and we begin to venture out once more.

What a great time to reach our hands out in service? Our challenge this month is to look beyond ourselves to see who, what and how we can help make the world a better place.

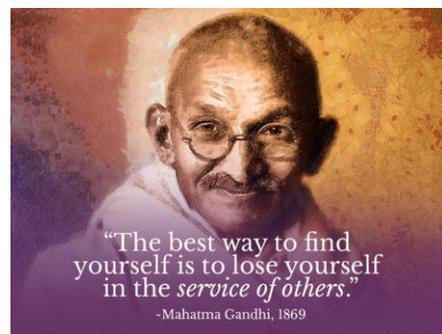
As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote the importance of our second

principle – 'Be Kind In All You Do' as well as our 6<sup>th</sup> principle "Work Together For A Fair & Peaceful World".

The theme for this month for our families to share at home is the theme of "Service". Service is defined as the act of 'doing work for or helping someone'. Aside from the fact that our church society and faith tradition thinks that it is important to help others, many people say that helping others makes them happier.

Why don't we give it a try together this month?

In this newsletter you'll find movies, books and songs to engage with the theme. And on the very back page – you'll find a family challenge. Let us know how you do!



# The Lion & The Mouse

One day a lion was idling in the sun, pretending to sleep, when he felt an odd little tickle on his nose.

He opened one eye and, with a swipe of his huge paw, caught a small mouse trying to run away.

The lion roared angrily and tossed the mouse into the air.

The mouse cried, "Please don't hurt me! If only you will spare my life, I promise I will repay you."

Surprised and amused by the little creature's earnest promises, the lion laughed and let the little mouse go.

Time passed, and then one day the lion became ensnared in a trap.

As he struggled to free himself, the ropes tightened around him until he couldn't move.

The little mouse was close by and heard the lion's roar. She came and set the lion free by gnawing through the ropes.

"When you kindly spared my life," said the mouse, "you laughed at the idea that one day I would repay you. Now you see even the smallest of us can make a big difference."



*Think about it. . .*

- ~ Why do you think the lion let the mouse go in the beginning?
- ~ What do you think is the moral of this story?
- ~ What does this story make you think of in your own life?

# Round the Table

**WHAT IS THE NICEST THING that someone has done for you lately? Why do you think they did it?**

**WHAT IS THE NICEST THING you have done for someone lately? How did you feel afterwards?**

**WHEN DO YOU FIND IT HARD TO BE NICE? Is there a particular situation that frustrates or angers you so that it is difficult to remember your dedication to helping others?**

## Resources on 'Service'



- √ Erin Brockovich (2000 - R )
- √ The Boy In The Striped Pajamas (2008 - PG13)
- √ Pay It Forward (2000 - PG13)
- √ Disney's Robin Hood (1973 - G)
- √ The Lorax (2012 - G)

- √ All Work Together- Woodie Guthrie
- √ Revolution - Beatles
- √ We Are the World - USA For Africa
- √ Lives in the Balance - Jackson Browne
- √ Different People - No Doubt
- √ Love Makes the World Go Round - Madonna



- √ The Giving Tree - Shel Silverstein
- √ A Single Shard - Linda Sue Park
- √ Random Acts of Kindness (Conmari Press)
- √ God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater - Kurt Vonnegut
- √ Freak The Mighty - Rodman Philbrick



## Principles in ACTION

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote 7 core principles

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1. Everyone is important.
2. Be kind in all you do.
3. We are free to learn together.
4. We can all search for our own truth.
5. Everyone has a voice.
6. We work together to build a fair and peaceful world.
7. We care for our planet.

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How can your family engage with the theme of 'service' in the context of living out one or more of our principles? Share your ideas & experiences on our Theme Board downstairs!

## Some ideas

- ◇ Start at home. Is there some way you can be of service to someone in your family? How would they feel if they saw you taking that action?
- ◇ Organize a clean up session for a part or a section of your neighborhood.
- ◇ Share your ideas for service in your RE class - get a conversation started about how you would like to make the world a better place. See what happens!

# Are you up to the challenge?

Need ideas for how to be of service this month?

Use the bingo board below and see if your family can make a BINGO.

(4 IN A ROW - ACROSS, DOWN OR DIAGONAL!)

Offer to help an elderly neighbor with yard work for one hour.	Help your sibling clean up their room out of the goodness of your heart!	Take a bag of dog or cat food to an animal shelter to donate!	Next time you take a walk take along a plastic bag and a pair of gloves – fill the bag with trash!	Visit a nursing home and donate some old novels or magazines .
Send a card to a soldier who is serving our country.	Talk to someone new at school – see if you can make a new friend.	Make a few care packages to hand out to people who are living on the street.	Next time you go shopping buy a little extra and make a donation to a food pantry.	Bring your teacher a bouquet of flowers.
Put away an extra cart from the parking lot when you go to the grocery store.	Smile at everyone you see for ONE WHOLE DAY!	Help your mom or dad by doing a chore you don't normally do.	Hold the door open for everyone for ONE WHOLE DAY!	Take a plate of cookies to a police or fire station.
Tape quarters in plastic baggies to the front of vending machines.	Pay for a coffee for the car behind you in the drive through.	Set a timer for 15 minutes & put away everything you see that is not in its right place.	Read to someone who likes to be read to.	Use sidewalk chalk to write loving messages on a sidewalk where many people will pass by.