



April Family Guide to Theme Based Discussion & Practices

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
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Truth & Falsehood
By Arthur Guiterman

Old Time was young,
men's hearts were all untried
by grief and sin,
when round this whirling ball
Pure Truth and Falsehood
journeyed side by side
In free companionship.

At evenfall

Of that long day which closed the
Age of Gold
They came to Pleasure's lake, and
both were glad
To cast their robes and seek those
waters cold.

But Falsehood, first emerging,
lightly clad her limbs in Truth's
white garments, fresh and fair,
And swiftly fled away with
mocking mirth;

While Truth, disdainful
Falsehood's tattered wear,
Pursued.

So still around the dizzy earth
Flies Falsehood, well-disguised in
Truth's array,
While Truth runs after, naked to
the day.

Truth...

BY HOLLY TELLANDER, DRE

*April is here! She brings
flowers and showers and
new life and warm
breezes. She is the first
breath of spring after
long icy winters and we
are so happy to see her!*

*But April can be tricky.
Warm and lovely one day,
frigid and wet the next.*

*Can April truly be called
spring – even when she
doesn't always act that
way?*

*Truth is a tricky subject.
In theory we should
always tell the truth – it's
the right thing to do.*

*But the truth can be
painful. It can wound and
it can break the recipient
at times.*

*This is a hard concept for
all of us to learn. When is
it okay to lie? When is the
truth justified – when is
not?*

*As Unitarian Universalists
we affirm and promote
the idea that everyone is
entitled to their own free
and responsible search
for truth and meaning.*

*In theory, this sounds like
a lovely idea – easy to
promote and affirm. But
how do we behave when
someone's truth is
radically different than
our own? How do we
handle truth that seems
ugly or silly or harmful or
false?*

*This month we consider
the role of truth in our
lives and in our faith. We
think about how we teach
truth and how we teach its
opposite.*

*Perhaps Oscar Wilde said
it best... "The truth is
rarely pure and never
simple."*



The Boy Who Cried Wolf

A Shepherd Boy tended his master's Sheep near a dark forest not far from the village. Soon he found life in the pasture very dull. All he could do to amuse himself was to talk to his dog or play on his shepherd's pipe.

One day as he sat watching the Sheep and the quiet forest, and thinking what he would do should he see a wolf. It was not long until he thought of a plan to amuse himself.

His Master had told him to call for help should a wolf attack the flock. He had promised that the villagers would come running to drive it away.

So now, though the boy had not seen anything that even looked a little like a wolf, he ran toward the village shouting at the top of his voice, "Wolf! Wolf!"

As promised, the villagers who heard the cry dropped their work and ran in great excitement to the pasture. But when they got there they found the boy doubled up with laughter at the trick he had played on them.

A few days later, finding himself in a

similar state of boredom, the shepherd boy again thought of his funny plan.

Once again he ran for the village, shouting, "Wolf! Wolf!" And again the villagers ran to help him, only to be laughed at again.

They grumbled angrily as they went back to their work that day, but the boy laughed gaily, fully satisfied with his trick.

Then one evening as the sun was setting behind the forest and the shadows were creeping out over the pasture, it happened that a wolf really did spring from the underbrush and fall upon the sheep.

In terror the boy ran toward the village shouting "Wolf! Wolf!" But though the villagers heard the cry, they did not run to help him as they had before. "He cannot fool us again," they said.

The Wolf gobbled a great many of the boy's sheep that day and then slipped safely away into the forest.

Think about it. . .

- ~ Have you ever had someone treat you like the boy treats the villagers in this story? How did you feel?
- ~ What do you think the boy should do to earn the trust of the villagers again?

Round the Table

PLAY 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE with your family at dinner. Each person tells 3 true things and 1 lie and everyone else tries to guess the lie.

ASK YOUR PARENTS about the scariest time they had to tell the truth. What did they do?

NOTICE WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING – why do you think they are doing that? Can you understand their feelings? Can you help?

Resources on ‘Service’



- ✓ INTO THE WILD (2007 - R)
- ✓ SPY SCHOOL (2008 – PG)
- ✓ THE GRUFFALO (2009 – PG)
- ✓ THE MATRIX (1999- R)
- ✓ WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (1998-PG 13)

✓ TRUTH AND HONESTY – ARETHA FRANKLIN

✓ BABYLON SONG – BOB MARLEY

✓ TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL – CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG

✓ THE STRANGER – BILLY JOEL

✓ GOODBYE EARL – THE DIXIE CHICKS

✓ I DON’T LIKE – BARENAKED LADIES

* GREAT FOR ALL AGES! ✓ RUTHIE AND THE (NOT SO)

TEENY LIE – LAURA RANKIN

✓ THE EMPTY POT – DEMI

✓ THE HONEST TRUTH - DAN GEMEINHART

✓ WONDER – R.J. PALACIO

✓ THIS IS NOT MY HAT – JON KLASSEN



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 ‘truth’ in the context of living out one or more of our principles?

Some ideas

◇ Think of someone who thinks very differently from you about something. How do you accept a truth that is different from your own?

◇ Support someone who is telling the truth – even if everyone else isn’t.

◇ Think of this question – “What is the meaning of life?” Share your truthful answer with someone you love and listen to their response. Can you find common ground even through your differences?

Are you up to the challenge?

Need ideas for how to be truthful this month? Want to practice accepting truths that are different from your own?

The list of questions below are great for discussion. Try them with your family, your friends and as conversation starters with new acquaintances!

And remember this old proverb:

‘we are one at the root, only parting at the branch’

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- ~ What do you think is the best topping for a hamburger?
- ~ What do you think is the biggest problem for kids in the world right now?
- ~ How old do you think should someone be when they get married?
  - ~ Who do you think should be the next president?
  - ~ What do you think is the grossest food in the world?
  - ~ What do you think is the coolest dog name ever?
  - ~ What game would you like to see outlawed forever?
    - ~ What do you think happens after you die?
- ~ What do you think is the most annoying song you’ve ever heard?
  - ~ Which do you think is better – roller-skating or rollerblading? Chocolate or vanilla ice cream? Night owls or Early birds? Real books or books on Kindle? Rock music or Jazz? Dogs or cats???