

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
“Play”
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

“Play is to fun as joy is to happiness. Things tend to make us happy, whereas joy is a capacity of the soul. Happiness is often fleeting, joy is self-replenishing.

When we go somewhere or take a trip, we’re often asked “Did you have fun?” as if fun was a place we go to and then return from, sated by a visit to another country, content now to exist again in its absence. The ability to be playful rests less in the objects that surround us than in the quality of the spirit within us. Playfulness is a potential within us that allows us to recapture the lightness of our being and the spirit of the child. Playfulness is not to be confused with the donning of rose-colored glasses, a defense against the sorrowful side of life. Indeed, it can be said that only those who can laugh with all their being are also those whose tears are most real. Playfulness is an ability to see the heights of the depths of life.”

- KSB

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Reading:

“There are at least two kinds of games. One could be called finite, the other infinite. A finite game is played for the purpose of winning, an infinite game of the purpose of continuing the play.

Finite players play within boundaries; infinite players play with boundaries.

Surprise causes finite play to end; surprise is the reason for infinite play to continue.

To be prepared against surprise is to be trained. To be prepared for surprise is to be educated.

The finite play for life is serious; the infinite play of life is joyous.

The joyfulness of infinite play, its laughter, lies in learning to start something we cannot finish.

Only that which can change can continue: this is the principle by which infinite players live.”

“Play is not only recreation, but, in a finer sense of the word, it is a matter of creation and re-creation.”

- Robert Fulghum

Questions for consideration: According to the above readings, play is serious work in the sense that it is important for our souls, and our emotional functioning.

- Do you allow yourself time for play?
- How do you cultivate playfulness in you life?

- What is the difference between a religion that sees itself as a finite game and a religion that sees itself as an infinite game (not talking about difference sects, as in Baptist vs. UU, but in differing religious attitudes)?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Maybe here recognize that this is the last meeting before you go into the summer, and give people a chance to share their feeling/insights/blessings with each other.

Closing Words:

“Ever since there have been men, man has given himself over to too little joy. That alone, my brothers, is our original sin. I should believe only in a God who understood how to dance.”

- Henri Matisse (you may want to change the gender-exclusive language).

Amen. May you live in blessing.