



All Souls PARENT resource network

MAY 2010

MAY PARENTS' GUIDE TO OUR THEME-BASED MINISTRY AND EVENTS
ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH | WWW.ALLSOULSCHURCH.ORG | 918.743.2805 | 2952 SOUTH PEORIA, TULSA, OK 74114

THEME WORKSHOPS

1ST - 6TH GRADES

This month the 1st through 6th graders will learn about several different aspects of TRUTH including:

- *What it means to tell the truth*
- *How we can speak the truth in love*
- *The difference between truth and illusion*
- *What happens when we only have a piece of the truth*
- *How the truth can change when it is filtered through several people*
- *Our personal truths about God*

asko
all souls kids

THE TRUTH ABOUT PARENTING

By Gabrielle Ricketts

TRUTH #1 *No two people share the same truth about parenting.*

Much like the story about the blind men describing an elephant (this month's story for all ages) everyone's experience is different. Every child and every family has their own truth. Where one parent might describe parenting as a breeze and the thing that has brought them the most happiness, I describe parenting as the most character building experience in my life. What I know (or think I know) works for my child might not help your child. When asked to give parenting advice, I hesitate because we might not share the same truth. Heck, my two kids don't share the same truth. It seems to take sorting through many ideas, solutions and diagnoses to find what works. Some challenges take more than one trip to the doctor's office, more than one strategy for discipline, more than one try to teach self-reliance. The only universal truth I have about parenting is: "Parenting is harder than it looks." After that, everyone has to find their own truth and what fits their family.

TRUTH #2 *Some parents approach parenting as a competition.*

To some it seems that the goal of parenting is to have someone to brag about, to compare abilities, intellect, successes and come out a "winner." In a sermon, Rev. Marlin Lavanhar called

these successes our "trophy wall." All the accomplishments one can assemble in a lifetime. These kinds of parents don't help me come closer to the truths I need. Truth is, I was very lucky to find a group of parents I trust. One Thursday when my daughter was very young, I joined some All Souls parents with whom I could share my real truths (and I'm not talking about the pretty ones). They helped with the hard questions that becoming a parent brought, like the challenging diagnosis, my impatience, my loneliness and isolation, and being overwhelmed. What made all the difference was finding parents who share my values, who were honest, and who shared their experiences to help me put the whole picture together without judgment.

TRUTH #3 *It takes a village to raise a child.*

It seems easier to stay home and try to find the answers on the internet. It seems easier to stay home and not have to pack up the kids and take them to the playdate, church activity, or the family reunion. But my truth is that time in community with caring people makes me a better parent. I find the support I need and I am able to support other parents in turn. My children crave that community as well. It gives them a sense of security, an extended family, and friends to help them seek the truth in love.

SIX BLIND MEN *and an* ELEPHANT

STORY FOR ALL
AGES: A FABLE

A long time ago in the valley of the Brahmaputra River in India there lived six men who were much inclined to boast of their wit and lore. Though they were no longer young and had all been blind since birth, they would compete with each other to see who could tell the tallest story.

One day, however, they fell to arguing. The object of their dispute was the elephant. Now, since each was blind, none had ever seen that mighty beast of whom so many tales are told. So, to satisfy their minds and settle the dispute, they decided to go and seek out an elephant.

Having hired a young guide, Dookiram by name, they set out early one morning and it was not long before they came to a forest clearing where a huge bull elephant, quite tame, was standing contemplating his menu for the day.

The six blind men became quite excited; at last they would satisfy their minds. Thus it was that the men took turns to investigate the elephant's shape and form.

As all six men were blind, neither of them could see the whole elephant and approached the elephant from different directions. After encountering the elephant, each man proclaimed in turn:

'O my brothers,' the first man at once cried out, 'it is as sure as I am wise that

this elephant is like a great mud wall baked hard in the sun.'

'Now, my brothers,' the second man exclaimed with a cry of dawning recognition, 'I can tell you what shape this elephant is – he is exactly like a spear.'

The others smiled in disbelief.

'Why, dear brothers, do you not see,' said the third man, 'this elephant is very much like a rope,' he shouted.

'Ha, I thought as much,' the fourth man declared excitedly, 'This elephant much resembles a serpent.'

The others snorted their contempt.

'Good gracious, brothers,' the fifth man called out, 'even a blind man can see what shape the elephant resembles most. Why he's mightily like a fan.'

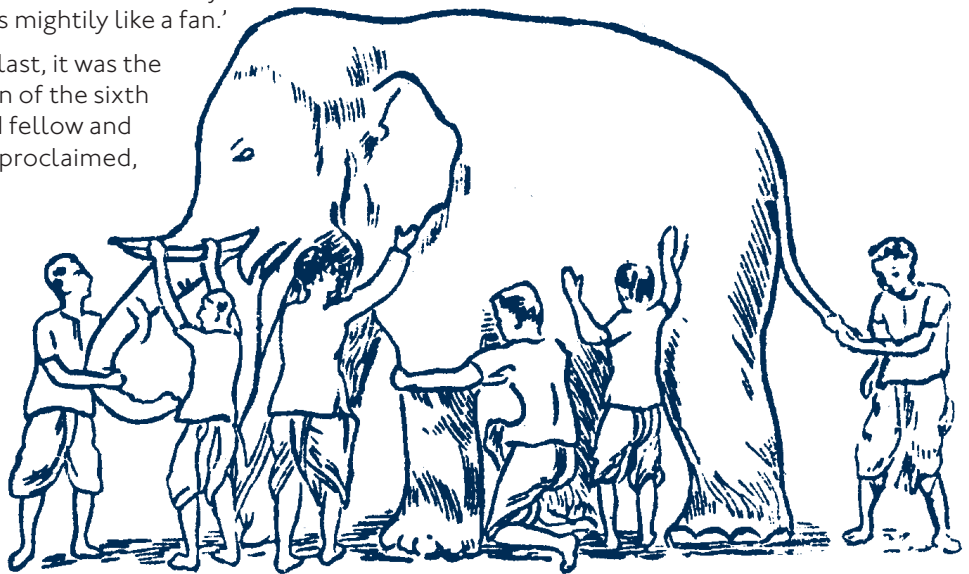
At last, it was the turn of the sixth old fellow and he proclaimed,

'This sturdy pillar, brothers' mine, feels exactly like the trunk of a great areca palm tree.'

Of course, no one believed him.

Their curiosity satisfied, they all linked hands and followed the guide, Dookiram, back to the village. Once there, seated beneath a waving palm, the six blind men began disputing loud and long. Each now had his own opinion, firmly based on his own experience, of what an elephant is really like. For after all, each had felt the elephant for himself and knew that he was right!

And so indeed he was. For depending on how the elephant is seen, each blind man was partly right, though all were in the wrong.



STORY COMPREHENSION & QUESTIONS

- How did the blind men “see” the elephant? What senses did they use?
- What did each man say the elephant was like? Why?
- Was any one man correct about what an elephant looks like? Why?
- How does this story relate to truth?
- Has there been a time you thought you knew something and found out you only knew part of the truth?
- Try to apply this lesson the next time you disagree with someone. Ask them questions about what they thought happened and how they experience something.

DINNER TABLE DISCUSSION

Discuss **tattling vs. telling**. Share experiences when it was good to tell a parent, teacher or someone you trust and when it is “tattling.” One rule of thumb when deciding is, “You should tell an authoritative figure if someone will get hurt, specifically if a person is going to hurt themselves or someone else. Tattling usually has the intent of getting someone in trouble for an inconsequential action, while telling is a tool that we can give our children to help solve difficult and important issues.

Tell your own truth. For one month focus on those things you know from your own experience. Maybe create a **Graffiti Wall of Truth** where family members can write their truth throughout the month these can range from “We’re all connected in a web of life” to “I hate Mondays.”

Finish the sentence with your own truth. Create others for your family.

The thing I would change about my school is...

The thing I like most about my family is...

The thing that bugs me most is...

The thing I would miss most is...

The thing I love most about myself is...



ALL SOULS SUMMER CAMP

Know YoUUr Stuff

August 2-6, 2010
9am-3pm

Campers and Counselors will reach deeper into oUUr understanding of the interdependent web of life. The week will revolve around “The Story of Stuff” (www.thestoryofstuff.com).

There will be plenty of fun while working together during team building games, playing during water day, taking turns while conducting messy and fun science experiments, and reflecting on what we can do to “know oUUr stuff.”

- For Campers in 1st-6th grade, fall 2010 (Counselors in 7th-12th)
- Enrollment is limited and is on a first come/first served basis
- Deadline for early registration rate of \$100 per camper is May 23
- Registration forms are available in the Family Room

For more information please contact Shannon Boston:
 sboston@allsoulschurch.org • (918) 743-2805, ext. 321

SPIRITUAL FAMILY PRACTICE for Truth

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

One weekend morning when I was playing with my daughter, I asked her to tell me a secret. She took it literally and came to me and cupped her hand around my ear and said, “Sometimes I climb up on a chair at night and get candy from the jar on top of the microwave.” Even now it makes me laugh. I hadn’t expected a real confession. I smiled and I told her I had a secret, then whispered, “Sometimes when I’m not suppose to have candy, I sneak some, too.” She burst into giggles.

We grew closer in that instant by sharing secrets. I can’t see myself in the role of a “friend” mom, but I want her to open up and talk to me about her thoughts and feelings. Since she started school, we have a set aside time on Fridays to go somewhere special just the two of us. Often this one on one time away from the house is a catalyst for her to share secrets about her young relationships, school, her fears, her hopes. I take what she says very seriously because it is serious to her. I respect how hard it is to grow up. I try to keep advice to a minimum and share stories from my childhood that we have in common.

PRACTICE SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Gently tell some truths to each other. Make sure they are “I statements.” Meaning sentences need to start with the word “I” and reflect your own feelings for

UU FAMILY VALUES

WHAT DO YOU TELL YOUR CHILD ABOUT LYING?

All children lie a little and for many reasons. As part of their development, children find it hard to distinguish reality from the fantasy in their own mind. Some children lie to get out of trouble; some lies are told to look good to parents or friends. Sometimes lies are just misunderstandings, because children don't have the life experience to communicate what is really happening and why. For these reasons, when I catch my kids lying, I try to determine the motivation for the lie and address it. The hardest lie to address is the "bad" lie, the one that is told to cover up a bad decision.

A few years ago, we had a discussion about lying on the MUMS yahoo group. (You can join our Yahoo group by contacting Rain Johnson at Rain2002@sbcglobal.net.) We were trying to answer the question of what do you tell your child (on their level) about not lying, if you do not believe in a personal omnipotent God or a God who punishes children for misbehaving.

While it might be easier in the short run to tell our children, "God is watching you and will know if you are lying," The best thing I have put together is based on that beloved hymn "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna let it Shine." I tell my kids that they have a divine light in their heart, and each time they lie it puts a little dark cover over that light, and if they keep lying their light will be all covered up, and no one will be able to see their wonderful precious light.

What do you tell your children about lying?

FESTIVAL SUNDAY, MAY 9

Flower,
Communion

& MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

<p>Family Services at 10:00 and 11:30</p> <p>Children attend worship with parents. (Childcare always available for infants & toddlers.) Please bring a fresh flower to share.</p>	<p>Champagne Brunch from 11:00 - 1:00</p> <p>Adults - \$15 Kids under 12 - \$10 Make reservations in Emerson Hall or call Kate Starr: 743-2805 ext 318</p>
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MENU: Roast beef, omelet bar, waffle bar, fresh asparagus, salad, muffins & breads, fruit and chocolate fountain.
Champagne available by the glass.

Brunch proceeds benefit Senior Spirit qUest!



RESOURCES

MOVIES

Pinocchio

Aladin

Sesame Street - Kids' Guide To Life: Telling The Truth

3-2-1- Penguins - "The Cheating Scales of Bullamanka"

BOOKS

The Old Turtle and the Broken Truth
by Douglas Wood

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
by Jon Scieszka

The Giant and the Beanstalk
by Diane Stanley

The Wolf that Cried Boy
by Tim Raglin

The Boy Who Cried Wolf
by Tony Ross

The Pain and The Great One
by Judy Blume

MORALITY TALES OF VIRTUE AND TRUTH FROM THE UU TAPESTRY OF FAITH WEBSITE:

The Wise Teacher's Test
<http://www.uua.org/religious-education/curricula/tapestryfaith/moraltales/session2/sessionplan/stories/123165.shtml>

Gandhi's Truth
<http://www.uua.org/religious-education/curricula/tapestryfaith/riddleand/session10/sessionplan/stories/157725.shtml>

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

April Parent's Night Out is Friday, May 21, 6:30-10 p.m.

Parents' Night Out is offered to support healthy families in the All Souls community by allowing parents an opportunity to nurture their own relationships, knowing that their children are in a safe, creative and familiar environment. Children 3 months to 12 years of age are welcome. The program includes free and structured play, arts and crafts, games and a healthy snack. The younger children will have story time and the older ones will watch a movie.

Based on age, fees range from \$15 to \$25 for the evening. Please make your reservation 72 hours in advance by contacting Cathy Wolf at childcare@allsoulschurch.org or 743-2805, ext. 308, and leaving the following information: Your name, your child's name(s) and age(s), your complete contact information. Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail or phone.

The Parent Resource Network is a new effort at collaboration and coordination of all the resources available to parents and families at All Souls, from the obvious ones of Children's Religious Education and the Mostly Unitarian Moms (and Dads) to other, more informal activities and resources.

WHAT IS PIN?

Recognizing (and maybe rebelling against) the stresses and strains of active parents, some parents have responded with plans for a "Parent Irresponsibility Night" – social time without being responsible for our children. Scheduled for the third Monday of the month (get a sitter!), this month parents will meet **Monday, May 17, at 7 pm** (location to be announced).

For information contact Rachel Mize at rachel.mize@gmail.com.

WHAT IS ALL SOULS MUMS?

Mostly Unitarian Moms & Dads. Meeting on **Thursday mornings** and the **second Wednesday night** of each month, the MUMS group provides parenting support, meals for new parents, educational speakers, spiritual outlet, fellowship, and outreach programs which connect with All Souls and the Tulsa community. The MUMS group communicates via an online group.

To request an invitation to the online group or for more information, please contact Rain Johnson at (918) 605-5354 or rain2002@sbcglobal.net.

YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH WILL
MAKE YOU FREE. — John 8:32

UU TRANSLATOR

The UU translator builds a vocabulary for the members of All Souls allowing a dialogue with each other and people of different faiths.

Ritual (noun)

1. An established formal behavior
2. The observance of actions or procedures in a ceremonial or cyclical way

LITTLE ANSWERS TO BIG QUESTIONS

Why do we bring a flower to church on Mothers' Day?

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who established the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service on June 4, 1923. The flower communion was brought to the USA in 1940 and introduced to the members of our Cambridge, MA, church by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja Capek.

At All Souls, the natural beauty created by the Flower Communion is genuine to us and has become an iconic Spring ritual which binds our members more closely together. Because of the many religious backgrounds found at our church the format celebrates our diversity.

Explaining the service and its significance to our children will help them find meaning in this beloved ritual. People are asked to bring a flower of their choice, either from their own gardens or a florist. When they arrive at church a large basket is waiting in the foyer. Each person is asked to place their flower in the basket. This signifies that it is by their own free will they join with the others. The basket containing the flowers is a symbol of our united church fellowship.

The young attendants help carry the basket up to the front of the sanctuary. The minister then says a prayer and blesses the flowers. After the service, as people leave the church, they go to the basket and each take a flower different from the one that they had brought.

The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community. It would not be the same without each and every one of us.

Adapted from The Flower Communion by Reginald Zottoli*

Answer: To celebrate being together and to symbolize that even though we are all unique (and perhaps because of this), we are even more beautiful when we are all brought together.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CHANNING'S CHILDREN

Our pre-school age children will learn about our tradition of Flower Communion.

KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten class will contribute their hand made stepping stone and decorated bird feeder and house to our bird sanctuary.

7TH GRADE

The 7th grade will finish their group mandala and prepare for their World Religions Jeopardy Challenge of the 8th graders.

8TH GRADE

The 8th grade will gain an understanding of Christian Science and finish their mosaic Chalices.



SPIRITUAL EXPRESSIONS

Our Spiritual Expressions classes occur each Sunday that there is Children's Programming from 11:35 am - 12:45 pm. If you would like to volunteer to assist in one of these classes, please contact Shannon Boston, Children's Religious Education Administrator, at sboston@AllSoulsChurch.org or 743-2805, ext. 321.

Kindergarten – Music with Tavis Minner and Art with Sheila Moman

1st grade – Music with Tavis Minner and Art with Sheila Moman

2nd grade – Music with Tavis Minner and drama with Toni Willis
(culminating in a Chapel Performance on May 23 at 11:15 am).

3rd grade – Music with Tavis Minner and Ceramics with Linda Coward

4th grade – Yoga with R.E.C.E.S.S.

5th grade – Yoga with R.E.C.E.S.S.

6th grade – Art with Brigid Kelley

7th grade – Art with Nancy Parke

8th grade – Mosaic Chalices with Bill Westcott

“Spiritual Practices” continued from page 3

example “I really don't like green peppers.” Or “I feel embarrassed when you kiss me in public.” Carefully and sympathetically listening to one another can bring a family closer, especially when children are transitioning to be more independent. Thoughtfully resolving conflict or hurt feelings in a positive way models constructive problem solving and handling those challenges later in life.

CHALICE LIGHTING

“May this chalice light show the way as we search for answers to our biggest questions and seek to understand life's deepest mysteries.”

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Following Chapel on May 23, the Children's Religious Education Classes will meet on the west playground for fun and fellowship. Games, popcorn and popsicles are free. Pizza will be available for \$1/slice.

MAY 30, MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Families worship together in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children in pre-kindergarten and younger. We will begin our summer schedule of mixed-age classes on June 6 during both services.



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The aim of Religious Education at All Souls is to foster the lifelong exploration of religious thought and values through a program that promotes spiritual development by means of free inquiry, mutual respect and responsible behavior.

All Souls Children's Religious Education (CRE) is a cooperative church school program that supports families by nurturing hearts, minds and souls. A carefully planned curriculum encompasses exposure to our Jewish and Christian heritage, World Religions, Unitarianism and Universalism, and the world and our place in it. There is no fee associated with our Children's Program, but we do expect our parents to pledge to the church's operating fund and to participate in the program in some way during the year.

EACH SUNDAY OUR CHILDREN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THREE COMPONENTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

- **10-11:15 am Core Curriculum** | In grades one-six, we use a multidimensional approach to religious education. Guides work with the children throughout the year on character- and community-building, and guest facilitators lead workshops which explain, personify, and creatively and artistically articulate the monthly, church-wide theme in a way that is accessible to children and allows them to explore and stretch their spiritual and intellectual bounds. The workshops are based in Bible literacy and engage multiple intelligences. Please check the bulletin boards in the hallway each week for room assignments and to pick up name tag buttons.
- **11:15-11:35 am Worship** | Our Children, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, have their own worship service every Sunday that they do not worship with the adults in the Sanctuary. This is a special time when our ministers and carefully selected lay leaders provide an age-appropriate worship experience that mirrors the worship service that the adults experience in the Sanctuary. Along with Children's Chapel, seventh and eighth graders add to their worship repertoire by visiting other houses of worship and creating their own "circle worship" rituals.
- **11:35am-12:45pm Spiritual Expressions** | Using visual arts, drama, yoga and music, the children explore the monthly themes with professional artists, further deepening their understanding of our themes and values. (Pre-kindergarten classes repeat the first hour's activities.)

Our church school session extends from Homecoming Sunday in September through May with a variety of educational opportunities for children. During the summer months, CRE offers a preschool class and a mixed-age programming (kindergarten through 5th grade and 6th through 9th grades) during the church services.

PARENT RESOURCE NETWORK

All Souls offers families of all kinds a loving place in which we can shape our beliefs, celebrate our discoveries, and live out our values. Our paths may be diverse, yet we share the journey.

All Souls Parent Resource Network is committed to providing programs and resources to inspire this journey, as individuals and as families.

Parents are the primary religious educators for every child. Drawing on the Children's Religious Education Curriculum and our Theme based ministry, the Parent Resource Network publishes a parent's guide to share each month's theme, stories and values.

Parents assure the health and well being of every child. Throughout the year, the Parent Resource Network working with Adult Religious Education, childcare experts, church groups, and community leaders will present events intended to address a wide variety of parenting topics and celebrate UU values.

The parents' guide will also communicate classes, events and activities especially designed for families, parents and children.

MAY CALENDAR

MAY 2

- KISS (Kids In the Sanctuary Sunday) with programming from 10:00 am - 12:45 pm. Children first grade and up begin in the sanctuary with parents. After the story, children travel as a group with their teachers to their classes. During the 11:30 service, the Kindergarteners and Preschoolers will come to the Sanctuary for the Story for All Ages.
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm Cherub, Children's and Youth Choir Concert

MAY 5

- 5:15 - 8:30 pm Wednesday Connections beginning with dinner, 6:30 pm Chapel, 7:00 pm classes
- 6:00 - 6:45 pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal

MAY 6

- 10:00 - 11:30 am MUMs Playgroup in the Family Room

MAY 7

- 7:00 Soulful Sundown

MAY 9

- Flower Communion Festival Sunday – Children attend services with their Families at 10:00 or 11:30 am

MAY 12

- 5:15 - 8:30 pm Wednesday Connections beginning with dinner, 6:30 pm Chapel, 7:00 pm classes, including Evening MUMs.

MAY 13

- 10:00 - 11:30 am Join Day Alliance for new classes and stay for lunch from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Childcare provided with reservation (ChildCareCoordinator@AllSoulsChurch.org). \$7.00 for lunch

MAY 15

- 7:00 pm UUSC Dinner

MAY 16

- Normal Sunday Schedule with programming from 10:00 am - 12:45 pm. Children start in their assigned

classrooms. Children's Chapel at 11:15 am.

- 12:45 - 2:15 pm Chosen Ones (6th grade Youth Group)

MAY 17

- 7:00 pm PIN, location TBA

MAY 19

- 5:15 - 8:30 pm Wednesday Connections beginning with dinner, 6:30 pm Chapel, 7:00 pm classes
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal

MAY 20

- 10:00 - 11:30 am MUMs Playgroup in the Family Room.

MAY 21

- 6:30 pm Parents' Night Out, childcare by reservation (ChildCareCoordinator@AllSoulsChurch.org)
- 7:00 pm Praise and Worship Service

MAY 23

- Normal Sunday Schedule with programming from 10:00 am - 12:45 pm. Children start in their assigned classrooms. Children's Chapel at 11:15 am led by the 2nd grade. Following Chapel we'll have an end of year celebration on the West Playground.

MAY 27

- 10:00-11:30 am MUMs (activity TBA) followed by a potluck lunch from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Childcare provided with reservation (ChildCareCoordinator@AllSoulsChurch.org).

MAY 30

- Memorial Weekend Sunday. No Children's Religious Education Programming. Childcare available during services for children in Pre-K and younger.
- am - 12:45 pm. Children start in their assigned classrooms.

JUNE 6

- Summer Schedule for Children's Religious Education classes. Pre-K in Room 202, grades K-5 in the Presidents' Room, grades 6-8 in the Sponge Room, Youth worship together in the Sanctuary. Full Programming will resume on Sept. 12.

FOR QUESTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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