

# Embracing the Darkness

Age-Appropriate  
Narratives, Crafts,  
and Activities from  
Around the World



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# Jubilee! Community Church

- Founded in 1989
- Progressive-type Christianity
- The Way We Were

# Overall Approach

- **Bible as Foundational Text**
- **Themes**
  - **Peace**
  - **Awe & Wonder**
  - **Blessings & Gratitude**
  - **Compassion**
  - **Embracing the Darkness**
- **15 lesson plans each (6-7 from Bible)**
- **Advent/Lent**

# Age Groups

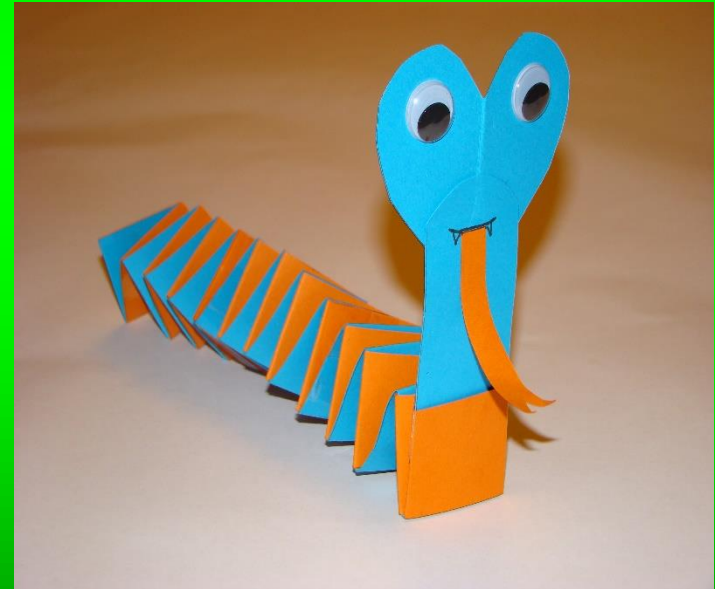
- **Preschool-Kindergarten**
- **Lower Elementary**
- **Upper Elementary**
- **Middle School**

# Pedagogy – Stories

- **Genesis 3 (Lying)**
- **Temptation of Jesus**
- **Cain and Abel (Anger)**
- **Peter Tries Water Walking (Fear)**
- **How to Pray (Hypocrisy/Bragging)**
- **Rich Man Seeking Heaven (Greed)**

# Pedagogy – Crafts

- Genesis 3 (Lying)



# Bragging/Hypocrisy

## **Matthew 6:2-4**

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

## **Matthew 6:5-8 (Concerning Prayer)**

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

# Pedagogy – Crafts Cont'd.

- Anger

- Lollipop Drum

- Anger Canister

- Anger Management Flip Book





# Pedagogy – Activities

- Peter
  - Remembering Rocks
- Anger
  - Anger Management Techniques
  - Where do you feel anger (handouts)
- Bragging/Hypocrisy
  - Bragging Voice
  - Bragging Game
- Rich Man and Greed
  - What We Need (Middle School and P-K)

# Other Traditions

- **Qur'an**
- **Tao Te Ching**
- **Hebrew Bible**
- **Bhagavad Gita**
- **Dhammapada**
- **Vedas/Puranas**

# Other Traditions – Hypocrisy

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# Bhagavad Gita

Other qualities, Arjuna, make a person more and more inhuman: hypocrisy, arrogance, conceit, anger, cruelty, ignorance....The demonic do things they should avoid and avoid the things they should do....Hypocritical, proud, arrogant, living in delusion, and clinging to deluded ideas, insatiable in their desires, they pursue their unclean ends.

*(Bhagavad Gita, Easwaran, 16:4,7a,10)*

# Tao Te Ching

## Chapter 34

The great Tao flows everywhere.  
All things are born from it,  
yet it doesn't create them.  
It pours itself into its work,  
yet it makes no claim.  
It nourishes infinite worlds,  
yet it doesn't hold on to them.  
Since it is merged with all things  
and hidden in their hearts,  
it can be called humble.  
Since all things vanish into it  
and it alone endures,  
it can be called great.  
It isn't aware of its greatness;  
thus it is truly great.

# Other Traditions – Greed

## Matthew 19:16-26

Then someone came to [Jesus] and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And [Jesus] said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” [The rich young man] said to [Jesus], “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

# Qur'an

## **Sura 7, verse 40**

To those who reject Our Signs and treat them with arrogance, no opening will there be of the gates of heaven, nor will they enter the Garden, until the camel can pass through the eye of the needle. Such is Our reward for those in sin.

# Stories – Buddhism

- Jataka
  - Anger-Eating Demon
- Crafts
  - Shrinky-dinks
- Activity





# Stories – Hinduism

## Panchatantra = Heron and Crab

Once upon a time, there was a heron who lived on the edge of a pond. He enjoyed a peaceful existence – hunting fish for his meals and basking in the sun. But, the heron was getting old. He was tired of hunting fish every day, so he came up with a new plan to make hunting easier. It would involve lying to the fish, but he didn't care.

“Hello, all you fish down there!” Heron cried out one day. “Something is afoot here at the pond. Some fishermen are planning to come to our pond with a big net, so they can catch you all at once.”

“Oh,” the fish gasped. “This is terrible. We will all die!”

“Well,” said the evil heron slowly, “If you jump into my mouth, I will carry to another pond not too far from here. The fishermen don't know about that pond, so you will be safe there.”

# Heron and Crab (cont'd.)

The fish soon began to argue about who would jump into Heron's mouth first. Heron just sat back and grinned. Now he would never have to hunt again.

Day after day, Heron would carry the fish to a big rock slab, far from the pond, and gobble them up.

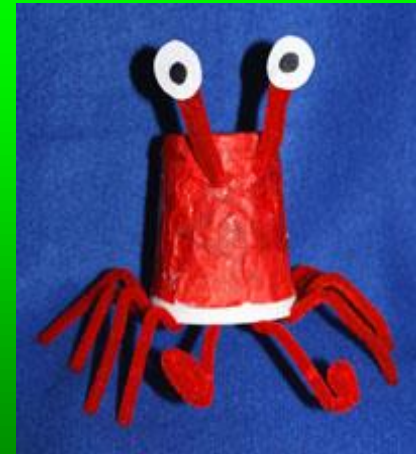
One day, the crab decided she should head to the new pond, too.

Crab jumped into Heron's mouth, and the two took off. There was only one little problem. They flew and flew, but that other pond was nowhere in sight. Crab knew she had to think quickly, so she reached out with her pinchers and grabbed Heron's neck.

Heron screamed in pain. He twisted and turned, and with that, Heron's head came right off his body! When Crab crawled back to the pond and explained what had happened to all the remaining fish, they thanked Crab for revealing Heron's lies. And once again, the pond and all the creatures around it lived in harmony.

# Stories – Hinduism

- Heron and Crab
- Crafts



- Activities
  - Crab Walk
  - Two Truths and a Lie