

# Planning an RE Lesson: Tips, tricks and resources

A successful RE lesson or workshop often boils down to solid planning. Planning includes thinking about the activities and the goal of the lesson, but requires thoughtful decision-making based on the group of children in your class. Ask yourself: Do the number of children vary widely each week? Then you will plan activities that work with large and small groups. Are several (or all) of the children in your group active? Then you will plan activities that require movement every 10-15 minutes. Does your class enjoy stories? Then you will incorporate more storytelling into the lessons.

## Tips:

- **Start planning early.** If you have looked at your lesson over a week in advance, then you can take a peak in the supply room to see whether our supplies will meet your needs...or you will see something that will make an adaptation work well. You can always check our printed supply room inventory online. Request only the needed supplies by Tuesday from Katherine at [re@uucf.org](mailto:re@uucf.org).
- **Use the format that works for your class.** Most children thrive with routines because it decreases stress—they know what is coming next. They also like little surprises once they have trust and know there is a predictable routine. Generally, the younger the children the longer you need to build the routine.
- **Create a sacred, accepting space.** Recognize that with multiple teachers, your ability to create a nurturing environment is more challenging. Communicate with your co-teachers to create rituals and language that is inclusive and welcoming and has some consistency.
- **Plan for every child.** To be truly inclusive, you need to start with the planning of each lesson to create activities that will work for everyone. Rather than plan an activity and then create an adaptation just for the one or two children who will have difficulty with it—think about how you can present the lesson with choices for everyone. Linnea or the RE Committee members can be a resource to help you work through these issues.

## Tricks

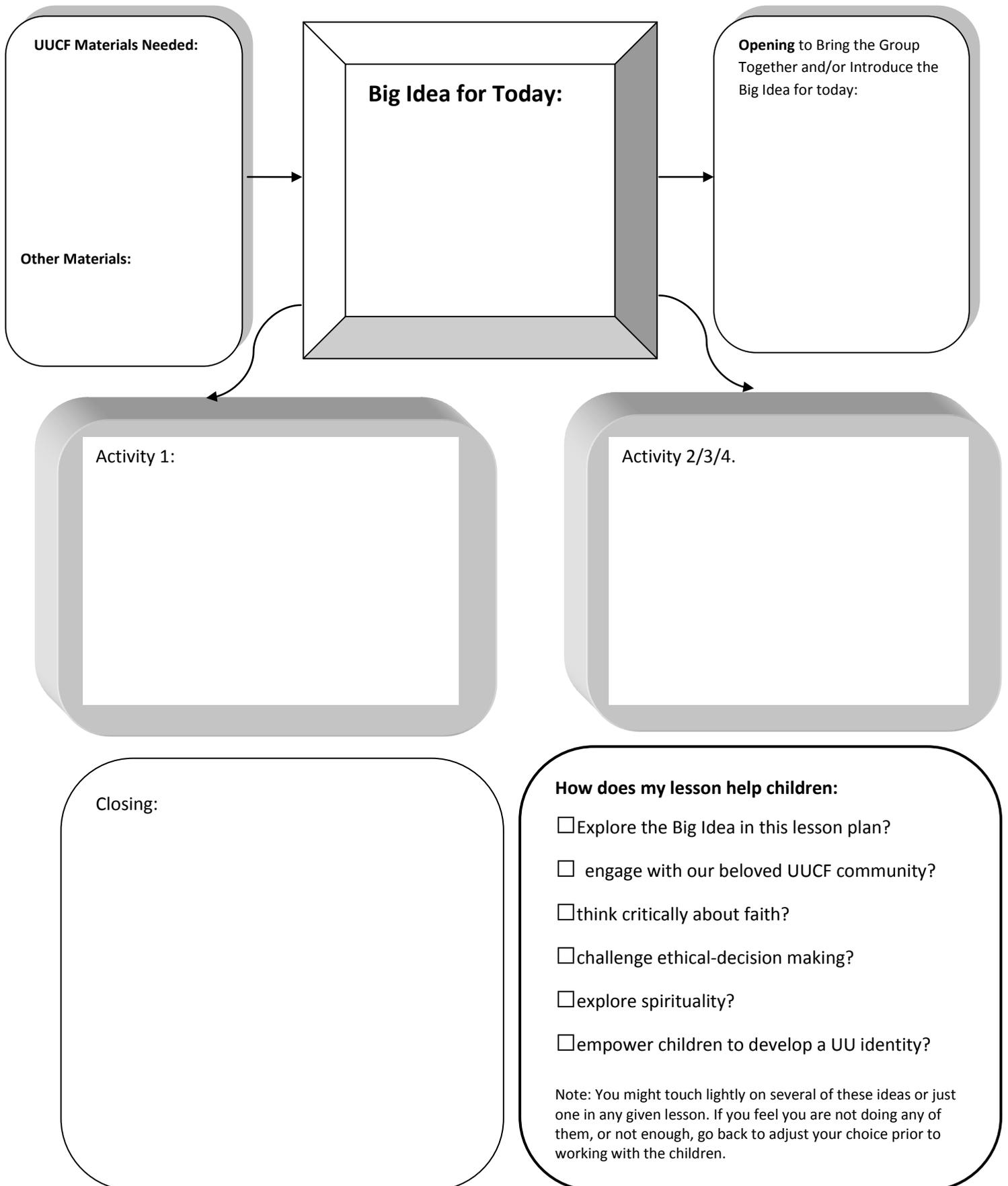
Sorry, no tricks! It's really just planning and being prepared and flexible with a goal in mind for the day that always includes having the children feel safe. In RE our overarching goal is to build a beloved community while helping children:

- think critically about their faith,
- challenge themselves with ethical-decision making,
- explore their spirituality, and
- learn to embrace a UU identity.

## Resources

- Our [Worship Theme](#) pages will provide readings, spiritual practices and chalice lightings that will guide you as an RE teacher in your own spiritual preparation for teaching.
- [Tapestry of Faith](#) includes lists of stories in the entire program as well as resources on many topics.
- [RE Committee Members](#)
- Your Class Liaison
- [RE Staff](#)
- Center for Teaching and Learning: [How to Design a Lesson Plan](#)
- Our hymnal: *Singing the Living Tradition* has readings at the end and have indexes for songs and readings for various times of the year and themes.
- There are many meditation and resource books available at the UUA online bookstore: [http://www.uuabookstore.org/client/client\\_pages/Get\\_a\\_Catalog.cfm](http://www.uuabookstore.org/client/client_pages/Get_a_Catalog.cfm)

# UUCF RE Lesson Framework: Focus on the **BIG IDEAS**



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| Lesson Big Idea: |  |                  |       |
|------------------|--|------------------|-------|
| Lesson Part      | Activity Chosen (page/ title from the curriculum or description) | Resources Needed | Goal* |
| Opening          |  |                  |       |
| Transition       |  |                  |       |
| Activity 1       |  |                  |       |
| Transition       |  |                  |       |
| Activity 2       |  |                  |       |
| Transition       |  |                  |       |
| Activity 3       |  |                  |       |
| Transition       |  |                  |       |
| Activity 4       |  |                  |       |
| Closing          |  |                  |       |

**Ideas for Goals:** Use the code after each idea for the chart so you can see patterns.

- explore the Big Idea in this lesson plan? (BI)
- engage with our beloved UUCF community? (BC)
- think critically about faith? (F)
- challenge ethical-decision making? (E)
- explore spirituality? (Sp)
- empower children to develop a UU identity? (UU)
- movement (M)
- have fun (F)