

Creator Quest This Week, September 23, 2018

Last week marked the return to our indoor worship and also the return of Creator Quest. We spent our time getting to know each other. Our focus was that God Created Me and I am Awesome. We shared various ways we were each awesome.

This week we will focus on Family and Connections. No matter what our family looks like outwardly, or whether our family is one of blood or one of choice, family is where we have some of the deepest connections of our hearts. Family is our first and lifelong teacher. With our family we get to practice loving, accepting and giving in personal and challenging circumstances. We can also struggle to define ourselves both within and against our family. We hope to expand our sense of connection to go beyond just our immediate family. We hope our children will grow to feel part of a spiritual family that approaches all persons in the world as brothers and sisters. Jesus and Paul often talked of such a bond when they called “family” those who followed the way of life advocated by Jesus.

We will share the following prayer: Heavenly Father, Divine Mother, Light of all Life, Thank you for our families. Help us to remember that the love flowing through our families is just a small part of the love that flows through all creation. We are your children of light — shine through us to our families and to everyone we meet. May we treat our families with love and patience. Help us see all people in the world as brothers and sisters. Amen

Affirmation: I am part of the community of life that includes all people.

This week’s story is: Chocolate Chip Cookies

Amy and her four brothers were having breakfast. They had finished off a bunch of bananas, a loaf of walnut raisin bread, the last jar of almond butter, and all the yogurt and cereal her mom bought that week. One brother had football practice before school, another worked as a lifeguard, and her oldest brother would work outside doing construction all day. Amy had to go to water polo practice and she ate just as much as the boys did.

As Amy stuffed her backpack she called, “Mom! Is it okay to invite Marci, Lila and Camilla to stay overnight tomorrow? There’s no school on Monday.” She was happy her mom agreed; sleepovers were Amy’s favorite fun thing, next to swimming. Her little brother made a goofy face about the plan — he thought girls giggled too much. Marci said yes to the sleepover right away. She loved all the boisterous energy of Amy’s family. Marci didn’t have brothers or sisters and with just Marci and her grandmother, her house was usually quiet. But Lila was shy around boys. She lived with her mom and aunt and shared a room with two girl cousins. There were boys at school, of course, but never at home. Boys were a little like aliens from another planet to Lila. Amy gently teased her friend, “I promise you can stay in my room and I won’t let my brothers near

you.” Lila blushed and agreed to come. Camilla said, “This is my weekend with my dad, but he’ll let me come because I know he wants to practice with his band and they’ll probably stay up all night.”

On Saturday, the girls spread their sleeping bags on the floor of Amy’s room. There was barely room for all of them, but that was okay. Amy’s mom let them bring their dinner of homemade pizza into the bedroom as a special treat. It was pretty crowded in the kitchen too, because all Amy’s brothers were home and one had brought his friend, Pedro. Lila had stayed in the bedroom while they all fixed their pizza. Too many boys! As Amy handed her a plate Lila asked, “What was all the laughing about? It sounded like a party out there.” Amy explained, “I know I promised you could stay in my room, Lila, but you missed out on Pedro telling us what dinner is like at his house. It was so funny! Pedro lives with his foster family and his foster parents have three adopted kids from other countries. At dinner they practice languages and Pedro was imitating his dad using words in four languages to say, “Pass me the pizza please.” But his dad is from Texas, and all his words in any language sound Southern! It was funny, but I think having dinner in several languages would be so cool.”

Lila was still glad she had stayed in Amy’s room — that was too many boys for her. But she did ask, “You mean Pedro doesn’t have a real family?” Camilla was the first one to answer, “Well, it’s still a real family, even if it’s different from ours. Look at me — I have two weird families; my crazy musician dad where I live every two weeks and my odd artist mom, who lives above a coffee shop!” Camilla actually enjoyed having an unusual family. She also had an unusual pet, a gecko named Butch. Then Marci said, “But do you think it would feel strange knowing you weren’t born into your family?” Amy answered with a mouthful of pizza, “Maybe, but I have an aunt who is adopted and she once told me that families are a lot like chocolate chip cookies: there are lots of different recipes, but they always taste good if you make them with love.” Marci smiled and said, “Yeah that makes sense ...

My neighbor, Lucy, always says to me, “We have the family we are born into and then we have the family we choose.” She lives alone and doesn’t have much family, but she told me she never feels alone—she has her church family, her neighborhood family, and the all the people of the world that she feels like are brothers and sisters to her.” “That is one big chocolate chip cookie!”