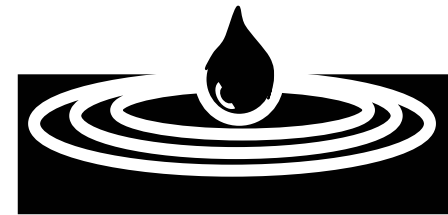


SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Major Problem With a Child

“Very early in our children’s lives we will be forced to realize that the 'perfect' untroubled life we’d like for them is just a fantasy.”
- (Mister) Fred Rogers



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**Opening
Responsive
Reading**

- Kahil Gibram,
The Prophet

Your children are not your children.
*They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for
itself.*
They came through you but not from you.
*And though they are with you yet they belong not to
you.*
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
*For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make
them like you,
*For life goes not backward nor tarries with
yesterday.*
You are the bows from which your children as living
arrows are sent forth.
*The archer sees the mark upon the path of the
infinite, and bends you with might that the arrows
may go swift and far.*
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for
gladness;
*For even as the archer loves the arrow that flies, so
the archer loves also the bow that is stable.*

**Sharing
(optional)**

Leader: Would you like to share something about
what has been happening with your child?

**Holding in
Silence**

Take a minute of silence for everyone to hold the
member in their thoughts.

**Encouraging
Words**

Pass a polished stone around the circle. As each
member holds the stone, s/he may speak one word
describing an attribute that s/he wishes for the
member going through this problem. Give the stone
to that member to take home.

Closing

- Hymnal #698

Read together:
Take courage friends.
The way is often hard,
the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.
Take courage.
For deep down, there is another truth:
You are not alone.

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