EarthCare (K-6th Grade): WILL

Power Points for Teachers:

- God is all good and active in everything, everywhere.
- I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.
- I do my best by living the Truth I know. I make a difference!

WILL as spiritual power / for the Teachers:

Building on the introduction to the idea of our 12 spiritual powers, review Unity teachings at: unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare-curriculum, and, the following to assist with building an experiential learning opportunity for the children:

"Will, in the Mind of God, is an idea of decision."

(Ella Pomeroy (worked with Charles & Myrtle Fillmore) from, Powers of the Soul)

"The settlement of mental uncertainty or indecision; conscious choice or decision of a mental issue. The total conscious process involved in effecting a decision; desire, struggle and decision viewed as a single mental act." (Webster's Dictionary)

"Bubbles! Children of any age will quickly say yes to playing with bubbles. Saying yes is evidence of will power. Most children younger than 12 will quickly say yes to caring for animals, other people, and more, due to a great sense of justice. Deciding, which is setting on a decision of yes or no, about something is just the beginning in understanding Divine Will as will power. Parents, grandparents, families, and communities can demonstrate the potential and capacity for Will Power to be harnessed for greater good for the earth. For children, they may notice that their sense of power increases when service projects are involved. At school they may not feel good about their learning, but doing good in the world nurtures their self-worth. Bubbles, or something children quickly say yes to that is of service, begins the understanding of working with Divine Will, and willingness. Self will usually is concerned only with the self. Divine Will working through the Self, or Great me, is concerned with the good of many; ultimately the good is for all as interconnected species on earth." Written and submitted by Kathy Harwood Long.

Supplies:

- Books:
 - For very young and those immature or lacking a sense of boundaries: <u>The Little Me and</u> The Great Me by Lou Austin
 - O A great book on making choices, using words like No, and Stop, turning to those you can trust: God Is by Shonda LeJeune

- O Unity author James Dillet Freeman wrote a profound story on deciding to give and deciding to love even when feeling bullied: Angel With the Broken Wing in Once Upon A Christmas.
- Name Tags, stickers, markers, Crayons
- Prayer Request forms, pens, pencils
- Plants for circle time/ large cups for watering
- An earth symbol; Hug-a-planet, or stuffed animals of creatures of the earth

Pre-session Activities (20 min):

Name Tag Station – Invite the children to make their own name tags when they come into the room. At the top of each name take write: I Am Divine Will

Mindful Coloring Pages

Supplies:

- Coloring pages: https://iheartcraftythings.com/earth-day-coloring-pages.html
- Crayons/Markers

Opening

Welcome children and invite into a circle

Song

Add your verses to this simple song, ex. I am helping in the light, or, I am Willing to be the Light, etc. I Am Walking In The Light (Unity Wings of Song hymnal, pg 331; Unity of Seattle video of I Am Walking In The Light—: https://youtu.be/25 KOWjChi4?si=MbLRB9jeaftKQx-C)

Sacred Circle:

- **Breathe: (Facilitator)** Remind the children to breathe. Ask them if they can see their breath as they exhale. To center, breathe in a deep breath, then sigh it out so they can hear themselves. Repeat with the next breath, then have them laugh the breath out. One last time breathe in calmness, and out as calmness.
- Opening Prayer: (Facilitator)
 - Take a centering breath. We each have the ability to choose. We are thankful for all the possibilities available to us. We use Divine Will to choose kindness. We engage Divine Will to stay true to our choices. We are thankful we are able to follow through and take action to care for ourselves, our family, and the earth and all the animals, the water, the air. Amen.
- **Light the Christ Candle:** Ask one of the children to light the Christ candle. Remind the students that we light the Christ candle to remind each of us that we have the power to live a life of love like Jesus!
- Who is Jesus for us in Unity? Ask one of the children to share who Jesus is. Remind the children Jesus is our way-shower, the great master of love. The candle reminds us that we are the light as Jesus was the light. (If there is conversation redirect and remind, we focus on how Jesus lived, not on how he died.)

- Affirmation: I am willing to help others. I say YES to helping the earth and its creatures.
- **Heart Agreements**: ask each child to take one of the heart agreements and share what it means.
- Love Offering: Divine Love, Blesses and multiples, all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive. And I am WILLING to be joy-filled and grateful as I give. (FYI: the children may place lots of things besides money in the love offering basket: joy, friendship, peace, love, etc. Ask the children to share what they are placing in the basket.)
- Watering of plants: Giving back to the plants which create the air we breathe. (all children should have a chance to place their hands on the water cups)

Discussion & Experience: WILL

Ask: Do you want to play with bubbles? After the children all answer, ask: Are you willing to help me make the bubble solution? After the children answer, explain that they are using their self will to say yes and then to decide to do something for bubbles to happen. Next, ask if the children are willing to help the earth. Invite them to become specific, with your help—do they see trash outside their home? How does the trash affect the creatures (what creatures live in their area?)? Are they willing to pick up trash? What do they need to do this? (This can be a follow-through assignment for the following Sunday if they are given gloves and a bag for trash; they can bring it back! The whole church can get in on this assignment. It can also be done at the child's school with a teacher's involvement.)

Finish this type of exploration with understanding the difference between self will, and Divine Will. See above: Divine Will working through us helps all, not just some. It is like the Universe is always saying Yes for life to happen, and we want to work with that Yes.

End the session by making the bubble solution, and blowing bubbles!

MeditationCreate a quiet experience, perhaps sitting on a meditation mat, or designated space/chair. Give each child an earth symbol, hug-a-planet, or a stuffed animal of creatures of the world—something to hold, while they feel their love. Quietly feel and know this is the love of God, unlimited, not just for one person but for all. Lead a guided meditation where each child can visualize love being given to others, creatures, the earth they walk on, etc.

Closing Prayer

Thank you God for the love I feel. I am willing to share this love. I say YES to helping the earth and its creatures.