

## Soul Circle Small Group Reflection Material for JUNE 2020-Theme: Play 1

This month, the first group meeting will focus on the Reflection Questions and Quotes. The second meeting will focus on the essay "[The Spirituality of Play](#)" by June Maffin, The TED Talk "[The Surprising Habits of Organizational Thinkers](#)", by Adam Grant, and the videos [The Ministry of Silly Walks](#) by Monty Python and [What Makes Something Funny?](#) by Sci Show.

### **Reflect on PLAY**

- What do you think James Carse means when he says that infinite games are played for the purpose of continuing the play? If this is so, what is an "infinite" game?
- How do you play now?
- What was Martin Buber getting at when he wrote, "Play is the exaltation of the possible"?
- There are many reasons people give up playing. What have your reasons been? Are those reasons still valid? Were they ever?
- Do you play board games? Do you play card games? What makes a board game or card game fun? Do the board games and card games you like have similarities?
- Play is as much intellectual and emotional as it is physical. What types of play come easiest to you? Which types of play are more difficult? Why do you think that is so?
- Learning to play many sports and games requires a coach. Who were the influential coaches in your life? What enduring lessons did they teach you about the game or about life?
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### **Playful Quotes**

- "From the Greek word *selig* (which means blessed) comes the English word silly. I like to think that there is something sacred about the ability to be silly – to play – to laugh and be child-like." - June Maffin
- "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." -George Bernard Shaw
- "The Master once referred to the Hindu notion that all creation is "leela"— God's play—and the universe is his playground. The aim of spirituality, he claimed, is to make all life play."
- "A finite game is played for the purpose of winning, an infinite game for the purpose of continuing the play." - James P. Carse

### **Playful Bookshelf**

- [\*Finite and Infinite Games\*](#) by James P. Carse
- [\*Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life\*](#), by Peter Gray
- [\*Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World\*](#), by Adam Grant
- [\*The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally\*](#) by David Elkind

### **Playful Activity -**

- Make the sidewalk in front of your house or a hallway where you live a "Silly Walks Zone" - see <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2020/05/19/stop-strut-and-stroll-family-creates-silly-walking-zone-central-sioux-falls/5221920002/>
- Play a game of Calvinball. See <https://insaner.com/calvinball/rules.html>

## **Soul Circle Small Group Reflection Material for JUNE 2020-Theme: Play 2**

- Make Artist Trading Cards. If you make some, share photos with us!  
<http://www.schoolartsroom.com/2011/09/elements-and-principles-artist-trading.html>
- *Make Kindness Rocks* and leave them around town <http://thekindnessrocksproject.com/home>
- Try new, fun, board games and card games you haven't yet played: Landlock, Chick-A-Pig, Continuo, Wingspan, Mansions of Madness, 25 Outlaws, Beasts of Balance.

### **Playful Videos**

- [The Ministry of Silly Walks](#) by Monty Python
- [What Makes Something Funny?](#) by Sci Show
- [Laughter Yoga](#)
- ["Play"](#) by Dave Grohl - Nirvana and Foo Fighters musician Dave Grohl talks about the rewards and challenges of dedicating one's life to playing musical instruments
- [Play is Powerful](#)
- [The Decline of Play](#)
- [The Power of Play](#)

### **Playful Songs**

Spotify playlist for these songs:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5aBOvZALs0wAeORB4WBpNX?si=6fMgGHAFtxqCPkYI9H1G4Q>

YouTube playlist for these songs:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgeZ9EPdwhOWsa1x0sSm2\\_LJZ66tSbXTa](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgeZ9EPdwhOWsa1x0sSm2_LJZ66tSbXTa)

- "Fireflies" by Owl City;
- "Shiny Happy People" by REM
- "Where do the Children Play" by Yusuf Cat Stevens
- "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" by Cindy Lauper
- "Yummy Yummy Yummy" Ohio Express
- "Fun Fun Fun" by the Beach Boys
- "Games People Play" by The Spinners
- Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go by Wham!
- "Joy to the World" by Three Dog Night ;
- The Banana Boat Song (Day-O) by Harry Belafonte
- "Light & Day/Reach for the Sun" by The Polyphonic Spree
- "YMCA" by the Village People
- "Macarena" by Los Del Rio
- "Coconut" by Harry Nilsson
- "Brand New Key" by The Dollyrots

### **Online**

- ["The Spirituality of Play" by June Maffin, essay](#)
- ["Sherlock Holmes and the Scienc of Play" by Jeremy Clyman, essay](#)
- [Board Game Arena](#) – Play Board Games Live Online
- [Chess online](#) -play and learn, free membership option
- ["The Surprising Habits of Orgnal Thinkers"](#), TED Talk by Adam Grant

**Soul Circle Small Group Reflection Material for JUNE 2020-Theme: Play 3**

- [“Play is More than Just Fun” by Stuart Brown, TED Talk](#)
- [“Tales of Creativity and Play” by Tim Brown, TED Talk](#)