

## All-Ages Message Series: The Muppet Theory of Everything

In 2012, a writer for Slate magazine made a provocative suggestion: that everyone in the world can be classified into one of two categories: Order Muppets, and Chaos Muppets. Order Muppets (think Bert, Kermit, Sam the Eagle) keep things organized and on track, while Chaos Muppets (Ernie, Cookie Monster, Gonzo) bring big bursts of energy and creativity. The world needs both in balance, of course – some of the oldest wisdom stories are about finding ways to resolve that eternal dance, between order and chaos. In our all-ages series for May, we'll explore some of those stories, and learn how to keep dancing, no matter what kind of Muppets surround us.

### Family Resources from Miss Carol:

#### Videos

[Make a simple sock puppet!](#)

[Ernie realizes his and Bert's differences but their friendship still works](#)

#### Books

[Big Mama Makes the World](#) by Phyllis Root (readaloud)

[Great list of books about moms of all different kinds](#)

#### Articles

[12 Life Lessons kids \(and adults!\) can learn from Sesame Street - #7 "balance..."](#)

[Sesame street lovingly addresses 7 challenging personal and societal issues](#)

[Dragons and Supernatural beings bring order and chaos to parallel worlds - YA book series summary](#)

### Readings, etc. from the Preachers:

#### Articles

["Chaos Theory: A Unified Theory of Muppet Types"](#) from *Slate.com*

["Muppet Religion"](#) from *The Revealer*

["The Muppets and Holy Nonsense"](#) from *ThinkChristian*

["Pema Chödrön's Three Methods for Working with Chaos"](#) from *Lion's Roar*

["What VUCA Really Means for You"](#) from *Harvard Business Review*

["A Brief History of Sesame Street's Snuffleupagus Identity Crisis"](#) from *Smithsonian*

["9 Times Big Bird Helped Us Be Better People"](#) from *New York Times*

#### Books

[The Face of the Deep: A Theology of Becoming](#) by Catherine Keller

[Creativity: Where the Divine and Human Meet](#) by Matthew Fox

[Adrift: America in 100 Charts](#) by Scott Galloway

[Weight](#) by Jeanette Winterson (as well as the entire myth series from Canongate)

[Let Your Life Speak](#) by Parker Palmer

## **Websites**

[Web-Based Creation Story Activities](#)

## **Videos**

[TED-Ed Myths From Around the World](#)

## **Podcasts**

[“Explaining Muppet Theory: Are You an Ernie or a Bert?”](#) from *Weekend Edition* on NPR

[“Our Favorite Muppets”](#) from *Pop Culture Happy Hour* on NPR

## **Songs**

[“Rainbow Connection”](#) by Kermit the Frog

[“Bohemian Rhapsody”](#) by The Muppets

## **UUA resources (for May 28)**

[Beliefs and Principles](#)

[Our Sources of Inspiration](#)

[Article II Study Report](#)

[Article II Study Commission](#)

Questions? Suggestions? Feedback? Please feel free to contact one of the members of the Spiritual Development Ministry:

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