

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY ACTIVITY

This activity connects Paul's words about spiritual gifts with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Human Relations Day.

Supplies needed:

- Large poster board or cardstock (the kind that has a color on one side and white on the other)—cut a cross out of the center and then cut the rest of the cardstock into pieces that will later be put back together. There should be one piece for each student.
- Markers or paint
- Stickers or other embellishments to decorate the completed puzzle

Please repeat after me:

“There are varieties of gifts,

<repeat>

but the same Spirit;

<repeat>

and there are varieties of services,

<repeat>

but the same Lord;

<repeat>

and there are varieties of activities,

<repeat>

but it is the same God

<repeat>

who activates all of them in everyone.”

<repeat>

“There are varieties of gifts,

but the same Spirit.”

<repeat>

Paul wrote these words 2,000 years ago in a letter to a church in Corinth, teaching them that God has given each person something special to make the world better. God has given you each something special that makes the world a better place. And you each have different ways that you serve and use your gifts.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Lead the students in a chant:

When I say "many gifts" you say
"One Spirit"

"Many gifts"
"One Spirit"

"Many gifts"
"One Spirit"

"Many gifts"
"One Spirit"

This weekend we remember the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who used his gifts to help correct the laws that treated Black people unfairly. God gave Rev. King gifts of truth telling and leadership. And he had a team of people who worked with him to create change.

As more and more people were moved by his dream for fairness and freedom for all people, they began to organize and join together, marching in the streets and linking arms.

Some people had gifts of money, others contributed wisdom, while others had a heart for service and hospitality. Together all of the people together were so much stronger than just one person.

Rev. King was motivated to do this work because he followed the teachings of Jesus Christ and knew that love would always overcome evil. He knew that when we see one another as family, and the ways we are all connected, we are more likely to work together for good.

Give each student a piece of the large card stock and instruct them to draw on the white side.

First you are going to write your name on the piece of paper using your favorite-color marker (or paint). Then we are going to decorate the paper with stickers and other colors so that it is special to you. You can decorate it however you like.

After the children have time to decorate their paper put the cross-shaped piece in the center and say:

"Oh, these are each so beautiful! Look at the ways that each one is so different and special. But we don't serve God and God's people only by ourselves. We do it with God and as partners with other people. It is kind of like how all the pieces of a puzzle come together to make something so much more perfect than just one piece.

"So we are going to work together to find the pieces that fit around this cross until all of the pieces are connected.

"Wonderful! This is a beautiful puzzle you all have created. I'm going to take a picture of it so that we can remember the beauty we can create together with Jesus and his love.

"You may take home your piece of the puzzle so that when you see it, you will remember that you are never alone. You are connected to a community here in this church and we love you very much. And Jesus loves you very much."