

People Who Are Different

By Jolene Roehlkepartain



People look different from each other. They talk in their own ways and in their own languages. They think differently. Help family members see the richness of diversity.

For
Young Family

Season
Winter

Needed

Bible, access to the Internet

Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible to Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11 (or see the text below)
- Gather needed materials as listed above
- Find the web site for your school district, town or city, county, or state

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, help us to embrace the rich diversity of your world and the people in it. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Then ask another family member to read aloud Colossians 3:11 “Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

3. As a family, find out the diversity of your school district, town or city, county, or state and follow these steps:
 - Choose whether you’re going to investigate the diversity of your school district, town or city, county, or state, then find the web site for what you chose.
 - Search for “demographics” or “profile” or “population” or “student body.”
 - See how many of these diversity categories you can find: ethnicity, gender, socio-economic level, born outside US, languages spoken, other.
4. As a family, talk about these questions:
 - Who do you see (or know) who is different from you?
 - How do you know when someone is different from you?
 - How do you talk to someone who is different from you?
 - Why is it important to treat all people with kindness?
5. Consider celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (either on the anniversary of his birth, which is January 15th or on the federal holiday, which is the third Monday of January). Or celebrate Black

History Month, which is the month of February. Find children's books at the library about Martin Luther King, Jr. or other prominent African Americans, such as Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, or Mae Carol Jemison. Ask a librarian for suggestions.

6. Variation: If you have young children who enjoy coloring, consider downloading a [free coloring page](#) of a significant African American.
7. Close with prayer.

Thank you, God, for making an interesting world full of interesting people. Amen.

