



+ Generations Together

## Relationships & Diversity

Here is an intergenerational session for all members of the congregation exploring how to be in relationship with others, particularly those who are different from ourselves. This session is designed to be conducted in about 90 minutes, and can be adapted for a shorter or longer timeframe.

### Introduction

Relationships can be complicated. Often, a job description would be helpful to understand what a friend expects from us or what a family member needs from us. What God expects from relationships might be a good starting point for how we relate to each other.

### I. Gather

[use the following adaptation of the activity Beyond Expectations]

#### Needed:

- Bible
- Paper and pencils

#### Activity Plan

1. Invite participants to sit together in family groups or small groups of 4-6 individuals. Begin with a short prayer.

*Lord, your steadfast love is ways with us. May we feel you near and try to be as present for each other in this time together. Amen*

2. From your Bible read Micah 6:6-8 (or see text here)

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

3. Discuss these questions:
  - How does this passage guide our relationship with God?
  - What else is needed for a relationship with God?
  - What do you expect to receive in your relationship with God?

4. Ask each person in the group to write a simple “job description” (this can be a simple list) for what God expects from them. Also write one for God, explaining God’s role in the relationship. Share these with each other. Small children can draw pictures, or receive help from older persons.
5. Now, have each member of the family make similar job descriptions for the different roles represented in your family. Write out what it means to be a “parent,” “son or daughter,” “brother or sister.” You can even extend this to other family roles that are central to your life. Avoid such specifics as, “feeds the dog.” Focus on relational needs rather than chores.
6. Share your job descriptions with each other in your family group. Look back at Micah 6:6-8 and see what advice the prophet might offer. Make any edits that you think are needed. Discuss this question:
  - How these might these job descriptions help us avoid conflicts or arguments in the family.

## II. Grow

[use the following adaptation of the activity People Who Are Different]

### Needed:

- Bible

### Activity Plan

1. Ask participants to form medium size groups of 3-4 households each. Have each person introduce themselves by sharing name, age (if desired), role in life (e.g. student, worker, etc.), and one unique characteristic about themselves.
2. Ask someone to read aloud to the whole group 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 to the whole group 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. In your group, find out how much diversity exists in your group by sharing about:
  - Ethnicity
  - Family heritage
  - Gender
  - Country of birth
  - Languages spoken
  - Other
4. Instruct groups to discuss 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?

Invite a few comments to be shared with the large group in response to the last question: why is it important to treat all people with kindness?

5. Encourage participants and families to celebrate diversity in our society by doing at least one of the following:
  - Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday of January) by learning about Dr. King and by listening to his famous [“Dream” speech](#).

- Celebrate Black History month (February) by reading children's books Martin Luther King, Jr. or other prominent African Americans, such as Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, or Mae Carol Jemison. Ask a librarian for suggestions. Children might also enjoy downloading a [free coloring page](#) of a significant African American.

### **III. Go Forth**

**Needed:** sufficient copies of the following activities:

Bullies & Harassment  
 Forgive Each Other  
 Say It Anyway  
 What a Hypocrite  
 Welcoming the Stranger

#### **Activity Plan**

1. Invite participants to gather in a large group. Invite general discussion on these questions:
  - What have you learned about relationships & diversity today?
  - Who is your role model for how to accept others as they are?
2. Tell participants that you want each household to continue to explore relationships and diversity at home, and that you want them to take at least one of the following activities with them as they leave. Briefly describe these activities:
  - Bullies & Harassment (young family, teen family): In our schools, communities, and workplaces, some people are bullied, ignored, or intentionally ostracized. Talk about bullying and harassment as a family and pray for those who experience this form of abuse.
  - Forgive Each Other (young family, teen family, adult/couple): Parents and other significant adults can help children experience the love and forgiveness of God by loving and forgiving one another. This activity encourages adults and children to talk about tough times when family members mess up and hurt each other. Through building and taking down a wall made from blocks, this activity also gives children an opportunity to practice saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you."
  - Say It Anyway (teen family, young adult): Bullying is an issue that lots of kids are dealing with every day at school. Encourage teens to reach out to kids at school who might just need a friend.
  - What a Hypocrite (teen family, young adult): As teenagers grow and develop, they're quick to point out when people act differently from what they say. They can be especially hard on religious people. Work with them when they get upset with someone who they call a hypocrite.
  - Welcoming the Stranger (teen family, young adult, adult/couple): As many of us cross borders for vacations, others do so risking their lives for a chance at a better life. Explore the hardships of immigration and our Christian call to welcome the stranger.
3. With your Bible, ask someone to read aloud Matthew 25:31-40.
4. Conclude with this short prayer:

*Thank you, God, for making an interesting world full of interesting people. Help us to embrace the rich diversity of your world and the people in it. Amen. Amen.*

# Beyond Expectations

By Lee Yates



Relationships can be complicated. Often, a job description would be helpful to understand what a friend expects from us or what a family member needs from us. What God expects from relationships might be a good starting point for how we relate to each other.

For

Teen Family

## Season

Winter

## Needed

Bible, paper and pencils, copies (video) of marriage or union vows / commitments.

## Prepare in Advance

If parents have a copy of wedding vows, or video of family weddings, get them out.

## Activity Plan

1. Begin with a short prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*Lord, your steadfast love is ways with us. May we feel you near and try to be as present for each other in this time together. Amen*

2. From your Bible read Micah 6:6-8 (or see text here)

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

3. Discuss these questions:
  - How does this passage guide our relationship with God?
  - What else, beyond what is discussed in this reading, is needed for a relationship with God?
  - What do you expect to receive in your relationship with God?
4. Ask each person in the family to write as simple "job description" (this can be a simple list) for what God expects from them. Also write one for God, explaining God's role in the relationship. Share these with each other.

5. Now, have each member of the family make similar job descriptions for the different roles represented in your family. Write out what it means to be a “parent,” “son or daughter,” “brother or sister.” You can even extend this to other family roles that are central to your life. Avoid such specifics as, “feeds the dog.” Focus on relational needs rather than chores.
6. Share your thoughts together, then work as a family to write a rough draft of job-descriptions for each role, then look back at Micah 6:6-8 and see what advice the prophet might offer as you edit your projects. Once you have looked over the job-descriptions and made any edits, talk about how these might help avoid conflicts or arguments in the family.
7. OPTIONAL: If you have time, look at wedding videos or copies of wedding vows from adults in the family. Share how the vows were decided on and how the meaning might have changed over time.
8. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*God, we give thanks for our relationship with you. Help us be present for each other and form strong relationships in our family. May our relationship with you make our family relationships stronger. Amen.*

# 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
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

# Bullies and Harassment

By Jolene Roehlkepartain



In our schools, communities, and workplaces, some people are bullied, ignored, or intentionally ostracized. Talk about bullying and harassment as a family and pray for those who experience this form of abuse.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Bible, a pad of 1½- by 2-inch-sized Post-it® notes, pens or pencils, one sheet of 8½- by 11-inch white paper, the website article about bullying: <http://www.bullybeware.com/faq/bullying/59-what-are-the-different-kinds-of-bullies.html>

## Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible to Matthew 5:43-48 (or see text below)
- Gather items needed

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God, enlarge our hearts to be sensitive to those who are bullied and harassed. Guide us in ways that we can help. Amen.*

2. Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 5:43-48 from your Bible (or use text here).

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."



As a family, discuss these questions:

- What does this scripture passage say about bullying and harassment?
  - How big of a problem do you think bullying and harassment is? Why?
  - Why does it matter how we respond to bullying and harassment?
3. As a family, read about the four different types of bullies from the [Bully Beware](#) website, and discuss these questions:
    - Which type of bullies is most common in your school (or community or workplace)?
    - Which type of bullies is least common in your school (or community or workplace)?
    - Have you ever been bullied or harassed? If so, what for? How did you feel?
    - Have you ever been tempted to bully someone? If so, when?
    - How often do you see someone getting bullied or harassed?
  4. Give each family member three Post-it® notes and a pen or pencil. Ask each family member to write the name of a group that tends to get bullied or harassed on each Post-it® note. Groups could include: African Americans, people with disabilities, people who speak English as a second language, first-wave immigrants, gays and lesbians, people who are extremely intelligent, and so on.
  5. Have one family member place one of his or her Post-it® notes on the white piece of paper and name the group he or she wrote on the Post-it®. Then have another family member place one of his or her Post-it® notes on the white piece of paper and name the group he or she wrote on the Post-it®. Continue to go around your family until everyone has placed all three Post-it® notes on the white piece of paper.
  6. At dinner each night, take out the white piece of paper. Pull off one of the Post-it® notes. As a family, pray for that group of people. Then talk about what you can do to stop bullying and harassment in effective ways. The next time you eat together, pray for another group of people from a different Post-it® note. Continue to do this until you've prayed for every group listed.

# Forgive One Another

By Paige Evers

Parents and other significant adults can help children experience the love and forgiveness of God by loving and forgiving one another. This activity encourages adults and children to talk about tough times when family members mess up and hurt each other. Through building and taking down a wall made from blocks, this activity also gives children an opportunity to practice saying “I’m sorry” and “I forgive you.”

## For

Young Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Forgiveness Activity Sheet, Building Blocks (10-12 blocks)



## Activity Plan

1. Share with your child that this activity is about forgiveness. Ask her if she knows what it means to forgive someone. Tell her you’re going to hear God’s word from the Bible and learn about forgiveness.
2. Say this prayer aloud.

*Dear God, sometimes we have a hard time and don’t do the right thing. Thank you for loving and forgiving us when we make mistakes. As we hear from your word, teach us how to love and forgive one another. Amen.*

3. Read this verse from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (4:32, *NIV*).

In the Bible, we learn that God wants us to be kind and caring toward one another. Tell your child you’re going to use blocks to learn what “forgiveness” means.

4. Position the “Forgiveness Activity” sheet and the blocks between you and your child. Explain that sometimes we do things that we aren’t supposed to do. We hurt each other’s feelings. We create problems for our friends or family members. We mess up in little ways or big ways.
5. Show your child the blocks. Tell him that you’re going to stack the blocks on the squares on the Forgiveness Activity sheet. Each square talks about something we do that could hurt someone. Point out each square. Have your child place a block on it after you explain what that square means. You can also give an example.
6. Once you have several blocks stacked to create a wall, point out how the mean words and unkind acts put up a barrier between you and your child. That’s what happens when we don’t act in a caring way toward one another.

7. Repeat the verse from Ephesians:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

8. Tell your child the good news that the wall doesn’t have to stay there. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, God forgives us every time we mess up. God loves us and wants to be close to us. Knowing that God loves and forgives us helps us love and forgive one another.
9. Spend a few minutes practicing how to forgive each other. Share with your child the simple phrase, “I’m sorry for \_\_\_\_\_” and the response, “I forgive you.” Have your child start removing blocks with you as you practice. The adult can say what is on the activity sheet, for example, “[Child’s name] I’m sorry for yelling.” Then the child can practice saying, “I forgive you.” Switch roles. Have your child say, “I’m sorry for \_\_\_\_\_” and then the adult can respond, “I forgive you.”
10. Continue practicing apologizing and offering forgiveness until all of the blocks are off the paper.
11. Share the verse one more time:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Tell your child how happy you are that you practiced being kind and caring for one another. Remind your child how unkind actions build a wall between people. Forgiving each other takes the wall down. Now that there is no wall between you, give your child a big hug. Tell her that God loves her and you love her.

12. Finish with a prayer.

*Dear God, thank you for loving and forgiving us. Help us take apart any walls we’ve built by our mean words or unkind actions. Help us forgive and love each other. Show us how we can grow closer to one another and to you. Amen.*

## Forgiveness Activity

**Saying mean words**

**Not sharing toys**

**Yelling at someone**

**Taking something  
that belongs to  
someone else**

**Not helping  
my family**

# Say It Anyway

By Erin Davis Gibbons

Bullying is an issue that lots of kids are dealing with every day at school. Encourage teens to reach out to kids at school who might just need a friend.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Winter

## Needed

Scraps of paper, Bible, pen or pencil, Say It Anyway worksheet



## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God our everlasting parent, you are with us every day. When we are sad, you are there. When we need someone, you are there. Help us see who needs us and help us be brave enough to reach out and offer friendship. Amen.*

2. Sit down together and give each person a few scraps of paper and something to write with. Take time to brainstorm names of people you know who might not have a lot of friends, who are struggling with tough life stuff, or who are not treated very well by people. Write those names down on your scraps of paper.
3. From your Bible read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Talk about these questions together:
  - What would you have done if you'd seen the injured man?
  - Jewish people, like the man who was hurt, and Samaritans really didn't like each other. How does that make this story even more amazing?
  - Who are some of the people you named who might need your help or friendship?
4. Copy and cut apart blank cards from the Say It Anyway worksheet. In each card, write some kind words, a Bible verse, a quote, or just an encouraging statement. See examples.
5. Each day in the coming week, choose one of your paper scraps and give a card to the person whose name is on it. If you're feeling brave, ask how that person is doing and take time to listen. Make sure they know you were thinking about them. If nothing else, remember to be kind.
6. Afterward, talk as a family about the experience.
  - What was it like talking to someone you usually don't talk to?
  - How did they react?
  - Why is it hard to talk to some kids at school?
  - Why do you think it's important to talk to them anyway?

## Say It Anyway Template

I just wanted to say I hope you have a great day today!	I may not say it very often, but I wanted you to know that I think you're really great.
"Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure." -Oprah Winfrey	"The greatest act of faith some days is to simply get up and face another day." -Amy Gatliff

## The Parable of the Good Samaritan

### Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

# What a Hypocrite!

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

As teenagers grow and develop, they're quick to point out when people act differently from what they say. They can be especially hard on religious people. Work with them when they get upset with someone who they call a hypocrite.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Winter



## Needed

Bible, News source (such as a daily newspaper, weekly newsmagazine, or online news)

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.  
*God, help us to work through our feelings when we notice hypocrisy. Amen.*
2. Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 6:1-4 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Then ask another family member to read aloud 1 John 4:20 "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

3. As a family, talk about these questions:
  - What type of hypocrite bothers you most? Why?
  - How often do you notice acts of hypocrisy?
  - Is it easier to see hypocrisy in yourself or in others? Why?
  - What can we learn from people who are hypocrites?
4. Use your Bible to read aloud Luke 19:1-10. Then discuss these questions:
  - Was Zacchaeus a hypocrite at the beginning of this story? Why or why not?
  - Why were people in the crowd calling Jesus a hypocrite for visiting Zacchaeus in his home?
  - Who is the biggest hypocrite in this Bible passage? Why?
  - Can hypocrites change? Why or why not?
5. As a family, look at a news source, such as a daily newspaper, a weekly newsmagazine, or an online news source. Look for an article about someone who or a business that is hypocritical. Talk about what makes someone or a business hypocritical.
6. Discuss how you can support each other to live lives that are consistent between what you believe, what you say, and what you do.



## Jesus and Zacchaeus

### Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

# Welcoming the Stranger

By Stacia Edwards McDermott



As many of us cross borders for vacations, others do so risking their lives for a chance at a better life. Explore the hardships of immigration and our Christian call to welcome the stranger.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Bible, pens, paper, computer

## Prepare in Advance

- Mark Bible for the following readings: Matthew 25:31-45, Ephesians 2:19, Leviticus 19:33-34, Hebrews 13:2.
- Cue up YouTube clips.

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin. Have Matthew 25:31-45 marked and ready.

*God, guide our conversation as we explore the difficult issue of immigration and in what ways Christ calls us to welcome the stranger.*

Read Matthew 25:31-45.

2. Play the game “Stand Up If.” Read the following statements aloud, inviting people to stand if they agree with the statement. No discussion about them at this time.

Stand up if you think . . .

- all people should be allowed to immigrate to any nation of their choosing.
- nations have a right to protect their borders.
- people should be treated differently based on where they are from.
- your faith calls you to welcome the stranger, no matter who they are.
- immigrants take away jobs from U.S. citizens.
- it doesn't matter if families are separated in order to return illegal immigrants back to their countries.

- all people should be treated with dignity and worth.
3. Watch this YouTube video [Immigrant Experience In America](#) to get a glimpse of early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigration in the United States. Discuss these questions:
    - What is your family's origin? Do you know when and why they came to the United States?
    - When watching this video, you may sense an overall welcoming and friendly feeling, perhaps since so many people were experiencing similar struggles/joys as recent immigrants. Why do you think this positive sentiment has changed?
    - Discuss the difference (or maybe lack of difference) in how you feel regarding immigrants from European countries versus Mexico and other developing nations.
    - If God created everyone and everything, why do we put different values on human beings from different regions?
  4. Get a glimpse into a small, rural town in Iowa where many undocumented immigrants have found work [The Latinos of Postville](#).
  5. Read Ephesians 2:19 "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

When learning about the people of Postville, how does this verse relate?

6. Watch this video about what has happened to Postville since federal agents have arrested undocumented workers [Main Street Falls Apart](#).
7. Read Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Discuss your reactions to the Postville raids, keeping in mind the Biblical readings you've shared.

8. In closing read aloud:

Immigration is an issue that has many complexities and many different sides. Our call to welcome the stranger can be jaded by the fact that some engage in illegal activity such as drug and human trafficking. However, these actions do not permit us to dismiss the fact that we are one human family and the policies our country enforces affect people here and abroad. Since we are all created in the image and likeness of God, how do we preserve the dignity and worth of all people? Hebrews 13:2 reminds us, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Although an overwhelming issue, our first reading from Matthew 25 reminds us that every act of kindness and hospitality is an act done to God. As a closing prayer, let's watch this video of a high school girl who wrote a song about immigration [New Life Anthem](#).