



PRESCHOOL DEVOTION

Bible Passage:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...." Psalm 139:14

God really enjoys making things different - just look at how many different colored flowers He made! God was very creative when he made people. He loves every single person that he created. Some people look very different than us, but God wants us to be grateful for these differences and love those people just like he loves us. God's word teaches us to pray for all people in the world.

Questions:

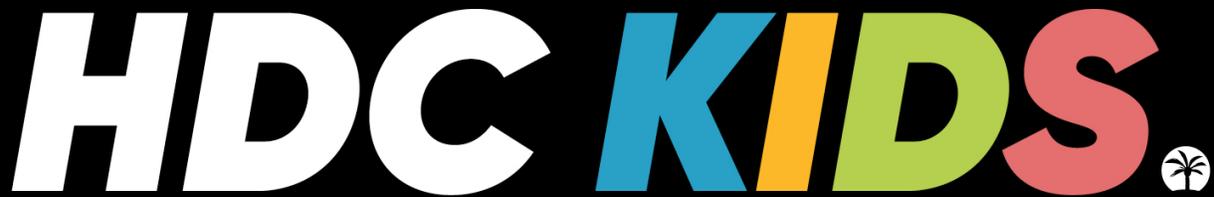
- What are some differences that you see in the people that God created?
- Why do you think God made everybody different instead of the same?
- Why is it important to praise God for all of our differences?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you so much that you created all people and you love all people. Thank you for your creativity in making us all different. Thank you that there are people with different color of skin, different color of hair, and different color of eyes. We should love and pray for the people that look different than us because you created them and you love them. Help me to celebrate our differences and always be kind.

Songs:

- 1 John 4:7 (Let us Love One Another)
- Love One Another



ELEMENTARY DEVOTION

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

When Samuel was sent by God to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king of Israel, Samuel was tempted to judge Jesse's sons by their looks – their appearance and their height. Fortunately, Samuel listened to God and anointed (chose) Jesse's youngest son, David. Even Jesse, David's father, was surprised by God's choice. But God could see what the heart of each of these boys was like. God knew which boy would make a good king for Israel. He chose David because He knew that David loved God very much.

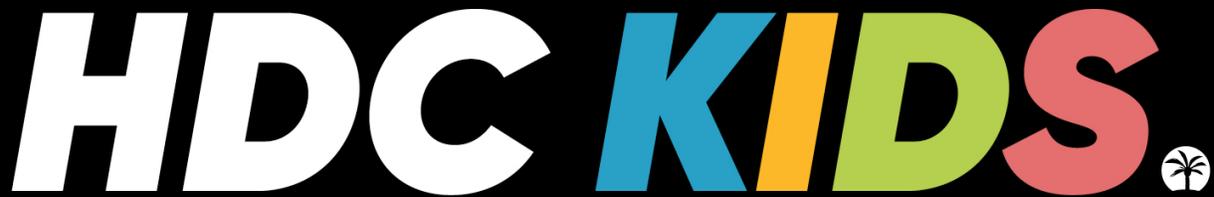
We can judge others by their looks too, without even realizing that we are judging them. Pre-judging someone is called "prejudice" and God doesn't want us to pre-judge anyone. We should not accept or reject others based on how they look. We should accept everyone as God accepts us (Romans 15:7). We show love and acceptance when we treat others kindly, talk to them and share with them.

Questions:

- Why did Samuel think that Eliab, the oldest son, was the one he was to anoint as the next king?
- When we look at another person's physical appearance, what are some things that we might notice?
- What does God look at when He looks at a person?
- Should we be accepting of others based on how they look?
- How do we show that we accept another person?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we know you created all people in your image making us all alike yet different in so many ways. We thank you for all of the different people you created in our world. Help us to come together, build bridges across whatever divides us. Show us opportunities where we can make friends with people who are different than us, so that we can work as one to point people to you. In Jesus name, Amen.



PRETEEN DEVOTION

Bible Passage: Acts 10

Cornelius was not a Jew, but he loved and served God faithfully. God sent an angel to Cornelius and the angel told him to go and find a man named Peter who lived in a town called Joppa. At the same time, God told Peter that he should go with the men who had come to fetch him and take him to visit Cornelius.

This was unusual because, at that time, it was against the rules of the Jews for them to visit with Gentiles (Acts 10:28). People who were not Jews were called Gentiles. Jews believed that they were the only people who could be a part of God's family because God told them that they were His chosen ones.

When Peter went and visited Cornelius, Peter realized that God accepted people of all nations who feared Him and did what was right. God gave the gift of His Holy Spirit to Cornelius and his family that day. Peter also baptized them, which showed others that they were followers of Jesus Christ and part of God's family. Peter accepted Cornelius because God asked him to. God also asks us to accept others as He accepts us (Romans 15:7).

Questions:

- How was Cornelius different from Peter?
- Who can be accepted into God's family?
- How should we treat people who are different from us?
- Why do we choose not to help people sometimes?
- Can you think of some ways we could help the people who are our neighbors?
- How do love and acceptance go together?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we know you created all people in your image making us all alike yet different in so many ways. We thank you for all of the different people you created in our world. Help us to come together, build bridges across whatever divides us. Show us opportunities where we can make friends with people who are different than us, so that we can work as one to point people to you. In Jesus name, Amen.