

# Children's Sermon for Native American Ministries Sunday

## Preparation

Bring a quilt or a mosaic picture or object. Be sure it is something that would be OK for little ones to touch.

## Message

Greet the children as you typically do. Invite them to look at or touch the object you brought.

Ask: **Does anyone know what this is?** Take a few responses and then continue. If there is a personal story behind the object, briefly share it with the children. Turn attention back to the quilt or mosaic.

Ask the children what they see or how it feels to them. Say: **This object has been put together with small pieces, each piece with its own place, some pieces a little different from the others and some very much the same. Each color and shape belongs here. Each piece is a part of the whole picture. This would not look the right if it were missing some of the pieces; it takes each piece to make a beautiful picture. This is a special Sunday in The United Methodist Church. It is Native American Ministries Sunday. Does anyone know whom we are talking about when we talk about Native Americans? Native Americans are people who lived here before the United States became a country. They had other languages and customs. Some of those languages are still spoken, and some of those customs are still practiced today. The Native American people have not always been celebrated, and there have been times in the history of our country that they were not treated very well at all. Today, we are celebrating our brothers and sisters in Christ who are Native Americans and the way they serve God and others. We celebrate the work they are doing in their communities to love and care for children your age. We celebrate their special voice in The United Methodist Church. Like the pieces of our mosaic from earlier, they make us a more beautiful church. Their part of us helps us to see the bigger picture of how God created each of us with different colors, shapes and cultures. Like the mosaic with its many pieces making one big picture, each of us is part of one whole church, and we stand together because of God's great love for all of us.**

## Closing Prayer

**God, our creator, thank you for the beauty you have created in each of us. Help us to remember to celebrate the gift of one another. Today we are thankful for our Native American friends and churches. Bless them as they do your work. Amen.**

*Keri Cress, director of children and youth ministry, Hillcrest United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tenn.*