

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

OPENING

Open with a song or video that connects with civil rights or community building like one of these:

- “Human Rights” by Kids for Global Peace:
youtu.be/Scsq6zNhJI4
- “This Little Light of Mine” by Cave Quest VBS:
youtu.be/ty9bZNX4uWA
- “We Shall Overcome” by Ebenezer Avenue Music:
youtu.be/Hi6A9AHkyZg

THE BIBLE STORY

A long time ago before Jesus' time, God sent the prophet Isaiah to help the people of Israel live the way God wanted. The people had become divided and sent out of their country. God said, *“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth”* (49:6).

God wanted the community to be restored so the people would work together and become stronger. God wants people to have better lives by being together and sharing what we have.

THE MLK STORY

Today we are having a birthday party for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who wanted to help God build community. A party is not as fun if only one person comes, right? It's so much better when we can be together.

Who can tell me one thing you know about Rev. King?

(Write responses on a white board or flip chart.) Some possibilities:

- He was a Christian pastor
- He worked for equality
- He used non-violent strategies to change laws that were unfair to black and brown people
- He was the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is a national holiday in the United States
- In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. helped organize the famous “March on Washington,” attended by more than 250,000 people. Some of the

This activity connects Isaiah's words about restoring the survivors of Israel in community with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Human Relations Day.

Set up the room for a birthday party. Line tables with butcher paper or other paper covering. Decorate using streamers, birthday hats, or other festive birthday party material. Put out paper, markers, crayons, stickers, and other embellishments to make birthday cards.



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MLK DAY CARDS

As part of our birthday party for Rev. King, we are going to make Martin Luther King Jr. cards that you can give to someone as an act of kindness. You can draw a picture of an act of kindness or another design on the front and write the words *Happy MLK Day*. On the inside, write one of these quotes that Rev. King said:

"The time is always right to do what is right."

"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"I have decided to stick with love."

"Everybody can be great — because anybody can serve."

"Love builds up and unites."

Spend time working on the cards and decorating them. Students can share their design and tell the group who they will give the card to.

Before everyone leaves, invite the students to take one sticky note and to do that act of kindness throughout the week.

issues the march hoped to address included ending the separation of black and white students in public schools, protecting black people from police abuse, and passing laws that kept people from discriminating in hiring someone for a job

- At the "March on Washington," Rev. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. The March on Washington was a great success and the Civil Rights Act was passed a year later in 1964

Like Isaiah who lived thousands of years ago, Rev. King wanted to work to bring God's people together. He wanted God's love to shine brightly as people from different backgrounds and races joined together. He wanted to restore community.

This week, our church and other United Methodist churches are putting a special focus on how we can be part of bringing people together, offering support and sharing God's love.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Let's think about acts of kindness that we can do to share God's love each day this week. (Write each response on a sticky note and post it on the wall.)

Suggestions might include:

- Find someone doing something good and compliment them
- Sit next to someone who is alone at lunchtime
- Clean up a mess you didn't make
- Throw away at least three pieces of litter every time you go to the park
- Bring your teacher a potted plant for the classroom
- Read a story to a younger sibling or student
- Make your sibling's bed (make sure you have permission to be in the room)
- Handwrite a thank-you card when someone does something kind for you
- Paint rocks with happy words and designs and place them around the neighborhood or at the park
- Smile and say hello to each person you pass at school
- Tell a relative you love them
- Open the door for others and let them go ahead of you

