

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PLEASE REPEAT TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE:

“You should be my servant . . . to restore the survivors of Israel” (Isaiah 49:6 NRSVue).

SAY:

In the prophet Isaiah's time, God's people had been divided. So, God promised to send a helper to show them how to rebuild their community. The word *restore* means to put back the way it is meant to be. One of the ways that God helps us be our best selves is by showing us the importance of working together.

ASK FOR A STUDENT VOLUNTEER

to help carry some books by putting their palms out in front of them, arms extended at the chest level. Add one hard-cover book and allow the weight to sit for a moment before adding another book. As each book is added, ask the volunteer how they are doing. Acknowledge that it is difficult. Explain that at some point, the books might get too heavy and fall or the volunteer might ask to be relieved. Make sure to have

**“YOU SHOULD
BE MY SERVANT**

. . .

**TO RESTORE
THE SURVIVORS
OF ISRAEL.”**

ISAIAH 49:6

an adult nearby to catch the books when they fall or to take the books off the volunteer's hands when they express it is too much. Allow the student to rest and shake out their arms.

SAY:

Life gets hard. Even things that seem like no big deal can feel heavier when it feels like we are on our own. That's why it was so important to restore the community of Israel so that people would not feel they were by themselves. We are stronger when we are together.

LET'S SAY TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE AGAIN:

“You should be my servant . . . to restore the survivors of Israel” (Isaiah 49:6).

Ask the original student to partner with another student who is younger or smaller. Ask them to face each other and put their palms out. Place the stack of books on both sets of hands.

The church is a place where we experience restored community. When we come together with our church family, we should feel that we can count on one another to support and help us through hard times. When you leave here feeling stronger, you can be helpers in your schools and other places where people might be feeling alone.

TAKE THE STACK OF BOOKS FROM THE TWO STUDENTS, THANK THEM, AND SAY:

Let's say today's memory verse from Isaiah 49:6 one more time:

“You should be my servant . . . to restore the survivors of Israel” (Isaiah 49:6).

