

SPECIAL  
SUNDAY

# HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



This children's activity is part of the Human Relations Day pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme "Listening Hearts: Responding to the Prophetic Call." It can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit. It is based on the lectionary reading for January 14, 2024: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20).

### OPENING

Open with a song or video about diversity and community building like one of these:

- » "The Butterfly Song" by CJ and Friends
- » "Yesterday's Dream" by Teacher Aprile
- » "L-O-V-E" by Compass Bible Church

### LESSON

If the coordinating children's message was not already shared, it would be helpful to present it now or read the passage from 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (CEB) to refresh them.

### CRAFT & ACTIVITY: CIRCLES OF LOVE AND GRACE

Give each child two circle cutouts (about the size of a coffee can lid) and ask them to write the word "GRACE" on one and the word "LOVE" on the other. They can use whatever colors and styles they like. After writing the words, invite the children to decorate their circles with symbols and designs that make them feel happy (you can also provide stickers, glitter or other embellishments). Ask the children to write their names on the back of the circles so that they can identify them later and bring them home.

After the paper circles are decorated, put a large circle in the middle of the space (if you have a large hula hoop or round rug, that would work well). Invite the children to stand in a circle around it.

The big circle represents a community that embraces God's love and shares abundant grace with one another.

Today is Human Relations Day. On this special day, we join with other United Methodist Churches to celebrate the beautiful diversity of God's family and learn how we can love and support one another, just as God intended. This is one way that we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I wonder what God's love means to you. I wonder how you show love to God and to others. As we go around the circle, share one thing you love about another person - a friend, teacher, family member or someone else. As you share, step forward and place your LOVE circle on the big circle, symbolizing how your love becomes a part of the larger community.

Next, we will think about abundant grace - how we show kindness, forgiveness and compassion to others. I wonder when you have shared or experienced acts of kindness, forgiveness or compassion. As you share an act of grace you experienced or witnessed recently, step forward and place your GRACE circle on the big circle, signifying how your acts of grace contribute to the loving community.

The beauty of a diverse community is that each person brings something unique and valuable. Look at this new colorful circle we have created in the center, representing a community united by love and grace.



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### CLOSING

Standing in a circle, sing **Jesus Loves Me This I Know** with added verses

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong.  
They are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves us, this we know,  
His grace and joy, they overflow.  
With hearts and hands we go along.  
Embracing love, we sing this song.

Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

Christ's peace stays and never parts,  
Bringing joy and happy hearts.  
We receive and share God's grace  
Spreading love throughout this space.

Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

