

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



This children's message is part of the Human Relations Day pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme *"The Importance of All Gifts in the Community."* 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 readings for January 19, 2025: Psalm 36:5-10 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.**

### SONGS TO SING:

All God's Critters song  
by Bill Staines

The Summons

This Little Light of Mine

### BOOK TO READ

[All God's Critters song](#)

by Bill Staines, Pictures by Kadir Nelson\*

*\*there are other copies of this book/song...  
activities are based on the pictures found in this version*

[Only Light Can Do That: 60 Days of MLK - Devotions for Kids](#)

Sharifa Stevens (Author) Martin Luther King Jr (Author)  
Lisa A. Crayton (Author) Camilla Ru (Illustrator)

### PREPARE

**wrapped presents (gift bags) with symbols representing the different gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians**

- wise counsel = Mickey Mouse Ears (or bunny ears)
- clear understanding = glasses
- simple trust = blindfold/eye cover
- healing the sick = stethoscope, bandages
- miraculous acts = art materials/recyclables
- proclamation = microphone

- distinguishing between spirits = puzzle pieces
- tongues = lollipop
- interpretation of tongues = variety of jelly belly jelly beans (in a baggie, unmarked), bean boozled game

Introduce your time together by reading All God's Critters.

[\[You can use this YouTube Recording if you do not have access to the book\]](#)

### SAY:

*I am not a singer, I'm most certainly a clapper. Where do you see yourself in this book? Are you a high singer or a low singer? Or are you a clapper?*

Let children respond and talk about the book.

### SAY:

*Our God has given us each gift. They're not one-of-a-kind gifts that no one else has, but they're gifts that when we gather together and all use our gifts, we make pretty sweet music!*

*Have you ever sung "happy birthday" with a group of friends? Sometimes it's reaaaallllly slow, and sometimes it's superfast and sometimes people throw in different words! I think that's what God's choir is like - everyone using their own voice or noise maker to bring about a world where everyone knows they are loved by God.*



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Today we're celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday! Dr. King was a gifted preacher and teacher. He was brave to stand up before thousands of people and share his dream for the world - one where everyone is treated equally because we are all God's children.

I have some gifts here today that are found in our Bible verse in the book of 1 Corinthians. Paul wrote this letter to the people in Corinth at a time when there was a lot going on in the world and sometimes it was hard to know who to listen to. Are we supposed to listen to what the loudest thing is? Or the thing said the most often? Or to the voice of the Holy Spirit, that voice of God that lives within us, that might be the quietest voice we can hear.

### Pass out the Gifts.

As we open these gifts, there are some different objects that are symbols for the gifts God has given to us through the Holy Spirit. Some of these gifts might excite us, and some might not. Let's explore our gifts!

### Open the Gifts.

Have students attempt to figure out what gift the object represents. (Open ended discussions- no right or wrong at this point). What gift would the person who uses this item have received from God?

### Read 1 Corinthians passage

Make a list of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (CEB)  
Match the biblical gifts to those in the gift bag - reference the bible verse as needed.

## CLOSING

Gather the children back together. . .To complement the story "All God's Critters" you can show (or discuss) the interview with the artist/illustrator, Kadir Nelson. ([YouTube interview with artist](#)

[Kadir Nelson](#)) about how he's inspired in his work as an artist and how he uses his passion to make a difference.

Ask the students: do you think you know what gift you may have within you? It's okay to not know now, but always be listening to God and your heart.

Have students hold out their hands like they're holding something in the palm of their hands (a gift).

### Let's Pray:

Dear God, thank you for the ways you work in our lives. Thank you for the gifts of the spirit that you have given each of us. Help us to know how to use these gifts and how we can use them to honor you. Like your disciple Dr. King, may we be bold and brave to use our gifts to make the world a better place! Amen!

Written by Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis, Myers Memorial UMC in Gastonia, NC

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (CEB)

#### Spiritual Gifts

**12** Brothers and sisters, I don't want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts.

<sup>2</sup> You know that when you were Gentiles you were often misled by false gods that can't even speak. <sup>3</sup> So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, "Jesus is cursed!" when speaking by God's Spirit, and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are different ministries and the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. <sup>8</sup> A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues[a] to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. <sup>11</sup> All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

