

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

PREPARING:

- Giant gift bag
- super elaborate decorations
- bows
- tissue paper

Inside giant gift bag (tissue paper optional) - with a blank heart inside (construction paper shape, wooden shaped, heart drawn on paper)

Give one to each child as they gather for children's time... Make sure those kids in the congregation who do not come forward have a gift as well.

SAY:

What am I doing with this giant present? Christmas is way over, and it's not my birthday...I wonder...

In today's Bible story, we hear about a lot of gifts. All these gifts come from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also God and when Jesus went to Heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. And with that, these gifts! Now, the Holy Spirit doesn't send gift bags or packages. But the Holy Spirit is within us and we each have one-of-a-kind gifts.

Can you think of something you love to do? What makes you the happiest? (*let the kids respond*). These things we love, might just be how God has gifted us!

You may have the gift of healing because you like to help someone be happier. You might have the gift of miracles because where I might see a pile of trash, you might see the possibility of beautiful art. You might have the gift of courage and be able to stand in front of people and tell them how much God loves them. And remember, it's going to take all our gifts working together because no one gift is better than the other.

Tomorrow (*Monday*) is the day we celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a gifted preacher and teacher and helped to encourage and inspire people to do the right thing, to speak up where life isn't fair, and to truly love our neighbors because we are part of God's beloved community! Together, all our gifts have a way of transforming the world to be more like how God desires it to be.

Inside your gift bag (*hold up a small gift bag*) you'll find a heart. I want you to spend some time praying and talking to God about how you can use what you love, what you're passionate about, to help God's people in this world know what Jesus teaches us - to Love God and Love our neighbor as ourselves.



**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

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As we close in prayer, I want you to hold your gift in your hands.
Lift them up to God (raise hands) and repeat after me so we can pray together.

Dear God,
Thank you for the joy of gifts.
Thank you for my gift.
Help me to use my gift
to share your love
With others we meet.
Thank you God for loving us
Amen.

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



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