

KINGDOM INSPIRED DIVERSITY (LARGE GROUP)

Lesson 1: Every Tribe

Objective: Students will learn the God originated the idea of diversity and there will be all kinds of people groups at the end of the age



GAMES/ACTIVITY:

1-Body Match Have students create two concentric circles. The inside circle will walk around in a clockwise and the outside circle in a counterclockwise motion. You, as the leader of the game, will call out two body parts. For example, ear to hip. The inside person will place their ear on the outside person's hip.

2-Electricity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkdSODhAZM> Line students up into two groups facing each other. Each group will hold hands. The leader will squeeze the hands of the first two students in each group and they will pass the squeeze down the line. Once it reaches the last person in that group they will reach for an object before their opponent. Change the size of the object to make it more challenging.

3-Never Have I Ever--Have students circle up in chairs. Choose one student to be in the center of the circle. Remove one seat. Student says "Never Have I Ever. . ." and completes the statement with a fact that is true for them. For example, Never Have I Ever been to Disneyland. Students that have been to Disneyland would get up and move to another seat.(not the one to their immediate left or right.) The person left without a seat would now be in the middle of the circle to continue the game.

MESSAGE:

Take out your cell phones. We are going to play just one more game. (You can setup play for Kahoot.com--needs a projector and screen Or Quizziz.com--10 questions is more than sufficient. Choose images that are similar but not identical and have students identify them. Sneakers, celebrities, logos, etc.)

Celebrate the winner.

In the game we just played, you should have noticed that all the images were diverse. Imagine what it would look like if everything were identical and the same. Boring and dull. Look at your sneakers. Look at someone else's sneakers. They are the same but different. Diversity.

People are like that too. We all have eyes, noses, and arms and legs. Our eye color may be lighter than the person next to us. We may have pointy or broad noses, We may have long arms or muscular ones. Each distinction makes us unique. Diverse.

Whose idea was this? Diversity was God's idea from the beginning. It is evident in His creation. The mountains in Colorado don't look like the ones in West Virginia. Beaches in Hawaii are nothing like the ones in Miami. An elephant has 4 legs and so does a horse. But you would have to blind to not be able to tell the difference. As I already pointed out, people are different too. Not just in appearance either.

In Revelation 7:9, the Bible tells us that ". . . a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes. . ." Diversity will be a reality when Jesus returns for His people. All kinds of people; black,brown,tan and white people. Speakers of Swahili, Japanese, and Spanish will be present. Residents of Estonia, Ghana, and Australia will be there. Amazing right? God loves

diversity. It is the only way that an entire people can reflect God **completely**.

If God loves diversity, then, guess what, so should we. Why? What does God know about the importance of diversity that some people may not. Enjoying and loving diversity makes us humble, encourages unity, and develops empathy. God loves HUE. Get it? Huh? Hue means color.

Let's take a look at each letter. H is for humility. Appreciation of diversity should make us humble not prideful. Each person that walks on planet Earth, almost 8 billion, reflect God's image. Not one group of people is better or worse than the next in God's sight. Each is precious. When a group of people mistakenly believes they are better than another group, God is displeased. That should kill racism before it takes root. Unfortunately, we live in a country where white supremacy is still alive and well. Being humble starts to attack discrimination and prejudice and racism.

U is for unity. God is the perfect example of unity. He is three in one. God the Father, Jesus the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Different and diverse but at the same time united. Now we reflect God's image so that means we can be diverse but united in a similar way. When we see and hear the ugliness of racism in our classroom or workplace, we can be united in our understanding of who we were made to be by God. Not looking down on any group or feeling less than another group because we know the truth. God loves diversity. God loves HUE.

E is for empathy. If we understand that God made us all special and unique and diverse, then we will know who we are. If we know who we are, then we will know what to do. Identity fuels purpose. John 13:34-35 tells us that "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This is a high calling. Think about how Jesus loved you and me. Jesus knows what we go through here on Earth. He walked on this planet. He knows what it is like to be tired, frustrated, and hungry. Jesus was betrayed by a friend and denied by a disciple. Jesus knows what you are going through. He has empathy.

If you put your trust in Jesus, He gives you the ability to love in the same way because by faith the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you and helps you love the way Jesus loved; with deep, sacrificial love. If you are a believer, then you can have this empathy for others who are in pain because others have not seen them as valuable, precious and worthy of honor. Empathy will help you to feel their pain and you will love. You can share the good news of a God who doesn't want identical robots that do whatever He commands without love or thought. No, God wants and loves diverse people with a variety of flavors in thoughts, skin tones, economic background, intelligence, and social status. God loves diversity. He knows that loving diversity grows humility, increases unity, and deepens empathy. God loves HUE.

PRAY

