

## Being Different Is Good: ideas for adults to support our on-line service on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

To celebrate and value the differences between people.

### Preparation and materials

You will need the Bible passage at Romans 12.4–5, which you can read out or retell in your own words.

Diana will show the children a freshly baked loaf of bread and a bag or box that contains the ingredients to make bread: yeast, flour, salt and water.

The clip we started our service with was the YouTube video 'Celebration: playing for change - song around the world'. It is 3.52 minutes long and is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Lu41LulQos>

### Set the scene for the children:

1. Explain that today, we are thinking about being different.

It's great that people are different. Talk with the children about whether two people share the same name in their class. Does everybody look the same? Is everyone the same height? Was everyone born in the same place? Even if two people have the same name, there are no two people who are exactly the same.

2. Tell the children that you've been shopping.

*Look in the bag or box that contains ingredients. Take out one ingredient at a time.*

Ask the children whether any of them know the word that describes a food that has to be combined with some other foods to make something to eat. Hopefully, someone will say the word 'ingredient'. (Someone might even say 'bread' – which is a bonus!)

Each of us is different, like the different ingredients, but we can all join together to make one thing.

3. Explain that you are going to read from the Bible, our special book. This bit is taken from a letter that a church leader called Paul wrote to the church in Rome.

Summarize Romans 12.4–5: 'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'

4. Point out that Paul said that there are lots of different parts of the body, and each one is important, but they all belong together.

Explain that this is a bit like all the different ingredients that we took out of the bag or box; they all come together to make something important.

5. Ask if anyone can guess which food can be made from these ingredients.

*Show the [freshly baked<sup>1</sup>] loaf.*

For the bread to work, it needs all of these things together. Without water, the bread would be dry. Without flour, the bread would not be bread. Without salt, the bread wouldn't be as tasty. Without yeast, the bread wouldn't rise. They all need to be there to do their different job to make a perfect loaf.

6. **Challenge:** in the time before the end of the service, while the adults are listening in to it, see if you can make something that needs lots of different parts to make one thing. I bet someone uses Lego! Show it at the end of the service.

### **Later on, perhaps after the service, adults may wish to take some time for reflection and say a prayer with their children**

Christians believe that God made people of different kinds, races, faces, shapes and sizes. They believe that God regards everybody as important. We believe that God meant us all to share the world that he made for everyone to live in. It is important that we are all different: God meant us to be that way.

Here in our church, everyone is different, too: some are great at football, some at reading, some at playing music, some at drama, some at being kind, some at being helpful or at looking after people who are sad and so on. We are all different, but every one of us is special and every one of us is an important part of the church.

Ask the children to look at their thumb. Explain that there is no one in the world who has the same thumbprint as them. Every single thumb is different and every single person is different, too!

#### *Prayer*

Dear God,

Thank you for all of our differences here at this church.

Thank you that you created a whole world full of different people.

Help us to know that this makes the world a beautiful and interesting place to live

Because we are all special to you.

**Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> No pressure! A supermarket roll would do...