

Family Devotion

(For All Ages)

"Get Rid of The Labels"

THE BIG IDEA

I Will Look at Others Through the Eyes of God!"



POWER VERSE

"...Christ is all that matters, and he lives in ALL of us." - Colossians 3:11

For this devotion, you'll need some paper and two sets of crayons. In the first set, you'll need a variety of colors, with some of the crayons sharp and fairly new, some of them worn down or broken in various stages, and some with torn or missing wrappers. You'll also need four crayons of the same (or nearly the same) color: one should be fairly new, one should be worn down but still have the wrapper on it, one should be worn with some of the paper missing, and one should be broken with no paper on it at all.

For the first part of the devotion, ask your kids to pick their favorite crayons out of the pile and draw something with them. Then ask these questions:

- Why did you pick the crayons that you picked?
- Do you like crayons that are new or those that have been used some? Why?
- Are different crayons better for different jobs? For example, is one of these better for outlining? Is one better for coloring in large spaces?
- Does the way the crayon looks make a difference in the way it writes? If so, how? If not, why not?

Then take the four crayons that are the same color and show them to your kids. Turn out the lights or have your kids close their eyes while you draw a cross on a piece of paper. Turn on the lights or have them open their eyes, and then talk about the following questions:

- Can you tell which crayon was used to draw the cross? Why or why not?
- Which one would you have used if you had to draw the cross? Why?

(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

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(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

- Can you think of how the different crayons can represent different kinds of people?

Talk to your kids about how in God's eyes, we're all the same. He doesn't judge us by our color or the condition of our "wrapper" (our clothes) or how sharp (or smart) we are. When God looks at his people, he sees a big box of crayons—some in better condition than others, some in nicer clothes, and some smarter or more talented in some areas—but he can use all of them to color his kingdom the way it needs to be colored. He may need a specific person to do a specific job (like a sharp crayon to outline a picture), but he doesn't think that person is any better than a person he needs to do another job (like an unwrapped crayon laid on its side to color a large area). We are all equal and useful to him.

How do you feel about that? Do you sometimes look at other people and judge them based on their color, their clothes, their background, or how "sharp" they are? Do you think some people are better than others? Do you think you're better than other people? That's called prejudice, which means that you're prejudging people—you're judging them based on their outsides, not on what they're like inside. That's not how God wants us to be, though. **Philippians 2:3** says, "*Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves*" (NLT). How hard is it for you to think that others are better than you are?

Pray that God will help you look at others the way he does. Ask him to help you not think that you're better than other people. Thank him for accepting you the way you are, with all of your faults and problems.

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