

Overall Lesson Structure:

1. Welcome (3-5 min)
2. Opening Activity (5 min)
3. Bible Time (10-12 min)
4. Review Activity (5 min)
5. Application Activity (5-7 min)
6. Closing and Prayer (5-7 min)

Jan. 26th *make connections to MLK & ongoing struggle today* This is the end of the first module- be sure to wrap up & make connections to the next module	Focus: How God's Diversity lives in the church KEY POINT: Diversity demonstrates the goodness, creativity, and splendor of God. Ongoing Q: How did God design us to fit into His world? How is this diversity part of His design? Define & recall: equity/equality/prejudice/ racism/inclusion *Use "I Have a Dream" speech to discuss current state of diversity in our country* Q's: ● Do you think God intended for us to be split apart? How do you know? ● How can we as children of God, live his ideals of diversity and inclusion?	1. Blank Cards 2. Bowls & Cheese Balls 3. Paper Plates 4. Printed pics/magazines of various foods, place settings & people 5. Copies of "I Have a Dream" speech *
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	• Why do you think that God wants to throw a big feast for all God's people? Do you think there are people who would not want to come? Why or why not?	
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PREPARATION (to be done before children arrive)

Mark the Bible in the following places: Revelation 19:5-9; 21:1-4; 22:1-5.

Read the passages so you're comfortable with the language.

Consider using different voices as you read so that kids get a sense of who is speaking during the Revelation songs. You might want to invite a friend with a different speaking voice or accent to help you. Look through the picture books and your newspapers for people who have various jobs, wear different items of clothing, or are eating food.

Welcome *be sure to honor all children and make sure everyone feels safe and included*

As kids arrive in your space, greet them warmly and offer them some markers and drawing paper. Ask them to draw pictures of the biggest celebration they have ever been invited to—a wedding or anniversary party, a birthday or quinceanera or bar mitzvah.

Spend time with them, asking:

- What was this party celebrating?
- Who was there?
- Who was the guest of honor?
- What did you do? What kinds of foods did you eat?
- What did you wear?

Opening Activity

SUPPLIES: paper bowls, cheese balls

Divide your group into pairs and line the pairs up facing each other, around four feet apart. Put some cheese balls into bowls and hand them to the partners on the left. Give empty bowls to the partners facing them. On “Go,” the partners with the empty bowls must hold the bowls in their mouths by biting the rim. The partners with the cheese balls must try to toss them into the empty bowls from their position four feet away. The pair with the most cheese balls in the far bowl wins.

EXPLAIN: This would be a terrible way to feed people at a feast! It would be messy and inefficient and just plain unfair! What if there were people who couldn't hold a bowl in their mouths, or who couldn't move their arms to toss their partners the snacks? Some people would end up with full bowls and many others would go away hungry. What would be a good way to serve all kinds of people at a big party? Talk with your partner about it.

Discuss a fair way to share resources and honor party guests.

Also use this as a time to discuss equity vs equality- make real-world connections such as unequal schools, food deserts and lack of resources based on where people live. Also, make the connection to MLK and how he fought to make things equitable for all people.

Bible Time

SUPPLIES: a Bible marked as described earlier, tablecloth, and table settings

Gather kids in your storytelling area. Invite them to listen carefully to the story from the Bible.

EXPLAIN: We've heard about the beginning of history when God created our beautiful and diverse world, and we've talked about the middle of history when Jesus sent out his friends to make disciples from every country and tribe on earth and that includes us! Now, we'll talk about the end of history.

Remember that God started everything by creating the earth and people, and then people messed up? Ever since then, people have been divided by the things that should unite us. Instead of appreciating how God made everyone different, some people decided that our diversity was a bad thing. People have even gone to war and killed other humans because they didn't like the color of their skin, or eyes, or the way they talked, or the style of their church. Even more than that, people all over the world hurt each other with words and actions because they are afraid of how we are different. That is called racism and prejudice. Many people are sad and hurting, or angry and hateful, because of those things. Do you think God is happy with that situation? Why/why not? Allow for responses.

EXPLAIN: No, I don't think God is happy about that either. God is not part of racism or prejudice at all. God is the one who made us all different in the first place. Diversity was God's own idea! God sent Jesus to save all people from all places, all over the world. We know that. But what you might not know is that God's plan doesn't stop there. At the very end of the Bible, a man named John saw a wonderful dream from God and wrote it down. In this dream, John saw what would happen at the end of time, when Jesus comes back to earth to show all people that he loves them and rescues them. John saw the big throne room of heaven, where God rules as a king over all the earth. Here's what he saw.

READ REVELATION 19:5-9.

EXPLAIN: So in heaven people of all countries and tribes and languages were all worshiping God together. They were wearing the same white clothes that reminded everyone of the way they followed Jesus. The only thing that was different about them was the way God had made them: individual and unique, diverse and special. But they were all following Jesus and praising God. And, the end of that, verse 9 says they were all invited to a feast!

Begin to spread out the tablecloth and set it with the place settings, flowers, and candles.

EXPLAIN: My table here isn't big enough for that many people. But do people who are at war, or who hate each other or are terrified of each other, sit down at a big feast together? No. A feast means a celebration with people who love each other! So, at the end of history, people of all countries and colors will sit down at a table together, at the same feast. The most important guest will be God, who will be at the feast. The Bible says this about what it will be like.

READ REVELATION 21:1-4.

EXPLAIN: God will end all fighting and war; there will be no more death or sadness or pain. Do you think there will be things like racism or prejudice there? Allow for answers.

EXPLAIN: No, of course not! The end of John's dream, what God showed him, goes like this.

READ REVELATION 22:1-5.

EXPLAIN: A garden and rivers? That sounds like creation, like where God made all people in the first place! We will all be one people—God’s people. Just as God made us all different in the beginning at creation, God will rule over all the different kinds of people as our king at the end of time.

DISCUSS

- Why do you think God showed John this dream of all people from everywhere worshiping God together?
- Why do you think that God wants to throw a big feast for all God’s people? Do you think there are people who would not want to come? Why or why not?

Review Activity

SUPPLIES: paper plates, glue sticks, scissors, grocery store flyers or magazines

Give each child a paper plate, and lay out the other supplies.

Encourage them to cut out and glue the food pictures on their plate to create their idea of a feast. As they do this, talk about the Bible lesson:

These feasts all look different! Why do you think having lots of different foods at a feast would be a good idea?

Who would you like to share a feast with? Why? When the activity is finished, set the plates aside to dry and guide the group to work together to clean up

Closing Activity

SUPPLIES: blank index cards, coloring materials, stickers

Have children create “Cards of Inclusion” that they can use in their daily lives. These cards should be used as a reminder throughout the week to remind kids to make equitable choices at school and in the

world. Cards can include writing and drawings of how others feel when they are treated with equity.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Ask God to help us respond in a loving way to others rather than mean ways because someone is different from us. Give thanks to God for making us different and helping us to celebrate our differences.