

2010 Praise Offering Service Children's Meditation

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to worship!

I have a box here. Who knows what's inside this box?

That's right. These are crayons and look at all the beautiful colours! (*Show the box to all the children and take out the flesh coloured crayon.*)

When I was little, this used to be called "flesh-coloured" or "skin-coloured." Why do you think it was called that?

Is this like your skin colour? Does everyone have the same skin colour?

(*Invite a child to draw a face circle using the flesh coloured crayon.*)

Needed:

- Bible
- A box of crayons which include the 'flesh' colour, an 11x14 sheet of white paper on a clipboard or other firm surface for drawing.

What are some of the other colours in this box that could be skin colours?

Hopefully, the children will choose brown, reddish tones, gold or yellow tones, etc. If not, help them to choose some of these other colours. As they are chosen, let different children add more face circles using these other colours.

It is amazing how many different colours of skin there are, how many different people there are in the world.

What would it be like if there was only one colour of people and if everybody looked like everybody else? *Give the children a few moments to respond.*

The book at the very beginning of the Bible (*Show the children the Bible open to Genesis 1*) is called Genesis. It tells us that everything in the world was made by God—the sun, moon and stars, the sky and the earth, the plants, animals and birds (*pause*). And God liked it all, and called it *good*.

(pause) Imagine how much God must love us all to have given us such a beautiful world.

Hold up the different coloured face circles on the paper so everyone can see them.

If God loves all of us that much, what do you suppose we ought to do when we see people around us who are different looking than we are? *Allow the children to respond.*

That's right! We should love them, just like God does.

Let's bow our heads and talk to God in prayer:

Thank you, God, for loving each of us enough to create us and give us this wonderful world to live in. Help us to take good care of the world you have given us and help us to show our love for someone new today.

Suggestion: If the children will be dismissed to Sunday school, have them take the drawing with them and encourage them to add features to their face and hang it up as a reminder to love all God's people.