Lesson 30: ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES IN OTHERS

Topic: Accepting Differences in Others
Subtopic: Learning How to Manage Differences
Class: Class II (2nd Grade)
Objectives: By the end of the lesson the learner should be able to:
- Knowledge: Acknowledge that others who are different enrich our relationships.
- Attitude: Appreciate their differences and accept them constructively.

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:
1. When have you felt different from the others around you?
2. How did it feel?

Bible Story:
3. Tell the story from John 4:1-42 Who was the person who was different?

Suggested Discussion Questions
4. How do we know the woman at the well was different?
5. How did Jesus’ disciples react to Jesus talking with this woman?
6. How did Jesus treat this woman?
7. How did the woman respond to Jesus?

Application:
8. What are some differences you notice in people around you?
9. How do you handle these differences?
10. How can you recognize those differences and value them?

Evaluation:
11. What if the differences you notice in the other person conflict with your beliefs and attitudes? Does it mean you have to change to their way of thinking?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:
1. Let children respond—sick, dressed differently, attend different church
2. Let children respond—made fun of, respected, snubbed

Bible Story:
3. Lady at the well

Possible Answers to Questions:
4. Collected water at noon, was a different race, had different religious ideas, wondered why Jesus asked her, a woman, for water
5. They were surprised
6. He treated her with respect, offered her living water, confided in her that He was the Messiah
7. At first she was skeptical. Later she believed Jesus was who He said He was.

Application:
8. Let children respond—tall, short; different skin color, different way of talking, don’t like bananas
9. Let children respond—doesn’t make any difference, question why
10. Accept them. Learn why they talk differently or believe differently.

Evaluation:
11. You may not have to change your belief or attitude but you can appreciate their difference and accept them anyway.

Materials Needed:
- Memory Verse Exercise Book
- Exercise Book
- Chalkboard and chalk

Scripture:
References: John 4:1-42
Teacher’s Notes

Memory Verse:
I Samuel 16:7
**Extra Activities**

1. Have learners write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book:
   “The Lord said to him, “Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is...They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.” I Samuel 16:7

2. In their other exercise book, have them write at the top: We Are Not All Alike. Underneath have them write: God loves us all. Let’s learn to appreciate our differences. Then draw some pictures of how we are different. e.g. stick figures of tall and short, differences in hair style, etc.

3. Looking at Differences. In many cases, differences can be seen as positive or negative. Cite a few cases and ask the children to name three ways these differences are positive, three ways they are negative and three ways they make no difference.
   - a classmate in a wheelchair
   - a single white child in a class of all black children (or vice versa)
   - a classmate who has just moved to the community
   - a blind teacher

4. We need Differences. Suppose you needed to take a trip to Mombasa (or to the moon, USA, Kenya). You are told that you can take only two people with you. What kind of persons would you choose to go with you and why? List their responses on the chalkboard and help them see that they are choosing people who have something different about them that you know would enhance your ability to make this trip. Learners might respond with a person who has traveled by plane before, someone who knows what things you would need to take with you, a good storyteller, a good cook etc.

5. Line Game. Divide the learners into two groups. Have each side stand about 3-4 meters away from a line. Ask a question and those who can say “yes” to the question will step to the line for a few seconds to see who else is the same or different. Or you may have learners stay at their seat and stand up when they can answer “yes” to the question. Some example questions would be…Have you ever helped your family get water? Do you walk to school alone? Have you had a grandparent die? Has your family moved from a different community? Have you traveled in a boat?

6. Include the song “I Come Third” (Find words in Notes for Teachers)

**NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

**Highlights from Bible Story**

1. When you look around this classroom, would you say that we are all alike? Are we all the same height? Do we all wear our hair the same way? Do we all have the same kind of shoes? Have we all had the same thing for breakfast? Do we all laugh at the same things? Do we all have the same interests?

2. Of course not. And the different things we bring to this class make the class better—more interesting, don’t they?

3. Differences often help us think broader than we would on our own. Sometimes differences make us feel uncomfortable but life will always present us with people who have a different approach to things than we do. We must learn how to live peacefully with our differences.

4. In our Bible story today, we can see how Jesus met with a person who was different.
5. Jesus and His disciples came to a town in Samaria. Jesus was tired and sat down by a well. He sent the disciples on to get food for them while he rested.

6. A lady came to the well to collect water. Most women would go to the well in the morning or evening but this lady had done a lot of things that did not please God. Other women didn’t like to be around her so she went for her water when they would not be there.

7. This lady was a Samaritan. When Jesus asked her for a drink, she was very surprised. She recognized that He was a Jew and Jews would not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans used. She was also surprised that Jesus would talk with her, a woman. She knew she was different.

8. Jesus continued the conversation with this lady. He knew the things this lady had done that were sinful yet He wanted to give her the opportunity to change the direction of her life and live a whole and acceptable way of life. He offered her living water which meant He offered her forgiveness for her sins.

9. The lady pointed out that Samaritans believed differently about where to worship God than the Jews did.

10. Jesus patiently told her that we all can worship God through the Spirit. The lady might not have understood Jesus well but she did know that the Messiah was to come and He would tell people every thing. He responded by telling her that He was the Messiah.

11. The lady believed Jesus and ran back to her village and unashamedly told the people that she had met a person who told her everything she had ever done. Was He the Messiah? And because she did that many people came out to see Jesus and believed.

12. When the disciples found Jesus talking with this Samaritan lady, they were very surprised.

13. Jesus respected the Samaritan lady and treated her as He would a friend. He recognized she was different but He treated her equally.

14. When we are around people who are different, we can learn from Jesus that those differences don’t have to divide us. Sometimes talking about our differences can actually make us appreciate each other more.

**Sing Song “I Come Third”**

I come third x 3
Jesus first, my neighbor second and I---come--third.

**Key Points**

We are not all alike. Though we may recognize our differences, it is how we manage our differences that really matters. Many differences bring positive responses which usually are more significant than the negative responses. Jesus didn’t let differences in another change His relationship with the Samaritan woman.

**Teacher Evaluation**

How do I treat people who see things differently than I? Do I befriend those with differences and make an effort to understand where they come from? As a teacher, do I see each student as an individual who has a different background, different opinions, different ways of looking at things? How should I blend these differences into the classroom?