

**TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT RACE**  
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(Handouts)

**Puzzle Activity**

- Form groups of 6-8 persons.
- Pass out one piece of the puzzle to each person in the group.
- Don't give any directions, but watch what the participants are doing right after you pass them the puzzle piece.
- Stop the activity after a few minutes.

**Debriefing**

- Why did you put the puzzle together?
- Why is it so important to put it together?
- A puzzle can only be complete when it is put together as a whole.
- That's what **racial reconciliation** is!

**Ephesians 2:14**

*"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."*

**Biblical Counsels Again**

*"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

*Galatians 3:26-28*

**What is Racism?**

- The practice of discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance of another race based on the belief that claims to find racial differences in character, intelligence, morality.
- The assertion of the superiority of one race over another.

## Is It Our Goal to Teach Children to be Colorblind?

- Being colorblind means to not attach value to color.
- It's confusing to tell our kids not to see our color differences.
- They will see color.
- We need to teach our children not to make value judgments about people based on their color.

## How Can We Accomplish This With Our Children?

### 1. Be Disciples to Our Children

- \* Pray for God's kingdom—it is multiethnic, multinational, multilingual. Our goal is to point children toward Christ's kingdom
- \* Interact with anyone who is different.
- \* Encourage our children to play with children from different races.

### 2. Be Models of Reconciliation

- \* Parents are to be aware of your own subtle disparities.
- \* What you say and how you behave toward those of another race will shape your children.
- \* Be models of reconciliation.

### 3. Get Out of Our Comfort Zone

- \* Interact with people who are different.
- \* Let your kids play with kids from different races.
- \* Lead children to appreciate and learn from our differences.
- \* Help children to value others.

### 4. Take Active Steps

- \* Expose your children to different cultures. Learn about their foods, festivals, costumes, language and games.
- \* Encourage your child to invite someone racially different over to play.
- \* Never make jokes about other races.

## More Active Steps. . .

- \* Teach your child about his own ethnic heritage.
- \* Help them to recognize their own diversities even within the race.
- \* Affirm children's ethnic heritage.
- \* Encourage schools and church to teach racial reconciliation.
- \* Find multiethnic media—public library and websites, etc.

## Suggested Websites for Teaching Cultural Diversity

These are some sample websites that offer great ideas and suggestions for parents on teaching cultural diversity to their children. Some sites contain games, puzzles, and other activities for children that teach them the values of appreciating cultural differences, get rid of prejudice, etc.

<http://life.familyeducation.com/diversity/parenting/34461.html>.

[www.education-world.com](http://www.education-world.com)

[www.preschoolrainbow.org/multiculture.htm](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/multiculture.htm)

[www.more4kids.info/589/teaching-kids-cultural-diversity](http://www.more4kids.info/589/teaching-kids-cultural-diversity)

### More Active Steps. . .

\* If our parents or grandparents say a racist joke, have the courage to say, "I don't believe that's the best Christian approach."

\* We can tell our children that Grandpa was wrong for telling ugly jokes: "I hope you'll never make remarks like that. Grandpa grew up in a time when many people were prejudiced against other races. Those are wrong attitudes."

### The Most Common Misconception about Racial Identity?

- People are afraid that racial reconciliation means sameness. They thought they have to give up who they are.
- Christians think that because we don't harbor prejudice or act bitter, that people of other races will just want to be with us. We have to reach out to invite them.

### What Is the Next Step?

- Reach out to people of different races.
- Extend an invitation to your home for a meal or to church to worship together.
- Get involved to learn their language, eat their foods and join in their festivals, etc.

### Ephesians 2:14

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

### Remember . . .

- I am a distinct piece

- You are a distinct piece
- When we put our pieces together, we are ***stronger*** and ***better!***